

HOTS (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

Q.1. How did the Bangladesh Crisis become a burden on the Indian economy?

Ans. During the Bangladesh Crisis, 80 lakh people migrated to India and the crisis led to a War between India and Pakistan that further burdened the Indian economy.

Q.2. What did the Marxists do to end the Current political and capitalism system?

Ans. They picked up weapons and began an armed revolution against the government. They began to take land from the rich landowners and give it to landless and poor.

Q.3. Why did Indira Gandhi promote the concept of 'committed bureaucracy'?

Ans. Indira Gandhi wanted the loyalty of the bureaucracy to the government and to her without conditions.

Q.4. How far do you agree that the proclamation of emergency weakened the federal distribution of power in India?

[CBSE (AI) 2015]

Ans. During the emergency, distribution of powers was suspended. All the powers came into the hands of the central government because of the Presidential Rule. Or any other relevant answer/point.

Q.5. What was the reason that led to mid-term elections in 1980?

Ans. There was a split in Janata Party and the government led by Morarji Desai lost its majority in less than 18 months. Subsequently, Charan Singh formed government with support of Congress party but congress later decided to withdraw its support and the government fell in four months. This led to a mid-term election in 1980.

Q.6. What were the conditions in India during 1971-75?

Ans. India was going through an economic crisis with rising inflation and food prices. There was influx of refugees from Bangladesh and a subsequent War with Pakistan in 1971. USA had imposed sanctions on India after the War that further burdened the economy. The opposition parties had formed a policy of anti-Congressism and there began agitations against the government. Indira Gandhi subsequently imposed National Emergency in India in 1975.

Q.7. What in your opinion was the main reason behind the dissolution of Janta Party in 1980?

[CBSE Sample Paper 2016]

Ans. It lacked direction, leadership and coordination of party members.

Q.8. What was the impact of Gujarat student agitation on Indian politics?

Ans. Students in Gujarat started an agitation against rising prices of food grains, cooking oil and other essential commodities and against corruption in the State. The students were supported by major opposition parties and subsequently the government imposed President's rule in the state. Morarji Desai threatened to go on an indefinite hunger strike and then assembly elections were held in Gujarat in June 1975 and the Congress was defeated in this election.

Q.9. Why was J.P. Narayan became popular during 1975-76?

Ans. Loknayak Jay Prakash Narayan was a Marxist and subsequently became a Gandhian. He was a freedom fighter and became a social activist in independent India. He led the Bhudaan movement. He also led the student agitation in Bihar and opposed the Emergency. He became the leader of the anti-congressism and the anti-Emergency movement whereby the movement came to be known as the J.P. movement.

Q.10. Explain Preventive detention.

Ans. Under preventive detention, people can be arrested and detained not because they have committed any offence but on the belief that they may commit an offence in the future. Using this act, the government made large scale arrests during the Emergency and the arrested individuals could not challenge their arrest through habeas corpus petitions. According to Shah Commission, about 1 lakh people were arrested under this provision.

Q.11. Emergency was the result of the protest by the opposition and the split in Congress. Explain.

Ans. There was split in the Congress in 1971 and it was divided into Congress (O) and another under Indira Gandhi. The congress was unable to fulfil its promises made during the election and there was an economic crisis in the nation due to rising prices, lack of jobs, etc. There was mass agitations by the people led by the opposition parties that had united under anti-congressism. The Court had declared Indira Gandhi election to be void that and the opposition pushed for her resignation. The government declared Emergency citing subversive forces were trying to obstruct the government and were attempting to dislodge her from power through extra-constitutional means.

Q.12. In what way did the imposition of Emergency affect the party system in India? Elaborate your answer with examples.

Ans. The Emergency showed that a party with absolute majority may suspend civil liberties and the leadership would remain beyond purview. The Emergency brought forward the practice of defection whereby elected representatives would shift party whenever it suited them. The Emergency also established coalition parties in which two or more parties unite pre or post-election to form the government such as the Janata

Party. It also showed that a coalition is prone to be quarrelsome and indecisive in nature.

Q.13. The 1977 elections for the first time saw the Opposition coming into power at the Centre. What would you consider as the reasons for this development?

