

Constitutional Design

Fastrack Revision

- ▶ The **Constitution** of a country is a set of written rules that are accepted by all the people living together in a country.
- ▶ It is the supreme law that determines the relationship among people living in a territory and also the relationship between the people and government.
- ▶ The process of drafting a Constitution is understood with examples of South Africa and India.
- ▶ Apartheid was the name of a system of racial discrimination unique to South Africa. The White Europeans imposed this system on the Blacks of South Africa.

Knowledge BOOSTER

 The system of apartheid divided the people and labelled them on the basis of their skin colour. The native people of South Africa were called 'Blacks'. The Europeans were referred to as 'Whites'. People of mixed races were called 'Coloured'.

- ▶ The White rulers treated all non-whites especially the 'Blacks' as inferior and they were not given any voting rights.
- ▶ Trains, buses, taxis, hotels, hospitals, schools and colleges, libraries, cinema halls, theatres, beaches, swimming pools and public toilets, were all separate for the Whites and Blacks. This was known as segregation.
- ▶ Blacks were not allowed to form associations or protest against the terrible treatment.
- ▶ Since 1950, the Blacks, Coloured and Indians fought against the apartheid system. The African National Congress (ANC) was the umbrella organisation that led the struggle against the policies of segregation.
- ▶ Nelson Mandela, the leader of ANC, and seven other leaders were sentenced to life imprisonment in 1964 for opposing apartheid.

Knowledge BOOSTER

 Nelson Mandela spent 28 years in South Africa's most dreaded prison, Robben Island.

- ▶ Gradually the protests and struggles against apartheid increased. The White Government realised that they can no more control Black protests and decided to revoke discriminatory laws. Ban on political parties and restrictions on the media were lifted.
 - ▶ On 26 April, 1994, the new National Flag of the Republic of South Africa was unfurled marking the birth of a newly born democracy in the world.
- ▶ Black leaders told people to forgive the Whites for what they had done, while in power. They asked to build a new South Africa based on equality of all races and men and women, on democratic values, social justice and human rights.
 - ▶ The oppressor (Whites) and the oppressed parties (Blacks) drew a common Constitution after giving due considerations to the needs of each other and at the same time protecting their own interests.
 - ▶ The Whites agreed to the principle of majority rule and that of one person one vote. They also agreed to accept some basic rights for the poor and the workers. On the other hand, the Blacks agreed that majority rule would not be absolute and that the property of the Whites will not be taken over.

Knowledge BOOSTER

 At least 10 lakh people were killed on both sides of the border in partition related violence.

- ▶ It came out as one of the finest Constitution in the world. South African Constitution inspires democrats all over the world.
- ▶ At the time of drawing up of India's Constitution, the circumstances were very difficult.
- ▶ The people were emerging from the status of subjects to that of citizens. The country was born through a partition on the basis of religious differences which was a traumatic experience for the people of both India and Pakistan. The British had left it to the rulers of the princely states to decide whether they wanted to merge with India or with Pakistan or remain independent. The merger of these princely states was also a difficult and uncertain task.
- ▶ The Indian Constitution adopted many institutional details and procedures from colonial laws like the Government of India Act, 1935. Our leaders were also inspired by the following happenings of the world, and adopted from these what they felt was good for the country:
 - The French Revolution.
 - The practice of parliamentary democracy in Britain.
 - Bills of Rights in the US.
 - Socialist Revolution in Russia.
- ▶ The drafting of the Constitution was done by an Assembly of elected representatives called the Constituent Assembly. The Assembly had 299 members.

- ▶ the prominent members of the Constituent Assembly were Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Abul Kalam Azad, B.R. Ambedkar, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Sarojini Naidu, etc.
- ▶ Mahatma Gandhi was not a member of the Constituent Assembly, but there were many members in the Assembly who followed his vision. He had laid down his vision regarding Constitution in his magazine 'Young India' in 1931.
- ▶ Values that inspired and guided the freedom struggle, were in turn nurtured by it and formed the foundation for India's democracy. These values are as follows:
 - **Sovereign:** People have supreme right to make decisions on internal as well as external matters.
 - **Socialist:** Wealth is generated socially and should be shared equally by society.
 - **Secular:** Citizens have complete freedom to follow any religion. There is no official religion.
 - **Democratic:** A form of government where people enjoy equal political rights, elect their rulers and hold them accountable.
 - **Republic:** The head of the state is an elected person and not a hereditary position.
 - **Justice:** Citizens cannot be discriminated on the grounds of caste, religion and gender.

