

Very Short Answer Questions

Q.1. Who was Nelson Mandela?

Ans. Nelson Mandela was the leader of African National Congress (ANC). He remained in jail for 28 years in South Africa's most dreaded prison, Robben Island opposing the apartheid regime.

Q.2. Who were called 'blacks' in South Africa?

Ans. The native people of South Africa are black in colour, they made up about three-fourth of the population and were called 'blacks'.

Q.3. How non-whites were treated in South Africa?

Ans. The white rulers treated all non-whites as inferiors. The non-whites did not have voting rights.

Q.4. What was ANC?

Ans. It was African National Congress, an umbrella organisation that led the struggle against the policies of segregation. This included many workers' unions and the Communist Party.

Q.5. With which rules trust was built between blacks and whites in South Africa?

Ans. These rules determine what the elected governments are empowered to do and what they cannot do. They also decided the right of the citizens.

Q.6. What is this set of basic rules called?

Ans. This set of basic rules is called a 'Constitution'.

Q.7. What is a 'Constitution'?

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

Q.8. Why is Constitution considered the Supreme law?

Ans. The Constitution is the supreme law that determines the relationship among people living a territory (called citizens) and also the relationship between the people and the government.

Q.9. How difficult it was for India to frame a constitution for united India after independence?

Ans. 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 religious basis. This was a traumatic experience for the people of India and Pakistan.

Q.10. Who was the first one to draft a constitution for India?

Ans. In 1928, Motilal Nehru and eight other Congress leaders drafted a constitution for India.

Q.11. What resolution was made in 1931, Karachi session?

Ans. In 1931, the resolution at the Karachi session of the Indian National Congress dealt on how independent India's constitution should look like.

Q.12. What was 'Constituent Assembly'?

Ans. The drafting of the document called the 'constitution' was done by an assembly of elected representatives called the Constituent Assembly.

Q.13. In which manner Constituent Assembly worked?

Ans. The Constituent Assembly worked in a systematic, open and consensual manner.

Q.14. Why was a drafting committee formulated? Who was its Chairman?

Ans. The drafting Committee was formed to prepare a draft of the constitution for discussion. Its Chairman was Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Q.15. Who was the Chairman of the Constituent Assembly?

Ans. Dr. Rajendra Prasad was the Chairman of the Constituent Assembly.

Q.16. What features formed the foundation for India's democracy?

Ans. The Values that inspired and guided the freedom struggle and were then nurtured by it, formed the foundation for India's democracy.

Q.17. What is Preamble?

Ans. The Preamble is like preface of a book, it is the soul of the Indian Constitution. It gives in brief all the laws and action of the government.

Q.18. What does 'Sovereign' mean?

Ans. It means people have supreme right to make decisions on internal as well as external matters. No external power can dictate the government of India.

Q.19. What does 'Socialist' in a democratic Constitution mean?

Ans. Wealth is generated socially and should be shared equally by society. Government should try to reduce socio-economic inequalities.

Q.20. What is the meaning of the form 'Secular'?

Ans. Citizens have complete freedom to follow any religion. But there is no official religion. Government treats all religions, beliefs and practices with equal respect.

Q.21. What does 'democratic' mean?

Ans. It is a form of government where people enjoy equal political rights, elect their rulers and hold them accountable.

Q.22. What does 'Equality' term mean in the Indian Constitution?

Ans. All are equal before the law. The traditional social inequalities have to be ended. The government should ensure equal opportunities for all.

Q.23. What does the term 'Fraternity' signify in the Preamble?

Ans. All of us should behave as if we are members of the same family. No one should treat a fellow citizen as inferior.

Q.24. What are 'Constitutional Amendments'?

Ans. Provisions are made to incorporate changes from time to time in our constitution. These changes are called 'Constitutional Amendments'.

Short Answer Questions

Q.1. What does 'Segregation' mean in South Africa?

Ans. Trains, buses, taxis, hotels, hospitals, schools and colleges, libraries, cinema halls, theaters, beaches, swimming pools, public toilets, were all separate for the whites and blacks in South Africa. This was called 'Segregation'.