Ans. The Indira Gandhi government had conducted various misdeeds during the Emergency such as press censorship, mass arrests, etc. which the people resented. The opposition had agitated against the government and received the support of the people. The opposition also united under anti-congressism and was able to form a coalition in States and Centre while the Congress was not able to fulfil its promises made in the previous election. All these factors together contributed to a non-congress party coming into power for the first time.

Q.14. What is meant by Civil liberties? Explain the impact of Emergency on the Civil liberties of the people.

Ans. Civil liberties are personal freedoms that the government cannot take away by law without a due process such as fair judicial trial. During the Emergency, the government suspended the right to habeas corpus and misused the provision of preventive detention. The Emergency made citizens more active in the protection of their civil liberties. The Courts also initiated various checks and balances on the Executive so that fundamental rights of the citizens are protected.

Q.15. Give three views given by the Indira Gandhi government in support of Emergency.

Ans. The three views given by the Indira Gandhi government in support of Emergency were:

- (i) The government wanted to use the Emergency to bring law and order, restore efficiency and implement the pro-poor welfare programmes.
- (ii) Other alliance parties, like the CPI backed the Congress during the Emergency, as it believed that there was an international conspiracy against the unity of India.
- (iii) Indira Gandhi believed that subversive forces were trying to obstruct the progressive programmes of the government and were attempting to dislodge her from power through extra-constitutional means.

Q.16. Was it necessary to announce Emergency in 1975? Give 3 reasons to support your answer

Ans. No, the government misused its 'Emergency Power'. The government said that it wanted to use the Emergency to bring law and order into society, to restore efficiency in administration and to implement the pro-poor welfare programmes. But mass movements have been part of Indian politics since the independence movement and there had been no major reports of violence by the J.P. movement. Efficiency and

welfare programmes can be implemented without the need for an Emergency. Any extra-constitutional efforts to dislodge Indira Gandhi could have been confronted with constitutional measures such as through judiciary.

Q.17. Examine the conditions responsible for the growth of Naxalite Movement in India. Suggest ways and means to crush it.

[CBSE (AI) 2016]

Ans. Conditions responsible for the growth of Naxalite Movement :-

- (i) Social and economic injustice prevailing in the society.
- (ii) Forced labour.

Suggestions to crush Naxalite Movement:-

- (i) Government should provide the basic rights to the people of backward areas and Adivasis.
- (ii) Forced labour and exploitation by money-lenders must be stopped.

Q.18. Explain any three outcomes of the Emergency of 1975.

OR

Explain any 4 outcomes of the Emergency of 25 June, 1975.

Ans. Four outcomes of the Emergency were:

- (i) Emergency of 1975 brought out both weaknesses and the strengths of Indian democracy. Though there are many critics who think that India ceased to be democratic during the Emergency, it is noteworthy that normal democratic functioning resumed within a short span of time. Thus, one lesson of Emergency was that it is extremely difficult to do away with democracy in India.
- (ii) It brought out some ambiguities regarding the Emergency provision in the constitution that have been rectified since. Now 'internal' Emergency can be proclaimed only on the grounds of 'armed rebellion' and it is necessary that the advice to the President to proclaim Emergency must be given in writing by the Council of Ministers. The 42nd Amendment was passed to bring a series of changes in the constitution whereby various checks and balances were formed on the government such as the change in Article 342.
- (iii) The Emergency made everyone aware of the value of civil liberties. The courts, too had taken an active role after the Emergency in protecting the civil liberties during the Emergency. Many civil liberties' organisations came up after this experience.
- (iv) The press became more assertive towards the government and press censorship. The Emergency forced journalists to use unique methods to report fair and free news

and use underground network to release news. It brought forward the aspect of mass movements in Indian politics and agitation based on identities such as caste, regionalism etc.

Q.19. What was the impact of Emergency on the following state affairs:

Q. Effects on civil liberties for citizens

Ans. The impact of Emergency on:

Fundamental Rights of people including right to move to the court were suspended. The government made large scale arrests under the provision of preventive detention and the arrested political workers could not challenge their arrest under Habeas Corpus petition.

Q. Relation between Executive and Judiciary

Ans. There was conflict between the two. The Indira Gandhi government brought in many new changes in Constitution that declared that elections of Prime Minister, President and Vice-President could not be challenged in the court. The government also superseded the practices of the Supreme Court in appointing its Chief Justice.

