

Social Science

(Social and Political Life)(Chapter – 1) (The Indian Constitution)
(Class – 8)

Question 1:

Why does a democratic country need a Constitution?

Answer 1:

In a democratic country, the people from every society irrespective of their social, religious, economic and cultural background have a direct role in electing their representatives who form the government. A democratic country need a constitution as it plays a crucial role in many aspects like:

- It lays out the important guidelines that govern decision making within the various societies of the country.
- It lays down the ideals that form the basis of the kind of country that its citizens aspire to live in.
- It serves as asset of rules and principles as the basis by which the country has to be governed.
- It provides rules to safeguard the interests of minorities and prevent any kind of domination by the majority on minorities.
- It lays down rules that guard against the misuse of power by any politician leader.
- It also provides rights to its citizens and protects their freedom.

Question 2:

Look at the wordings of the two documents given below. The first column is from the 1990 Nepal Constitution. The second column is from the more recent Interim Constitution of Nepal.

1990 Constitution of Nepal

Part 7: Executive

Article 35: Executive Power: The executive power of the Kingdom of Nepal shall be vested in His Majesty and the Council of Ministers.

2007 Interim Constitution

Part 5: Executive

Article 37: Executive Power: The executive power of Nepal shall be vested in the Council of Ministers.

What is the difference in who exercises 'Executive Power' in the above two Constitutions of Nepal? Keeping this in mind, why do you think Nepal needs a new Constitution today?

Answer 2:

The difference between Constitution of Nepal in 1990 and 2007:

In 1990 the Executive power was vested among majesty and his council of members but in 2007 it was vested only to council of Ministers.

Yes I think that it needs to be changed as Nepal is no longer now a monarchy. It is a democratic country now. According to democracy new rules are to be made that should be more favourable for the people.

Question 3:

What would happen if there were no restrictions on the power of elected representatives?

Answer 3:

In democracy people choose their leaders so that they can exercise power responsibly on their behalf. But there is always the possibility that these leaders might misuse their authority as per their wish which cannot be allowed in democracy. This misuse of authority can result in gross injustice and breakdown of democratic system.

Hence as a safeguard against the misuse of power by our political leaders it is necessary to have restriction on their power.

Question 4:

In each of the following situations, identify the minority. Write one reason why you think it is important to respect the views of the minority in each of these situations.

- (a) In a school with 30 teachers, 20 of them are male.
- (b) In a city, 5 per cent of the population are Buddhists.
- (c) In a factory mess for all employees, 80 per cent are vegetarians.
- (d) In a class of 50 students, 40 belong to more well-off families.

Answer 4:

(a) Minority – Female teachers

The Female teachers must be allowed to raise their voice so that their teaching efforts must not be hindered.

(b) Minority – Buddhists

All persons have the right to choose religion and others have to respect for that.

(c) Minority – Non Vegetarians

Everybody has to right to choose the type of food they want.

(d) Minority- Under privileged

Citizens cannot be discriminated by their birth so their views have to be respected.

Question 5:

The column on the left lists some of the key features of the Indian Constitution. In the other column write two sentences, in your own words, on why you think this feature is important:

Key Feature	Significance
Federalism	
Separation of Powers	
Fundamental Rights	
Parliamentary Form of Government	

Answer 5:

Key Feature	Significance
Federalism	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. It ensures National unity.2. It allows individual progress.
Separation of Powers	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Power is not in the hand of single authority.2. 3 organs of power keep a check on one another hence maintaining a good balance.
Fundamental Rights	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. They protect the citizens from the absolute and arbitrary use of power by state.2. They conform to a humane society.
Parliamentary Form of Government	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. People play direct role in electing the representatives for running the state.2. People play direct role in electing the representatives for Nation also.

Question 6:

Write down the names of the Indian States, which share borders with the following neighbouring nations:

(a) Bangladesh

(b) Bhutan

(c) Nepal

Answer 6:

(a) Bangladesh: Assam, Tripura, Mizoram, Meghalaya, and West Bengal.

(b) Bhutan: West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, and Arunachal Pradesh.

(c) Nepal: Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Sikkim.



❖ Intext Question Pg-6

Question 1:

Discuss with your teacher what you understand by the term 'constitutive'. Provide one example of 'constitutive rules' from your everyday life.

Answer:

'Constitutive' is a term which means having the power to establish or give organized existence to something.

e.g.: If we look the game of football than in the game we can't touch the ball with our hand. This is the constitutive rule of the game of football.

Question 2:

Why do the people of Nepal want a new Constitution?

Answer:

The people of Nepal want a new constitution because it is no longer a monarchy. If we look the older constitution of Nepal, then the powers are vested in the hands of the king but now when there is democracy in the country a new constitution is needed to reflect the "democratic" ideals of Nepal.

❖ Intext Question Pg-7

Question 1:

In what way is the class monitor misusing his power?

Answer:

The Class monitor can misuse his power by helping his friend in wrong work and by punishing his foe in a useless way.

❖ Intext Question Pg-8

Question 1:

Who is in a minority in the above storyboard? In what way is this minority being dominated by the decision taken by the majority?

Answer:

In the above storyboard it is clearly visible that the girls are in minority as compared to boys.

This minority is being dominated by the decision taken by the majority because boys who are in majority are far more in number than as compared to girls. Hence, whatever the decision is being taken there is not in the favour of girls but the dominating section that is the boys there.

❖ Intext Question Pg-9

Question 1:

Why was Shabnam happy that she had not watched TV? What would you have done in a similar situation?

Answer:

After deciding to not watch T.V and prepare for her test Shabnam felt quite delighted because the chapters she had to

revise had several number of questions which she wouldn't have been able to revise if she went to watch her T.V program and her test would have ruin.

If I were in a similar situation, then I would have reacted in the same way as Shabnam did that is would have prepared for my test rather watching my favourite T.V program.

❖ Intext Question Pg-13

Question 1:

Discuss the difference between State and Government with your teacher.

Answer:

The difference between State and Government is as follows:

State	Government
(a) State possessed the original powers.	The powers of a government are derived from the state.
(b) It is permanent and continues forever and ever.	The government is a temporary organisations which comes and goes with a time span.
(c) The elements of state are: Population, Territory, Government and Sovereignty.	Government is a part of state.
(d) A state is an abstract and invisible idea.	Government is a concrete body and is visible.

❖ Intext Question Pg-14

Question 1:

Which Fundamental Rights will the following situations violate:

- If a 13-year old child is working in a factory manufacturing carpets.
- If a politician in one state decides to not allow labourers from other states to work in his state.
- If a group of people are not given permission to open a Telugu-medium school in Kerala.
- If the government decides not to promote an officer of the armed forces because she is a woman.

Answer:

The Fundamental Rights that are violated in the above given statements are as follows:

- (i) Right against Exploitation
- (ii) Right to Freedom
- (iii) Cultural and Educational Right
- (iv) Right to Equality.

❖ Intext Question Pg-15

Question 1:

The Constitution also mentions fundamental duties. Find out with the help of your teacher what these include and why it is important for citizens in a democracy to observe these.

Answer:

The Fundamental duties were added in the year 1976 in the 42nd amendment of the constitution. These duties were formed to propagate unity, respect of the national environment, preserve and cherish the heritage of our country etc.

Some of our fundamental duties are:

- (a) To abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem.
- (b) To cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom.
- (c) To uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India.
- (d) To defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so.