Q.2. How white racist continued their apartheid besides protests?

Ans. Many sensitive whites also joined the African National Congress to oppose apartheid. Several countries denounced apartheid as unjust and racist. But the white racist government continued to rule by torturing and killing black and coloured people.

Q.3. When did apartheid end in South Africa?

Ans. As protests and struggles against apartheid had increased, the government realised that they could no longer keep the blacks under their rule through repression. Finally at midnight of 26th April, 1994, the Republic of South Africa got freedom from apartheid.

Q.4. What policies were changed by white regime in South Africa?

Ans. Discriminatory laws were repealed. Ban on political parties and restrictions on media was lifted. After 28 years of imprisonment Nelson Mandela came released from Jail. The apartheid government came to an end.

Q.5. What compromise was made by whites minority in South Africa?

Ans. 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.

Q.6. What compromise was made by black majority in South Africa?

Ans. The blacks agreed that majority rule would not be absolute. They agreed that the majority would not take away the property of the white minority.

Q.7. Which basic values were incorporated in our constitution from these pre-independence decisions?

Ans. (i) Universal Adult Franchise.

- (ii) Right to freedom and equality.
- (iii) Protecting the rights of minorities.

Q.8. What institutional details and procedures Indians derive from colonial laws?

Ans. The experience gained by Indians in the working of the legislative institutions proved to be very useful for the country in setting up its own institutions and working in them. Many institutional details and procedures from colonial laws like the Government of India Act of 1935 have been referred while drafting the constitution.

Q.9. Which countries' constitutional features inspired Indian Constitution makers?

- Ans. (i)** Ideals of French Revolution
- (ii) Parliamentary democracy of Britain
 - (iii) Bill of Rights in US and
 - (iv) Socialist Revolution in Russia.

Q.10. Name some of the members of the Constituent Assembly?

- Ans. (i)** Dr. Rajendra Prasad (President).
- (ii) Jaipal Singh (A sportsman and educationist later founder of Jharkhand Party)
 - (iii) Baldev Singh (An entrepreneur and a leader of the Panthic Akali Party)
 - (iv) B.R. Ambedkar (Chairman Drafting Committee)
 - (v) JawaharLal Nehru (Prime Minister of the Interim Government)
 - (vi) Sarojini Naidu (Poet, writer and political activist)
 - (vii) Shyama Prasad Mukherjee (Minister for industry and supply in the interim Government Educationist and lawyer).

Q.11. What do you know about Nelson Mandela?

- Ans. (i)** Nelson Mandela was a South African leader who was tried for treason by the White South African government.
- (ii) He and seven other leaders were sentenced to life imprisonment in 1964, for daring to oppose the apartheid regime in his country.
 - (iii) He spent the next 28 years in Robben Island, South Africa's most dreaded prison.

(iv) He was released after 28 years from jail, and at midnight of the 26th of April 1994, South Africa got independence. He became the first President of independent South Africa.

Q.12. What do you understand by the term ‘apartheid’?

Ans. Apartheid refers to the official policy of racial separation and ill-treatment of blacks followed by the white government of South Africa between 1948 and 1989. This practice of racial discrimination remained for the longest period in South Africa.

Q.13. What basic rules are followed to form a Constitution?

Ans. The basic rules are:

- (i)** The rules should lay down how the rulers are to be chosen in future.
- (ii)** These rules should also determine what the elected governments are empowered to do and what they cannot do.
- (iii)** These rules should decide the rights of the citizens.

Q.14. What documents were taken by the Constituent Assembly to form the Indian Constitution?

Ans. The documents taken to form the Indian Constitution were:

- (i)** The Indian Constitution was drafted by Motilal Nehru and eight other leaders in 1928.
- (ii)** The resolution at the Karachi Session of the INC on how independent India’s Constitution should look like in 1931.
- (iii)** Both these documents were committed to the inclusion of universal adult franchise right to freedom and quality and protecting the right of minorities in the constitution of independent India.