- **Liberty:** There are no unreasonable restrictions on the citizens in what they think, how they wish to express their thoughts and the way they wish to follow up their thoughts in action.
- **Equality:** All are equal before the law.
- **Fraternity:** All of us should behave as if we are members of the same family. No one should treat a fellow citizen as inferior.
- ▶ The Assembly adopted the Constitution on 26th November, 1949 but it came into effect on 26th January, 1950. Because of this, Republic Day is celebrated every year on this day.
- ▶ The Constitution drafted by the Constituent Assembly is followed even today because of the below mentioned reasons:
 - The Constitution does not reflect the views of its members alone, it expresses a broad consensus of its time.
 - Another reason for accepting the Constitution is that the Constituent Assembly represented the people of India.
 - Constituent Assembly worked in a systematic, open and consensual manner while drafting the Constitution, giving it the required sanctity.



Practice Exercise



Multiple Choice Questions

Q 1. Who are called 'Blacks' in South Africa?

- a. The native people of South Africa
- b. The people who came to South Africa from other countries
- c. The minority group in South Africa
- d. None of the above

Q 2. Name the organisation which launched protest marches and strikes against the policies of segregation.

- a. African Socialist Congress
- b. African National Conference
- c. African National Congress
- d. None of the above

Q 3. On what charges was Nelson Mandela sentenced to life imprisonment?

- a. For treason
- b. For murder
- c. For corruption charges
- d. All of the above

Q 4. When did South Africa become a democratic country?

- a. 26th May, 1995
- b. 26th April, 1994
- c. 26th May, 1994
- d. 24th April, 1996

Q 5. The title of autobiography written by Nelson Mandela is:

- a. Long Walk to Freedom
- b. The Story of My Life
- c. Running with Scissors
- d. A Walk in the Woods

Q 6. Who gave this statement—"I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities"?

- a. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
- b. Nelson Mandela
- c. Aung San Suu Kyi
- d. Nkrumah

Q 7. Where was the 1931 session of Indian National Congress held?

- a. Ahmedabad
- b. Calcutta
- c. Karachi
- d. Nagpur

Q 8. Which revolution in the world inspired the Indians to set up a socialist economy?

- a. American Revolution
- b. Russian Revolution
- c. French Revolution
- d. American Revolution

Q 9. When was first meeting of the Constituent Assembly held?

- a. 1940
- b. 1942
- c. 1944
- d. 1946

When was the Indian Constitution adopted?

- a. 26th November, 1950 b. 26th November, 1949
c. 26th November, 1948 d. 26th November, 1951

Who was the President of Constituent Assembly?

- a. Dr. Rajendra Prasad b. Mahatma Gandhi
c. Jaipal Singh d. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

Q 12. What is the name of the body which framed the Constitution of India?

- a. Assembly of Congress b. Constituent Assembly
c. National Assembly d. General Assembly

Q 13. From which of the colonial laws the Indian Constitution adopted many institutional details and procedures?

- a. Government of India Act, 1858
b. Indian Councils Act, 1892
c. Charter Act, 1853
d. Government of India Act, 1935

Q 14. How many members were there in the Constituent Assembly, which wrote the Indian Constitution?

- a. 199 b. 273
c. 299 d. 229

Q 15. Which national leader first tried to draft a Constitution for India?

- a. Jawaharlal Nehru
b. Motilal Nehru
c. Mahatma Gandhi
d. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

Q 16. Which article of the Constitution provides for the procedure of amendment in our Constitution?

- a. Article 365 b. Article 368
c. Article 340 d. Article 332

Q 17. The offence of attempting to overthrow the government of the state to which the offender owes allegiance is called:

- a. Clause b. Tryst
c. Treason d. Conviction

Q 18. An introductory statement in a Constitution which states the reasons and guiding values of the Constitution is termed as:

- a. Article b. Preamble
c. Preface d. Introduction

Q 19. Who was the chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly?

- a. Dr. Rajendra Prasad
b. Abul Kalam Azad
c. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
d. H.C. Mookherjee

Q 20. With which country 'Bill of Rights' which inspired the Indian leaders is associated?

- a. Ireland b. France
c. Canada d. USA

Q 21. Who gave a historical speech 'Tryst with Destiny' on 15th August, 1947?

- a. Mahatma Gandhi
b. Jawaharlal Nehru
c. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee
d. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

Q 22. Who among the following considered that the trust and non-violence are key ingredients of their philosophy?

- a. Mahatma Gandhi
b. Nelson Mandela
c. Both a. and b.
d. Subhas Chandra Bose

Q 23. What kind of 'Equality' does our Preamble provide?

