

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Explain the Right to Equality enjoyed by the citizens of India.

Ans. Right to Equality:

- (a) The Right to Equality guarantees that all citizens are equally protected by the laws of the country. This means the state cannot discriminate a citizen on the basis of race, caste, sex religion or place of birth.
- (b) The state cannot discriminate anyone in the matter of employment. Untouchability has been abolished and is now a crime punishable by law.
- (c) All titles, except military and academic ones have been abolished.

2. India is a Secular State'. Explain.

Ans. India is called a secular state because:

- (a) the state has no official religion of its own.
- (b) everyone can preach, practise or profess any religion of his/her choice.
- (c) all religions are equal before the law.
- (d) the state cannot discriminate against any religion.

3. Write a short note on Cultural and Educational Rights.

- Ans.**
- (a) These rights have been given to protect the interests of minorities.
 - (b) All communities have the right to conserve and develop their language and script.
 - (c) All minorities, religious or linguistic, can set up their own educational institutions.
 - (d) No citizen can be discriminated against for admission in a State or State-aided institution.

4. What do you understand by the Right to Constitutional Remedies?

- Ans.**
- (a) The Right to Constitutional Remedies has been referred to as a right above all other rights. It is the guardian of all our Fundamental Rights.
 - (b) It is the only guarantee against encroachment on our Fundamental Rights. All the other Fundamental Rights would have been meaningless if they had not been effectively safeguarded by the Right to Constitutional Remedies.
 - (c) This right enables citizens to move to the Supreme Court and High Court if their Fundamental Rights are violated in any way.
 - (d) The Supreme Court and High Courts can issue the following writs for the enforcement of these rights:
 - (i) Habeas Corpus. It is a remedy against illegal detention.

(ii) Mandamus. It is an order to a public officer, individual or lower court to compel them to perform their duties.

(iii) Prohibition. It is issued to prevent an inferior court from exercising powers which fall outside its jurisdiction.

(iv) Certiorari. It is issued by a higher court to a lower court asking it to submit the records of a particular case for review.

(v) Quo Warranto. It is directed against a person who has usurped an office.

5. Define Fundamental Rights and discuss their importance in a democracy.

Ans. Fundamental Rights are the rights given to citizens in a democracy for the development of their personality.

They are important because:

(a) They provide the civil liberties essential in a democracy.

(b) These rights act as a check on the arbitrary actions of the executive and legislature,

(c) They give self-confidence to citizens by providing them with equality of status and opportunity and protecting them from exploitation by an individual or the state.

6. Mention the new rights given to the citizens under the South African Constitution.

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7. When was the National Human Rights Commission set up? What is its composition 7 what are its functions?

Ans. (a) The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) was set up in 1993.

(b) The members of the Commission are appointed by the President and includes retired judges officers and eminent citizens.

(c) The NHRC makes independent inquiries into cases involving human rights violations.

(d) It also inquires into cases of abetment of such violations or negligence in controlling it by the government and even intervenes in the court on behalf of the victims.

8. What are the powers given to the Human Rights Commission to carry out its enquiries?

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9. What restrictions have been placed upon an individual's Right to Freedom?

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10. What role do Rights play in a democracy?

Ans. (a) Rights protect minorities from the oppression of the majority.

(b) They prevent the majority from doing whatever it likes.

(c) Rights are the guarantees which can be used when things go wrong.

(d) In certain circumstances, governments may not protect or may even attack the rights of their own citizens. Therefore, some rights need to be placed higher than the government so they cannot be violated by the government. In some democracies, Rights are written in the Constitution.

11. What was the main cause of conflict in Kosovo?

Ans. (a) Albanians formed the majority of the population in Kosovo but the Serbs were in majority in other parts of Yugoslavia.

(b) Milosevic who became the Prime Minister wanted Serbs to dominate the country and to get rid of the Albanians.

(c) Thousands of Albanians were massacred. Finally, several other countries intervened to stop this massacre.

(d) Milosevic was captured and tried by an International Court of Justice for crimes against humanity.

12. What is the position of citizens with regard to their government in Saudi Arabia?

Ans. (a) The country is ruled by a hereditary king and the people do not have any say in selecting or changing their rulers.

- (b) Citizens cannot form political parties or any political organisation. There is press censorship and the media cannot report anything that the monarch's disapproves of.
- (c) There is no freedom of religion. Every citizen has to be a Muslim.
- (d) Women are treated as inferior. The testimony of one man is considered equal to that of two women.

13. Where is Guantanamo Bay? Why was a prison set up here?

- Ans.**
- (a) Guantanamo Bay is a naval base near Cuba controlled by the American Navy.
 - (b) The U.S. forces secretly abducted about 600 people who they felt were responsible for the terrorist attack on New York which occurred on 11th September 2001 and imprisoned them here.
 - (c) In most cases, the governments of their countries were not asked or even informed about their imprisonment.
 - (d) Families of the prisoners, media or even UN representatives have not been allowed to meet them. There has been no trial before any magistrate in the USA nor have the prisoners been allowed to approach the courts in their own country.

14. How have prisoners been treated in Guantanamo Bay?

- Ans.**
- (a) According to Amnesty International, the prisoners are being tortured in ways which have violated US laws.
 - (b) They are denied the treatment that even prisoners of war must get as per international treaties.
 - (c) Prisoners have not been released even after they were officially declared innocent.
 - (d) Even though the UN has asked the US to close down Guantanamo Bay, they have refused to do so.

15. Briefly explain any four fundamental rights of an Indian citizen. [KVS 2007]

- Ans.** Four Fundamental Rights are
- (a) Right to Equality.** Every citizen has been given equal protection under law. Untouchability has been made an offence punishable by law. Equality has been guaranteed to every citizen without any discrimination on grounds of religion, caste, creed or sex.
 - (b) Right Against Exploitation.** Begar or bonded labour has been abolished. The Constitution has banned trafficking in women and children and the employment of children under 14 years in hazardous occupations.
 - (c) Cultural and Educational Rights.** The Constitution grants freedom to every community to pursue and protect its language, culture and script. It also allows it to establish educational institutions of its own.
 - (d) Right to Freedom of Religion.** Every person has a right to preach, practice and profess any religion. All religions are equal before the law. There is no state religion.
The citizen can appeal to the courts if his/her rights are violated in any way.

16. In the Indian Constitution what kind of rights have been given to the people under Right to freedom? [NCT 2008]

Or

Explain the Fundamental Right to Freedom.

Ans. Right to Freedom consists of the following six freedoms:

- (a) Freedom of speech and expression.
- (b) Freedom to assemble peacefully without arms.
- (c) Freedom to form association and trade unions.
- (d) Freedom of movement throughout the territory of India.
- (e) Freedom of residence and settlement.
- (f) Freedom of profession, occupation, trade or business. It further ensures that no person shall be convicted of any offence except for the violation of law. Also no person can be deprived of his life or personal liberty except by due process of law.

17. Explain four provisions of the Fundamental Rights against exploitation.[DAV 2008]

- Ans.**
- (a) Children under the age of 14 are not to be employed in hazardous occupations.
 - (b) Begar or forced labour has been made a crime punishable by law.
 - (c) It prohibits traffic in human beings.
 - (d) It seeks to safeguard women from immoral exploitation.

18. Explain the fundamental rights. [KVS 2008]

Ans. Fundamental Rights are the rights given to citizens in a democracy for the development of their personality. They are important because:

- (a) They provide the civil liberties essential in a democracy-
- (b) These rights act as a check on the arbitrary actions of the executive and legislature.
- (c) They give self-confidence to citizens by providing them with equality of status and opportunity and protecting them from exploitation by an individual or the state.