Q.15. How was the Constituent Assembly formed?

Ans. The drafting of the Constitution was done by an assembly of elected representatives called the Constituent Assembly.

- (i)** Elections to the Constituent Assembly were held in July 1946.
- (ii)** Its first meeting was held in December 1946.
- (iii)** The Constituent Assembly was also divided into the Constituent Assembly of India and Pakistan after the partition.
- (iv)** The Constituent Assembly that wrote the Indian Constitution constituted as many as 299 members.

It adopted the Constitution on 26 November, 1949, but it came into effect on 26 January, 1950.

Q.16. When was the Constitution completed and why was it imposed on 26 January, 1950?

Ans. (i) The Constituent Assembly completed the Constitution on 26 November, 1949.

(ii) But it was imposed on 26 January, 1950 to give due importance to the date, 26th January.

(iii) To mark this day we celebrate it as the Republic Day every year.

(a) Jawaharlal Nehru declared Independence Day of India on 26th January, 1931.

Q.17. Give reasons for accepting the Constitution made by the Constituent Assembly more than 50 years ago.

Ans. Some reasons for accepting the same Constitution till today are:

(i) The Constitution does not reflect the views of its members alone. It expresses a broad consensus of its time.

(ii) The Constituent Assembly represented the people of India. There was no Universal Adult Franchise at that time. So, the Constituent Assembly could not have been chosen directly by all the people of India but it was elected mainly by the members of Provincial Legislatures, which ensured a fair share of all the regions of the country.

(iii) The Constituent Assembly worked in a systematic, open and consensual manner.

Q.18. What was the 'Drafting Committee'?

Ans. The 'Drafting Committee' prepared a draft of the Constitution for discussion:

(i) It was chaired by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

(ii) Several rounds of thorough discussion took place on the Draft of the Constitution, clause by clause.

(iii) The members worked for 114 days spread over three years.

Later on, it was thrown open to the public to get their opinion.

Q.19. What are 'Constituent Assembly Debates'?

Ans. Every document presented and every word spoken in the Constituent Assembly has been recorded and preserved. These are called 'Constituent Assembly Debates'.

(i) These debates provide the rationale behind every provision of the Constitution.

(ii) These are used to interpret the meaning of the Constitution.

(iii) When printed, these debates constitute 12 bulky volumes.

Q.20. In which two ways can the philosophy of the Indian Constitution be understood?

Ans. The two ways in which the philosophy of the Indian Constitution can be understood are:

(i) It can be understood by reading the views of some of the major leaders on the Indian Constitution.

(ii) We can understand by reading what the Constitution says about its own philosophy.

Q.21. How did the blacks of South Africa fight against the practice of apartheid?

Ans. (i) Since 1950, the blacks, coloured and Indians fought against the apartheid system. They launched protest marches and strikes.

(ii) The African National Congress (ANC) was the umbrella organisation which led the struggle against the policies of segregation.

(iii) This included many workers' union and the Communist Party.

(iv) Many sensitive whites also joined the ANC to oppose apartheid and played a leading role in this struggle.

(v) Several countries also denounced apartheid as unjust and racist.

Q.22. What kind of inspiration do we get from South Africa?

Ans. (i) The South African constitution inspires democrats all over the world.

(ii) A state denounced by the entire world till recently as the most undemocratic one is now seen as a model of democracy.

(iii) What made this change possible was the determination of the people of South Africa to work together to transform bitter experiences into the binding glue of a rainbow nation.

Q.23. What were Nelson Mandela's views on the South African constitution?

Ans. (i) He felt that the Constitution of South Africa speaks of both past and its future.

(ii) On one hand, it is a solemn pact in which they, as South Africans, declare to one another that they shall never permit a repetition of their racist, brutal and repressive past.

(iii) It is also a charter for the transformation of their country into one which is truly shared by all its people—a country which in the fullest sense belongs to all of them, black and white, women and men.

Q.24. Who was Dr. B.R. Ambedkar? How did he play a key role in the making of Indian constitution?

Ans. (i) Dr. Ambedkar was the chairman of the Drafting Committee.