- a. Job and opportunity
b. Status and opportunity
c. Law and status
d. All of the above

Q 24. Match the following:

Column I	Column II
A. President of the Constituent Assembly	1. H.C. Mookherjee
B. Vice-Chairman of the Constituent Assembly	2. T.T. Krishnamachari
C. Chairman of the Drafting Committee	3. Dr. Rajendra Prasad
D. Member of the Drafting Committee	4. Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar

A B C D

- a. 3 2 4 1
b. 3 1 4 2
c. 4 2 3 1
d. 1 3 4 2

Q 25. The Constitution begins with a short statement of its basic values called the:

- a. Resolution
b. Preamble
c. Preface
d. Schedule

Q 26. Which of the following terms is used to explain this – The head of state is an elected person and it is not a hereditary position?

- a. Republic b. Justice
c. Liberty d. Equality

Q 27. On which of the following dates India became a republic?

- a. 26th November, 1949
b. 22nd July, 1949
c. 26th January, 1950
d. 15th August, 1947

Q [] the following information about a member involved in drafting of Indian Constitution:
[] as a lawyer and leader of Bardoli peasant graha.

(ii) He was Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home, Information and Broadcasting in the Interim Government.

(iii) He played a decisive role in the integration of the Indian princely states.

- a. Baldev Singh b. H.C. Mookherjee
c. Abul Kalam Azad d. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

Q 29. Identify the incorrect statement about a Constitution.

- a. Constitution lays down how different organs of the government will be formed.
b. Rights of the citizens and limits on the power of the government are laid down in the Constitution.
c. An ordinary law is passed by Parliament and can be changed by it on its own will.
d. The powers of the government are divided among the Executive, Legislature and the Judiciary which keep a check on each other.

Q 30. Identify the incorrect option.

- a. **Sovereign State**: No external power can dictate the Government of India.
b. **Secular State**: Indian citizens have complete freedom to follow any religion.
c. **Republic**: A form of government where people enjoy equal political rights.
d. **Equality**: All are equal before the law.

Q 31. Read the following statements carefully and choose the correct option:

Statement (I): The Indian Constitution was heavily influenced by the US Constitution.

Statement (II): The framers of the Indian Constitution were inspired by the ideas of liberty, equality and democracy enshrined in the US Constitution.

- a. Statement (I) is correct and (II) is incorrect.
b. Statement (I) is incorrect and (II) is correct.
c. Both statements are incorrect.
d. Both statements are correct.

Q 32. Read the following statements carefully and choose the correct option:

Statement (I): The Constitution of India grants the President of India the power to veto any law passed by the Parliament.

Statement (II): The power of veto is an important tool for the President to ensure that only good laws are passed by the Parliament.

- a. Statement (I) is correct and (II) is incorrect.
b. Statement (I) is incorrect and (II) is correct.
c. Both statements are incorrect.
d. Both statements are correct.



Assertion & Reason Type Questions

Directions (Q. Nos. 33–37): In the following questions given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

- a. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
b. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
c. Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
d. Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Q 33. Assertion (A): A country that is a democracy must have a Constitution.

Reason (R): There is no Constitution in the world that cannot be changed.

Q 34. Assertion (A): The Constitution is a long and detailed document and needs to be amended regularly.

Reason (R): The Constitution embodies the value into institutional arrangements.

Q 35. Assertion (A): Mahatma Gandhi was not a member of the Constituent Assembly, yet his vision is incorporated in the Constitution.

Reason (R): There were many members in the Assembly who followed his vision.

Q 36. Assertion (A): India is called a Republic.

Reason (R): The head of the state is an elected person and not from a hereditary position.

Q 37. Assertion (A): A Constitution embodies the values and philosophy into institutional arrangements.

Reason (R): The makers of the Constitution made a provision for making amendments to the Constitution from time to time.

Answers

- | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (a) | 2. (c) | 3. (a) | 4. (b) | 5. (a) |
| 6. (b) | 7. (c) | 8. (b) | 9. (d) | 10. (b) |
| 11. (a) | 12. (b) | 13. (d) | 14. (c) | 15. (b) |
| 16. (b) | 17. (c) | 18. (b) | 19. (c) | 20. (d) |
| 21. (b) | 22. (d) | 23. (b) | 24. (b) | 25. (b) |
| 26. (a) | 27. (c) | 28. (d) | 29. (c) | 30. (c) |
| 31. (b) | 32. (b) | 33. (b) | 34. (b) | 35. (a) |
| 36. (a) | 37. (b) | | | |



Source Based Questions

Source 1

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

Apartheid was the name of a system of racial discrimination unique to South Africa. The White Europeans imposed this system on South Africa. During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the trading companies from Europe

occupied it with arms and force, in the way they occupied India. But unlike India, a large number of 'Whites' had settled in South Africa and became the local rulers. The system of apartheid divided the people and labelled them on the basis of their skin colour. The native people of South Africa are Black in colour. They made up about three-fourth of the population and were called 'Blacks'. Besides these two groups, there were people of mixed races who were called 'Coloured' and people who migrated from India. The White rulers treated all non-whites as inferiors. The non-whites did not have voting rights.

