

IMPORTANT QUESTION CLASS-9 CHAPTER-2 Constitutional Design

1.What do you mean by political equality?

Answer

Every citizen is entitled to all the constitutional rights and freedom without making distinction of any kind like gender, race, status, religion, etc.

2.Define Constitution.

Answer

The Constitution is the system of beliefs and laws by which a country, state or organization is governed.

3.What do you mean by apartheid?

Answer

The system of racial discrimination practiced against blacks in South Africa.

4.Name the great leader of Indian freedom movement who was not the member of the Indian Constituent Assembly.

Answer

Mahatma Gandhi, the great leader of Indian freedom movement was not the member of the Indian Constituent Assembly.

5.When did the Constituent Assembly adopt the constitution of India?

Answer

The Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution of India on 26th November 1949.

6.Explain the necessity of a Constitution in the newly born democracy in South Africa.

Answer

The necessities of a constitution in the newly born democracy in South Africa are:

- The oppressor and the oppressed were planning to live together as equals.
- It was not going to be easy to trust each other.

- Black majority was keen to ensure that the democratic principle of majority rule was not compromised.
- The Blacks wanted social and economic rights.
- White minority was keen to protect its privileges and property.

7. What is meant by the apartheid? How did the people of South Africa struggle against it?

Answer

Apartheid was the system of racial discrimination unique to South Africa. Efforts made by the people of South Africa against apartheid:

- Launched protest, marches and strikes.
- The African National Congress led the struggle.
- Many sensitive whites also joined the struggle with the African National Congress.
- Many workers' unions and the Communist Party joined the movement.

8. Who led the struggle against apartheid? State any four practices followed in the system of apartheid in South Africa.

Answer

Nelson Mandela led the struggle against apartheid. Practices followed in the system of apartheid in South Africa:

- Blacks were forbidden from living in white areas.
- All public places were separate for the whites and blacks.
- They could not visit the Churches of whites.
- They could not form associations or protest against the terrible treatment

9. Explain any five characteristics of South African Constitution.

Answer

Characteristics of South African Constitution:

- Emergence of the new democratic South Africa under black leaders.
- Based on equality of all races, men and women.
- Extensive rights were given to all the citizens.
- Everybody becomes the part of the solution.
- Determination of the people to work together.

10. Highlight any five difficult circumstances under which the Indian Constitution was drawn up.

Answer

- Making a constitution for a huge and diverse country like India was not an easy task.
- The people of India at that time were emerging from the status of subjects to citizens.
- The country was born through a partition on the basis of religious differences.
- The British had left the princely states to decide their future on their own.
- At that time, future of the country did not look very secure.
- Makers of the constitution had anxieties about the present as well as the future.
- The vast size of the country and diversity was a matter of concern.

11.

Match the following leaders with their roles in the making of the Constitution:

(a) Motilal Nehru (b) B.R. Ambedkar (c) Rajendra Prasad (d) Sarojini Naidu	(i) President of the Constituent Assembly (ii) Member of the Constituent Assembly (iii) Chairman of the Drafting Committee (iv) Prepared a Constitution for India in 1928
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Answer

(a) Motilal Nehru	(iv) Prepared a Constitution for India in 1928
(b) B.R. Ambedkar	(iii) Chairman of the Drafting Committee
(c) Rajendra Prasad	(i) President of the Constituent Assembly
(d) Sarojini Naidu	(ii) Member of the Constituent Assembly

12. Here are some of the guiding values of the Constitution and their meaning. Rewrite them by matching them correctly.

(a) Sovereign (b) Republic (c) Fraternity (d) Secular	(i) Government will not favour any religion. (ii) People have the supreme right to make decisions. (iii) Head of the state is an elected person. (iv) People should live like brothers and sisters.
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Answer

(a) Sovereign (b) Republic (c) Fraternity (d) Secular	(ii) People have the supreme right to make decisions. (iii) Head of the state is an elected person. (iv) People should live like brothers and sisters. (i) Government will not favour any religion.
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13. Who was the first president of the newly born democracy in South Africa?

Answer:

Nelson Mandela

14. What do you understand by the term ‘the Preamble to the Constitution’?

Answer:

The Constitution begins with a short statement of its basic values. This is called the Preamble to the Constitution..

15. Why is the Preamble called the soul of the Indian Constitution?

Answer:

Because it contains the philosophy on which the entire constitution has been built. It

provides a standard to examine and evaluate any law and action of government, to find out whether it is good or bad. It is the soul of the Indian Constitution.

16. How did the Constituent Assembly work to prepare the Constitution for India?

Answer:

The Constituent Assembly worked in a systematic, open and consensual manner. First, some basic principles were decided and agreed upon. Then, a Drafting Committee chaired by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar prepared a draft constitution for discussion. Several rounds of thorough discussion took place, clause by clause. More than 2000 amendments were considered. The members deliberated for 114 days spread over 3 years. Every document presented and every word spoken in the Constituent Assembly was recorded and preserved. These are called 'Constituent Assembly Debates'.

17. What are constitutional amendments?

Answer:

A constitution is not merely a statement of values and philosophy. A constitution is mainly about embodying these values into institutional arrangements. Indian Constitution 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 must 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.

18. Why did the South African people need a Constitution?

Answer:

The people of South Africa, need a constitution because :

- The oppressor and the oppressed in this new democracy were planning to live together as equals. It was not going to be easy for them to trust each other. They had their fears.
- They wanted to safeguard their interests. The black majority was keen to ensure that the democratic principle of majority rule was not compromised.
- They wanted substantial social and economic rights.

19. What did Ambedkar mean by 'contradictions' in his concluding speech to the Constituent Assembly?

Answer:

Dr. Ambedkar, who played a key role in the making of the Constitution, but he had a different understanding of how inequalities could be removed. In his concluding speech to the Constituent Assembly, Dr. Ambedkar said that India was entering a life of 'contradictions' on 26th January, 1950. According to him in politics, Indians would have equality but in social and economic life, there would be inequality. The politics should be based on the principle of one man one vote and one vote one value. In social and economic life, by reason of social and economic structure one must continue to deny the principle of one man one value.

20.Explain the different key words used in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution.

Answer:

Several key words have been used in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution :

- (i) **WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA:** The constitution has been drawn up and enacted by the people through their representatives, and not handed down to them by a king or any outside powers.
- (ii) **SOVEREIGN:** People have supreme right to make decisions on internal as well as external matters. No external power can dictate the government of India.
- (iii) **SOCIALIST:** Wealth is generated socially and should be shared equally by society. Government should regulate the ownership of land and industry to reduce socio-economic inequalities.
- (iv) **SECULAR:** Citizens have complete freedom to follow any religion. But there is no official religion. Government treats all religious beliefs and practices with equal respect.
- (v) **DEMOCRATIC:** A form of government where people enjoy equal political rights, elect their rulers and hold them accountable. The government is run according to some basic rules.
- (vi) **REPUBLIC:** The head of the state is an elected person and not a hereditary position.
- (vii) **JUSTICE:** Citizens cannot be discriminated on the grounds of caste, religion and gender. Social inequalities must be reduced. Government should work for the welfare of all, especially of the disadvantaged groups.
- (viii) **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.
- (ix) **EQUALITY:** All are equal before the law. The traditional social inequalities must be ended. The government should ensure equal opportunity for all.
- (x) **FRATERNITY:** All of us should behave as if we are members of the same family. No one should treat a fellow citizen as inferior.