(ii) He was a social revolutionary, thinker and agitator against caste divisions and caste-based inequalities.

(iii) Dr. Ambedkar played a key role in the making of the constitution but had a different understanding of how inequalities could be removed.

(iv) He often bitterly criticised Mahatma Gandhi and his vision.

Q.25. How values of freedom struggle were embedded in the Preamble of the Indian constitution?

Ans. (i) Values that inspired and guided the freedom struggle and were in turn nurtured by it, formed the foundation for India's democracy.

(ii) These values are embedded in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution.

(iii) They guide all the articles of the Indian Constitution.

(iv) The Constitution begins with a short statement of its basic values. This is called the Preamble of the Indian Constitution.

Q.26. Why Preamble is called the preface of the Indian constitution?

Ans. (i) The Preamble of the constitution contains the philosophy on which the entire constitution has been built.

(ii) It provides a standard to examine and evaluate any law and action of the government to find out whether it is good or bad.

(iii) It is the soul of Indian constitution. It reads like a poem on democracy.

Long Answer Questions

Q.1. How was 'apartheid' practised in South Africa?

Ans. (i) The system of apartheid divided the people and labelled them on the basis of their skin colour.

(ii) The natives of South Africa were the 'Blacks', the people of mixed races were 'Coloured' and the people who migrated from India, 'The Indians'.

(iii) All Non-Whites were treated as inferiors and were deprived of their right to vote.

(iv) They were forbidden from living in white areas.

(v) They could work in white areas only if they had a permit.

(vi) Trains, buses, taxis, hotels, hospitals, schools, colleges, libraries, cinema halls, beaches, swimming pools, public toilets were all separate for whites and blacks.

(vii) The Blacks could not visit the churches where the whites worshipped.

Q.2. How did South Africa get Independence?

Ans. (i) As protests and struggles against apartheid had increased, the government realised that they could no longer keep the blacks under their rule through repression.

(ii) The White regime changed its policies.

(iii) Discriminatory laws were repealed.

(iv) Ban on political parties and restrictions on the media were lifted.

(v) After 28 years of imprisonment, Nelson Mandela walked out of jail as a free man.

(vi) Finally at the midnight of 26th April, 1994, the new national flag of Republic of South Africa was unfurled marking the newly born democracy in the world.

(vii) The apartheid government came to an end, paving the way for the formation of a multi-racial government.

Q.3. What problems were faced by the South Africans before the formation of the constitution?

Ans. 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. The white minority was keen to protect its privileges and property.

Q.4. What steps were taken by the Constituent Assembly to form the Indian Constitution?

Ans. The Constituent Assembly worked in a systematic, open and consensual manner.

(i) Firstly some basic principles were decided or agreed upon.

(ii) Then a Drafting Committee chaired by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar prepared a draft constitution for discussion.

(iii) Several rounds of thorough discussion took place on the Draft Constitution, clause by clause. More than 2000 amendments were considered. The members deliberated for 114 days spread over three years. Every document presented and every word spoken in the Constituent Assembly has been recorded and preserved to form 12 bulky volumes of Constituent Assembly Debates.

Q.5. What is a constitution? Why do we need a constitution for a country?

OR

What are the main functions of a constitution?

Ans. 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 the government.

Need of the constitution:

(i) It generates a degree of trust and coordination that is necessary for different kinds of people to live together.

(ii) It specifies how the government will be constituted and various powers to take various decisions will be allotted to whom.

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

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

(v) Constitution is the supreme law that determines the relationship among people living in a territory and also the relationship between the people and the government.

Q.6. “Most of the countries of the world keep changing their constitution as needed but the same Indian Constitution is accepted even today as it was at the time of preparation. Is it an unusual achievement for any constitution? Give reasons in support of your answer.

Ans. (i) The constitution does not reflect the views of its members alone. It expresses a broad consensus of its time.

(ii) Many countries of the world have had to rewrite their constitution afresh because the basic rules were not accepted to all major social groups or political parties.