Q 1. Which system was imposed by the White Europeans on South Africa?

- a. System of terrible treatment
- b. System of apartheid
- c. Treason
- d. White domination

Q 2. What was the basis on which the system of apartheid divide people?

- a. Caste
- b. Religion
- c. Skin colour
- d. Race

Q 3. Name the country in which a large number of Whites settle and become the local rulers.

- a. South Africa
- b. North Africa
- c. England
- d. Poland

Q 4. Which of the following races of South Africa did not have voting rights?

- a. Whites
- b. Non-whites
- c. Natives
- d. Inferiors

Q 5. Which of the following was not an effort made by the people of South Africa to struggle against the apartheid system?

- a. The Blacks, Coloured and Indians launched protest marches and strikes.
- b. African National Congress (ANC) led the struggle against the policy of segregation.
- c. Many sensitive Whites joined the ANC and played a leading role in this movement.
- d. Many workers' unions and women joined the movement.

Q 6. When did the policy of apartheid come to an end?

- a. 26th April, 1931
- b. 26th April, 1994
- c. 24th May, 1950
- d. 24th May, 1994

Answers

1. (b) 2. (c) 3. (a) 4. (b) 5. (d) 6. (b)

Source 2

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

Like South Africa, India's Constitution was also drawn up under very difficult circumstances. The making of the Constitution for a huge and

diverse country like India was not an easy affair. At that time the people of India were emerging from the status of subjects to that of citizens. The country was born through a partition on the basis of religious differences. This was a traumatic experience for the people of India and Pakistan.

At least ten lakh people were killed on both sides of the border in partition related violence. There was another problem. The British had left it to the rulers of the princely states to decide whether they wanted to merge with India or with Pakistan or remain independent. The merger of these princely states was a difficult and uncertain task. When the Constitution was being written, the future of the country did not look as secure as it does today. The makers of the Constitution had anxieties about the present and the future of the country.

Q 1. On what basis India was partitioned during the making of the Constitution?

- a. Racial discrimination
- b. Religious differences
- c. On the basis of caste and creed
- d. None of the above

Q 2. Identify the difficulty faced during the making of Indian Constitution.

- a. The making of the Constitution was not an easy task.
- b. The people of India were emerging from the status of subjects to that of citizens.
- c. The country was born through partition.
- d. All of the above

Q 3. Why is Indian Constitution both rigid and flexible?

- a. The procedure of amendment is neither easy nor difficult.
- b. The Constitution has provided a federal structure for India.
- c. A special majority of the Union Parliament is required to demand the Constitution.
- d. All of the above

Q 4. What was the decision left by British to the princely states?

- a. Whether they want to merge with India.
- b. Whether they want to merge with Pakistan.
- c. Whether they want to remain independent.
- d. Either of the above

Q 5. Why was the making of Constitution necessary?

- a. It generates a degree of trust and coordination.
- b. It specifies how the government will be constituted.
- c. It lays down limits to the powers of the government.
- d. All of the above

Q 6. There are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read them and choose the correct option:

Assertion (A): Partition of the country was a traumatic experience for the people of both India and Pakistan.

on (R): More than a million of people were killed in violence between the communities.

Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).

- b. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- c. Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
- d. Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Answers

1. (b) 2. (d) 3. (d) 4. (d) 5. (d) 6. (a)

Source 3

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow:

A Constitution is not merely a statement of values and philosophy. As we noted above, a Constitution is mainly about embodying these values into institutional arrangements. Much of the document called Constitution of India is about these arrangements. It is a very long and detailed document. Therefore, it needs to be amended quite regularly to keep it updated. Those who crafted the Indian Constitution felt that it has to be in accordance with people's aspirations and changes in society. They did not see it as a sacred, static and unalterable law. So, they made provisions to incorporate changes from time to time. These changes are called Constitutional amendments.

The Constitution describes the institutional arrangements in a very legal language. If you read the Constitution for the first time, it can be quite difficult to understand. Yet the basic institutional design is not very difficult to understand.