Q. Functions of Mass Communication

Ans. Press censorship banned freedom of press and newspapers and was supposed to get prior approval before they publish any material. Newspapers like Indian Express and Statesman protested against censorship by resorting to leaving blank spaces of censored news; Magazines like Seminar and Mainstream closed down. Journalists writing against the emergency were arrested. Underground leaflets were published to oppose censorship.

Q.20. “Emergency showed that the backbone of the Constitutional democracy is weaker”. Give arguments either in favour or in counter of this statement.

Ans. The arguments in favour of the statement are:

(i) Emergency was declared on the ground of internal disturbances on 25th June, 1975 to invoke Article 352 of the Constitution. This showed that the provision of Emergency was open to misuse and had to be changed later on.

(ii) The President also did not raise objections to the Prime Minister against the Emergency.

(iii) Provisions such as Preventive detention superseded the civil liberties of the citizens that were rectified by the judiciary after the Emergency.

(iv) Press censorship was used by the government to which many newspapers and journalists accepted and weakened the fourth pillar of democracy.

Q.21. “Indira Gandhi had no alternative other than implementing Emergency”. Give an argument either in support or against the statement.

Ans. Indira Gandhi had other alternatives than Emergency because:

(i) The government can implement its policies of law and order and welfare schemes without the need for a National Emergency. India had had government of Jawaharlal Nehru and Lal Bahadur Shastri who had maintained and implemented their desired policies through democratic means.

(ii) Mass movements have been a part of Indian politics since the Indian independence movement and are a part of freedom guaranteed by the Constitution. The government can utilize Parliament and mass communication to counter the opposition.

(iii) The verdict of the Allahabad High Court could have been challenged in the Supreme Court or adhered to. Emergency and the change in Constitution to exempt the election of President and Prime Minister for judicial overview proved to be counterproductive in public opinion and against the essence of Constitutional democracy.

Q.22. Why is the period of Emergency also referred to as the ‘period of constitutional crisis’? Explain.

Ans. The period of Emergency is referred to as the period of constitutional crisis because:

(i) The Parliament brought in many new changes in constitution which made an amendment declaring that elections of Prime Minister, President and Vice President could not be challenged in the court.

(ii) An amendment was also passed to bring a series of changes in constitution like ‘duration of legislatures’, ‘elections can be postponed by one year during Emergency’.

(iii) The fundamental rights of the citizens and provisions such as habeas corpus were suspended by the government and supported by the Supreme Court.

(iv) Article 342 was misused by the government for self-benefit and had to change after the Emergency.

(v) The government put restrictions on Article 368 and on judicial review of the decisions of the Parliament and executive.

Q.23. How did the Emergency bring change in the constitutional and extra-constitutional provisions?

Ans. The Emergency led to the following changes in the Constitution:

(i) The Emergency provision under article 342 was meant to be used to save the country but the Indira Gandhi government misused the provision to save the

government. The ambiguities of the provision were later rectified by changing the term 'internal disturbances' to 'armed rebellion'.

(ii) The government also dismissed non-congress government in States in India by implementing President's Rule. This provision was subsequently limited by the Supreme Court for use.

(iii) The Fundamental Rights of the citizens were dismissed including the right to life & liberty and the judiciary after the Emergency safeguarded this provision.

(iv) The government also introduced an amendment that made the elections of the President and Prime Minister beyond judicial review and this was overturned by the Supreme Court after the Emergency.

(v) The 24th amendment established parliamentary supremacy to amend the constitution.

Q.24. Explain the Bihar movement and its impact on politics.

Ans. In March 1974, students in Bihar began to protest against rising prices, food scarcity, unemployment and corruption. They invited Jay Prakash Narayan (JP) to lead the student movement. He accepted it on the condition that the movement will remain non-violent and will become a national movement. Jay Prakash Narayan demanded the dismissal of the Congress government in Bihar and bandhs, gehraos, and strikes were organised in protest against the Bihar government. The government refused to resign. The movement enlarged into a national movement against Indira Gandhi. Subsequently, the Emergency was implemented in India. After the Emergency, the Congress lost in all the constituency of Bihar in the election and the Janata Government won all the seats. The issue of reservations for 'other backward classes' became very controversial in Bihar and following this, the Mandal Commission was appointed by the Janata Party government.