(iii) The Constituent Assembly represented the people of India. There was no universal adult franchise at that time. So the Constituent Assembly could not have been chosen directly by all the people of India.

(iv) In social terms, the Assembly represented members from different language groups, castes, classes, religions and occupations. It was elected by the members of the existing provincial legislatures, ensuring a fair geographical share of members from all the regions of the country.

(v) The Constituent Assembly worked in a systematic, open and consensual manner. First, some basic principles were declared and agreed upon. Then a Drafting Committee chaired by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar prepared a draft constitution for discussion. These documents were thoroughly studied with several debates and then presented.

Over the last half a century, several groups have questioned some provisions of the constitution. But no large social group or political party has ever questioned the legitimacy of the constitution itself. This is an unusual achievement for any constitution.

HOTS (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

Q.1. Explain the necessity of a constitution in the newly born democracy in South Africa.

Or

How was a new constitution of South Africa Formed?

Ans. (i) After the emergence of the new democratic South Africa, black leaders appealed to fellow blacks to forgive the whites for the atrocities they had committed while in power.

(ii) They thought of building a new South Africa based on equality of all races and men and women on democratic values, social justice and human rights.

(iii) The party that ruled through oppression and brutal killings and the party that led the freedom struggle sat together to draw up a common constitution.

(iv) After two years of discussion and debate, they came out with one of the finest constitutions the world had ever had.

(v) This Constitution gave to its citizens the most extensive rights available in any country.

(vi) Together, they decided that in search for a solution to the problems, nobody should be excluded, no one should be treated as a demon. They agreed that everybody should become part of the solution, whatever they might have done or represented in the past.

Q.2. Outline the agreements made by both ethnic groups of South Africa for their constitution.

Ans. 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. The blacks agreed that majority rule would not be absolute. They agreed that the majority would not take away the property of the white minority.

Q.3. Which were the factors that helped the Indian leaders to develop the constitution?

Ans. The countries which inspired the Indian Constitution were:

(i) France: Many Indian leaders were inspired by the ideals of the French Revolution and their resolution on liberty, equality and fraternity.

(ii) Britain: Indian leaders were inspired by the practice of Parliamentary democracy in Britain.

(iii) US: Their Bill of Rights was a great inspiration.

(iv) Russia: The socialist revolution and the socialist economy of Russia also inspired the leaders of India.

Q.4. “India emerged as an independent country amidst heavy turmoil. Justify the statement by explaining the challenges before the constitution makers of India.

Ans. (i) A constitution is mainly about embodying the values into institutional arrangements.

(ii) It is a very long and detailed document. Therefore, it needs to be amended quite regularly to keep it updated.

(iii) So the makers of the Indian constitution made provisions to incorporate changes from time to time. These changes are called constitutional amendment.

(iv) The Constitution describes the institutional arrangements in a legal language.

(v) Like any constitution, the Indian Constitution lays down a procedure for choosing persons to govern the country. It defines who will have how much power to take which decisions.

(vi) And it also puts limits to what the government can do by providing some rights to the citizen that cannot be violated.

Q.5. How has Indian Constitution embodied the basic values into its institutional arrangements? Explain.

Ans. (i) Inclusion of Universal Adult Franchise by giving all the citizens of India the right to vote and contest elections.

(ii) Right to freedom and equality to be granted. Since India remained under British control for a long time and being a country of diversities, it needed equality.

(iii) It also proposed for protecting the rights of minorities in the constitution of independent India.

Q.6. Explain ideals of the Preamble of the Indian Constitution.

Ans. (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 the 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.

(vi) Republic: The head of the state is an elected person and its not a hereditary position.

(vii) Justice: Citizens cannot be discriminated on the grounds of caste, religion and gender. Social inequalities have to be reduced. Government should work for the welfare of all, especially for the disadvantaged groups.

(viii) Liberty: There are no unreasonable restrictions on the citizens about what they think, how they wish to express their thoughts and the way they wish to follow up their thoughts in actions.

(ix) Equality: All are equal before the law. The traditional social inequalities have to 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.