Q 1. What are constitutional amendments?

Ans. The makers of the Constitution made a provision for making amendments to the Constitution from time to time. These changes are called constitutional amendments.

Q 2. Mention the two major aspects in the working of Institutional design.

Ans. The two major aspects in the working of Institutional design are :

- (i) It lays down the procedure for choosing persons to govern the country. i.e., about elections.
- (ii) It defines who will have much power to take the decision. i.e., distribution of power among the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary.

Q 3. In what way institutional design puts limits to what the government can do?

Ans. Institutional design puts limits to what the government can do by providing some rights to the citizen that cannot be violated and are called fundamental rights.



Very Short Answer Type Questions

Q 1. What is meant by a 'Constitution'?

Ans. The 'Constitution' is a set of written rules that are accepted by all people living together in a country.

Q 2. Study the picture and answer the question that follows:



Which inhuman system does the above picture depict?

Ans. The Inhuman system depicted is 'apartheid'. It was a system of racial discrimination unique to South Africa.

Q 3. For which offence was Nelson Mandela tried by the White South African Government?

Ans. Nelson Mandela was tried for treason by the White South African Government.

Q 4. In which country did a large number of 'Whites' settle and become the local rulers?

Ans. A large number of 'Whites' settle and become the local rulers in South Africa.

Q 5. On which day did South Africa gain independence from the rule of the White minority?

Ans. South Africa gained independence from the rule of the White minority on 26th April 1994.

Q 6. Prior to 1992, South Africa practised a form of racial discrimination. What is it termed as?

Ans. The racial discrimination practised in South Africa prior to 1992 was called apartheid.

Q 7. What did the White minority of South Africa want to protect through their new Constitution?

Ans. The White minority wanted to protect their privileges and property through their new Constitution.

Q 8. Name the umbrella organisation that led the struggle against the policies of segregation in Africa.

Ans. Africa National Congress was the umbrella organisation that led the struggle against the policies of segregation in Africa.

Q 9. Which Constitution has inspired democrats all over the world?

Ans. The Constitution of South Africa has inspired democrats all over the world.

Which national leader tried to draft a Constitution for India as far back as in 1928?

Pandit Motilal Nehru tried to draft a Constitution for India in 1928.

Q 11. When were the elections to the Constituent Assembly held in India?

Ans. The elections to the Constituent Assembly were held in July 1946.

Q 12. When did the Constituent Assembly adopt the Constitution of India?

Ans. The Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution on 26th November, 1949.

Q 13. Name some important members of the Constituent Assembly.

Ans. Some important members of the Constituent Assembly were Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, K.M. Munshi, etc.

Q 14. How much time did the Constituent Assembly take in framing the Constitution of India?

Ans. The Constituent Assembly took 2 years, 11 months and 18 days in framing the Indian Constitution.

Q 15. When and by whom was the objective resolution put before the Constituent Assembly?

Ans. The objective resolution was placed before the Constituent Assembly on 13th December, 1946, by Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru.

Q 16. Who played a decisive role in the integration of the Indian princely states?

Ans. Vallabhbhai Jhaverbhai Patel played a decisive role in the integration of the Indian princely states.

Q 17. What is meant by the term 'socialist'?

Ans. The term 'socialist' in the context of the Indian Constitution means a person who believes that the wealth generated by society should be shared equally by all members of the society.

Q 18. What does the term 'liberty' signify as given in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution?

Ans. The term 'liberty' signifies that the citizens are free to express their opinions and there are no unreasonable restrictions on their liberty.

Q 19. In a republic, how is the Head of State decided or chosen?

Ans. In a republic, the Head of State is a person elected by the people, directly or indirectly.

Q 20. What is treason?

Ans. The offence of attempting to overthrow the government of the state to which the offender owes allegiance is called a treason.

Q 21. A friend from Nepal has written you a letter describing the political situation there. Many political parties are opposing the rule of the king. Some of them say that the existing constitution given by the monarch can be amended to allow

more powers to elected representatives. Others are demanding a new Constituent Assembly to write a republican constitution. Reply to your friend giving your opinions on the subject.

Ans. In my opinion, making small amendments does not shift whole power in the hands of representatives. This does not give total responsibility to the elected representatives what will happen in the next upcoming years. Hence, a new and well drafted constitution is the correct choice.



Short Answer Type Questions ↘

Q 1. Write briefly about the struggle against apartheid in South Africa.