Q.25. How did Janata Party make the 1977 elections into a referendum on the Emergency imposed in 1975? Explain.

[CBSE Delhi 2016]

Ans. Janta party converted the 1977 elections into referendum –

(i) As all the opposition parties joined hands against Congress and gave a choice to the people to choose any one out of the two.

(ii) Janta party advocated the cause of democracy and called the period of emergency as the absence of democracy.

(iii) JP Naryana became the icon of the opposition and also a choice between Indira and JP.

(iv) Janta Party asked the voters to choose between democracy and dictatorship.

Q.26. What were the disagreements between parliament and the Judiciary?

Ans. The Emergency is described as a period of constitutional crisis because it started as the constitutional battle over the jurisdiction of the Parliament and the judiciary. It had been a practice to appoint the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court as the Chief Justice. But in 1973, the government overlooked the seniority of three judges and appointed Justice A. N. Ray as the Chief Justice of India. The appointment was criticized because all the three judges had given rulings against the stand of the government. The government also advocated committed judiciary that meant that the judges should be loyal to the ruling party. The Allahabad High Court passed a judgment declaring Indira Gandhi's election to the Lok Sabha invalid and subsequently, an amendment was made that declared that elections of the Prime Minister, President and Vice-President could not be challenged in the Court. The government limited the power of judicial review of the judiciary during the Emergency such as filing Habeas Corpus.

Q.27. 'After the elections of 1977, the opposition formed the government for the first time in the parliament'. Give any 6 reasons.

OR

1977 elections were responsible for the downfall of the congress party. Explain any 3 incidents to prove it.

Ans. The Congress lost the 1977 election and the Janata Party came into power. The reasons for their victory were:

- (i) The opposition adopted the slogan of 'save democracy' against the imposition of Emergency earlier and the message resonated with the people of India.
- (ii) The Indira Gandhi government showcased non-democratic character of rule through various excesses such as press censorship, forced sterilization and could not gather support of the people.
- (iii) The Congress party could not fulfil its promises of Garibi Hatao and other promises made during elections.
- (iv) The coalition of the Janata Party ensured that non-congress votes were not divided.
- (v) Congress began to revolve around Indira Gandhi and the anti-government movements such as the railway strike, Bihar movement and Gujarat movement moved the sentiments of the citizens against Indira Gandhi.
- (vi) The opposition parties had come to power during the previous elections in multiple states and were able to showcase their resolve for good governance and win support of the people.

Q.28. Analyse any three lessons learnt from the emergency of 1975.

[CBSE Delhi 2015]

Ans. The Lessons:

- (i) Extremely difficult to do away with democracy in India. Defeat of Indira Gandhi in 1977 election supports the above fact.
- (ii) Many ambiguities regarding the emergency provision in constitution that have been rectified. It could not have been misused if there had not been ambiguities.
- (iii) Emergency made every citizen aware of their rights and civil liberties in a democracy.
- (iv) No government in India can remain in power if it works against the interest of the common people and is harsh toward the masses.

(Any three lessons)

Q.29. "Governments that are perceived to be anti-democratic are severely punished by the voters." Explain the statement with reference to the emergency period of 1975-77.

[Sample Paper 2015]

Ans. The defeat of Indian National Congress in the Lok Sabha Elections of 1977. The elections turned into a referendum on the experience of the emergency. The impact was severely felt in North India. This election was out and out of contest because of the supporters and opponents of emergency. The Janta Party embraced a landslide victory and congress lost in almost every constituency in northern states.

Q.30. Why is emergency considered to be one of the most controversial episodes in Indian politics? Analyse any three reasons.

[CBSE (AI) 2016]

Ans. Due to the following reasons the emergency became controversial.

- (i) The Constitution simply mentioned internal disturbance as the reason for declaring emergency. Before 1975 emergency was never proclaimed on this ground.
- (ii) People had the right to politically protest against the government. The Bihar and Gujarat agitation were mostly peaceful and non-violent. Those who were arrested were never tried for any anti-national activity.
- (iii) The Home ministry, which is entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring the external situation of the country, also did not express any concern about the law and order situation in the country.