Ans. Apartheid was the official policy of racial discrimination and ill-treatment of the Blacks followed by the Government of South Africa between 1948-1989. The system of apartheid divided the people and labelled them on the basis of the colour of their skin. People organised protests and movements against the government under the guidance of African National Congress and were ultimately successful in getting it abolished from the country.

Q 2. What were the three efforts made by the people of South Africa to struggle against the apartheid system?

Ans. The three efforts made by the people of South Africa to struggle against the apartheid system were:

- (i) The Blacks, Coloured and Indians fought against the apartheid system from 1950 onwards. They launched protest marches and strikes.
- (ii) The African National Congress led the movement against the policy of segregation which was joined by many Workers' Unions and the Communist Party.
- (iii) Many sensitive Whites joined the ANC and played a leading role in this movement.

Q 3. As the protests and struggles against apartheid increased, what changes were made by the colonial government in South Africa?

Ans. The following changes were made by the colonial government in South Africa:

- (i) They revoked the discriminatory laws.
- (ii) Ban on political parties was removed.
- (iii) Ban on media was lifted.

Q 4. Explain the role of Nelson Mandela in promoting democracy in the world.

Ans. Nelson Mandela was one of the most able, efficient and far-sighted leaders of the African National Congress. He played the following role in promoting the democracy in the world:

- (i) It was under his leadership that the struggle against apartheid reached its climax.

Due to his participation in the movement against apartheid, he was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1964. He spent 28 years in prison.

In 1994, the first democratic elections were held and Nelson Mandela was elected as the President of South Africa.



TIP

Students have to mention the role in promoting democracy and not only about the movement.

Q 5. 'India's Constitution was also drawn up under very difficult circumstances.' Elaborate this statement giving examples of any two circumstances.

Ans. India's Constitution was drawn up under very difficult circumstances. The following examples make this clear:

- (i) The country had to face partition which was a traumatic experience for the people of India and Pakistan both. Nearly 10 lakh people were killed in violent riots during partition.
- (ii) Another big problem was that the British had left to the rulers of the princely states to decide whether they wanted to merge with India or Pakistan or remain independent. The merger of these princely states was a difficult task.

Q 6. What are the reasons that we accept even today the Constitution made by the Constituent Assembly more than 60 years ago? Explain any three reasons.

Ans. We accept even today the Constitution made by the Constituent Assembly more than 60 years ago due to the following reasons:

- (i) India is a land of huge diversity where conflicts are inevitable. The Constitution of India protects the interests of every section of society and is the foundation for a harmonious society.
- (ii) India has remained a victim of colonial exploitations for centuries. But after the making of Constitution, we are sovereign which means no external powers can regulate us in any matters.
- (iii) The Constitution of India is flexible which provides enough scope for amendments. The Constitution has made some provisions for amendments from time to time to maintain law and order, the dignity and rights of the citizens.



TIP

Explain only the reasons of accepting the Constitution and not its importance to fulfil various tasks.

Q 7. What is the aim of a socialist state? How can that be achieved?

Ans. In a socialist state, wealth is generated socially and should be shared equally by the society. Government should regulate the ownership of land and industry to reduce socio-economic inequalities. This can be achieved in the following manner:

- (i) By taxing the rich people.
- (ii) By giving subsidies to the poor.

Q 8. Discuss about the significance of the 'Preamble' to the Indian Constitution.

Ans. The 'Preamble' to the Indian Constitution is a short statement of its basic values that guides all its articles.

It is very significant because of the following reasons:

- (i) The Preamble to the Indian Constitution is like a poem on democracy.
- (ii) It is regarded as the soul of the Indian Constitution that contains the philosophy on which the entire Constitution has been built.
- (iii) It provides a standard to examine and evaluate any law and action of government so as to find out whether it is good or bad.

Q 9. 'The authority of the rules of the Constitution is the same as that of any other law.' Giving reasons state whether it is true or false.

Ans. It is true. The Constitution is the supreme law of a country. It is the foundation of a democratic entity. The rules laid down in the Constitution are the basis on which all the other laws are framed. Hence, it follows that the constitutional rules have the same authority, perhaps even greater, as any other law of the country.

COMMON ERROR

Students do not justify the statement positively with reason or give improper explanation.

Q 10. All countries that have Constitutions are not necessarily democratic but all countries that are democratic will have a Constitution. Clarify with the help of examples.

Ans. All countries that have Constitutions are not necessarily democratic, but all countries that are democratic will have a Constitution. The following examples make this clear:

- (i) After the war of Independence against Great Britain, the Americans gave themselves a Constitution.
- (ii) After the revolution, the French people approved a democratic Constitution.

ng Answer Type Questions

plain how the apartheid system was oppressive for the Blacks.

Ans. The apartheid system was particularly oppressive for the Blacks as will be clear from the following points:

- (i) They were forbidden from living in White areas.
- (ii) Trains, buses, taxies, hotels, hospitals, schools and colleges, libraries, cinema halls, theatres, beaches, swimming pools and public toilets, were all separate for the Whites and Blacks.
- (iii) They could work in White areas only if they had a permit.
- (iv) They could not visit the Churches where the White people worshipped.
- (v) Blacks were not allowed to form associations or protest against the terrible treatment.

Q 2. What were the problems faced in making of the Constitution of South Africa? What compromises were made between the Blacks and the Whites?

Ans. The problems faced in making of the Constitution of South Africa was to incorporate the diverse interests of the Black majority and White minority, while finalising the different provisions of the Constitution. The following compromises were made by the Whites:

- (i) They agreed to the principle of majority rule and that of one person one vote.
- (ii) They also agreed to accept some basic rights for the poor and the workers.

The following compromises were made by the Blacks:

- (i) They agreed that the majority rule would not be absolute.
- (ii) They agreed that the majority would not take over the property of White minority.

Q 3. What is Constitution? What is its Importance?

OR

Why do countries need a Constitution? Explain.

Ans. The Constitution of a country is a set of written rules that are accepted by all the people living in a country. The Constitution is the supreme law that determines the relationship among the people living in a territory (called citizens) and also the relationship between the people and the government.

Its Importance is explained below:

- (i) It specifies how the government will be constituted and who will have the power to take decisions.
- (ii) It generates a degree of trust and coordination that is necessary for different groups of people to live together.

(iii) It lays down the limits on the powers of the government and tells us what the rights of the citizens are.

(iv) It expresses the aspirations of the people about creating a good society.

(v) It safeguards the interests of minorities, backward classes, poor and weaker sections of our society. It gives Universal Adult Franchise and equality for all.

Q 4. Explain the major factors which contributed to the making of our Constitution.

Ans. The major factors which contributed to the making of our Constitution are as follows:

(i) **National Movement:** Our national movement was not merely a struggle against a foreign rule. It was also a struggle to rejuvenate our country and to transform our society and politics.

(ii) **Role of Leaders:** Leaders like Motilal Nehru, Jawaharlal Nehru and others had played very important role in making of Indian Constitution.

(iii) **Role of British Rule:** The familiarities with political institutions of colonial rule also helped to develop an agreement over the Constitution's design.

(iv) **British Rule and the Legislative Institution:** The experience gained by Indians in the working of legislative institutions proved to be very useful for the country in setting up its own institutions and in drafting the Constitution.

(v) **Global Events:** Many of our leaders were inspired by the ideals of the French Revolution, the practice of Parliamentary democracy in Britain and the Bill of Rights in the USA and incorporated them in the Indian Constitution.

Knowledge BOOSTER



In 1928, Motilal Nehru drafted the first ever Constitution for India.

Q 5. 'The Constituent Assembly in India worked in a systematic, open and consensual manner.' Explain this statement.

Ans. The given statement can be explained with the help of the following points:

(i) First, some basic principles were decided and agreed upon.

(ii) Then, a Drafting Committee chaired by Dr. Ambedkar prepared a Draft Constitution for discussion.

(iii) Several rounds of thorough discussions took place on the Draft Constitution, clause by clause. More than 2,000 amendments were considered.

The members deliberated for 114 days spread over three years.

Every document presented and every word spoken in the Constituent Assembly have been recorded and preserved. These are called 'Constituent Assembly Debates'. These debates provide the rationale behind every provision of the Constitution.

Q 6. Describe the salient features of the Constitution of India.

Ans. The salient features of the Indian Constitution are as follows:

- (i) The Constitution declares India to be a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic and Republic country.
- (ii) The Constitution of India is a written Constitution. It has 395 Articles and 12 Schedules.
- (iii) A number of amendments, passed since the Constitution's enforcement in 1950, have also become a part of the Constitution.
- (iv) The Constitution provides for a federal form of government.
- (v) Indian Constitution provides for a Parliamentary form of government. The President is the nominal Head of the State.
- (vi) The Constitution of India guarantees six fundamental rights to every citizen.
- (vii) The Constitution of India is neither wholly rigid nor wholly flexible. Rather, it is partially rigid and partially flexible.
- (viii) The Constitution of India provides for Universal Adult Franchise.

Q 7. Describe any five values/goals of the Indian Constitution included in the Preamble.

Ans. The following goals are incorporated in the Indian Constitution:

- (i) **Sovereign:** Government has supreme right to make decisions on internal as well as external matters. No external power can dictate the Government of India.

(ii) **Socialist:** Wealth is generated socially and should be shared equally by the society. The government should regulate the ownership of land and industry to reduce socio-economic inequalities.

(iii) **Secular:** Citizens have complete freedom to follow any religion. There is no official religion. The government treats all religious beliefs and practices with equal respect.

(iv) **Republic:** The Head of the State is an elected person and not a hereditary one.

(v) **Equality:** All are equal before the law. The traditional social inequalities have to be ended. The government should ensure equal opportunity for all.

Q 8. Enumerate the points related to the institutional design of our Constitution.

Ans. Institutional design can be understood as formal rules which are legal and regulatory. The following points related to the institutional design of our Constitution are important:

- (i) The Constitution embodies the values specified in the Preamble into institutional arrangements.
- (ii) It is a very long and detailed document, therefore needs to be amended regularly to keep it updated.
- (iii) The changes are incorporated through constitutional amendments from time to time.
- (iv) The Constitution describes institutional arrangements in legal language.
- (v) It defines who will have the power to take decisions. It limits the powers of the government by providing some rights to the citizens, that cannot be violated.
- (vi) It lays down the procedure for choosing persons to govern the country. I.e., about elections.



TIP

The significance of institutional design of our Constitution can be explained along with the major aspects involved in its working.



Chapter Test

Multiple Choice Questions

Q 1. Which revolution in the world inspired the Indians to set up a socialist economy?

- a. French Revolution
- b. Turkish Revolution
- c. Russian Revolution
- d. American war of Independence

Q 2. Which of these positions is correct in relation to the 'Sovereign' status of India?

- a. USA can decide India's foreign policy.
- b. USSR can support the CPI(M) in setting up its government here.
- c. The Indian government only can decide its internal and external policies.
- d. Pakistan can control India's Armed forces.

Which of these features were accepted by all the Indian leaders much before they sat down to make the Constitution?

- a. Universal adult franchise
- b. Right to freedom
- c. Protection of the rights of minorities
- d. All of the above

Q 4. Which of these was the most salient underlying conflict in the making of a democratic Constitution in South Africa?

- a. Between the White minority and the Black majority.
- b. Between South Africa and its neighbours.
- c. Between men and women.
- d. Between the Coloured minority and the Black majority.

Q 5. Who amongst the following was not a member of the Constituent Assembly of India?

- a. Mahatma Gandhi
- b. Dr. Rajendra Prasad
- c. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
- d. H.C. Mookherjee

Assertion and Reason Type Questions

Directions (Q.Nos. 6-7): In the following questions given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

- a. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- b. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- c. Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
- d. Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Q 6. Assertion (A): The Indian Constitution is very long and detailed document.

Reason (R): The Indian Constitution needs to be amended quite regularly to keep it updated.

Q 7. Assertion (A): Freedom struggle against colonial exploitation contributed a lot to make India a democracy.

Reason (R): Freedom struggle spread the idea of nationalism and inculcated the practice of making decisions by consensus.

Source Based Question

Q 8. Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow:

Values that inspired and guided the freedom struggle and were in turn nurtured by it, formed the foundation for India's democracy. These values are embedded in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution. They guide all the articles of the Indian Constitution. The Constitution begins with a short statement of its basic values. This is called the Preamble to the Constitution. Taking inspiration from American model, most countries in the contemporary world have chosen to begin their Constitutions with a Preamble.

- (i) What formed the foundation for India's democracy?
- (ii) What is the importance of the Preamble to our Constitution?
- (iii) Explain any four guiding principles enshrined in the Preamble to the Indian Constitution.

Very Short Answer Type Questions

- Q 9.** Why is the Preamble called the soul of the Indian Constitution?
- Q 10.** What is meant by declaring India as a Sovereign State?
- Q 11.** What changes were brought about by the first amendment to the Constitution?
- Q 12.** What is the aim of a socialist state? How can that be achieved?

Short Answer Type Questions

- Q 13.** What was the procedure adopted for making the Indian Constitution?
- Q 14.** Mention the agreements made by both ethnic groups of South Africa for their Constitution.
- Q 15.** 'Our Constitution is very long and detailed'. Explain with reasons.
- Q 16.** 'India emerged as an Independent country amidst heavy turmoil'. Do you agree? Give reasons.

Long Answer Type Questions

- Q 17.** 'The South Africa Constitution Inspires democrats all over the world.' Comment.
- Q 18.** Why do we need a Constitution in a democracy? Give any five reasons.