

Very Short Answer Questions

Q.1. What is Amnesty International?

Ans. It is an international human rights organisation which helps the people who suffer due to violation of human rights.

Q.2. How are rulers of Saudi Arabia elected?

Ans. The country is ruled by a hereditary king and the people have no role in electing or changing their rulers.

Q.3. What are rights?

Ans. Rights are claims of a person over other fellow being over the society and over the government.

Q.4. How can we claim our right?

Ans. A right is possible when we make a claim that is equally possible for others. We cannot have a right that harms or hurts others.

Q.5. In what situation should a government protect the citizen's rights?

Ans. Things may go wrong when some citizens may wish to take away the rights of others. This usually happens when those in majority want to dominate those in minority. The government should protect the citizen's rights in such a situation.

Q.6. What are fundamental rights?

Ans. Some rights which are fundamental to our life are given a special status. They are called Fundamental Rights.

Q.7. How is Rule of Law considered the foundation of any democracy?

Ans. It means that no person is above the law. There cannot be any distinction between a political leader, government official and an ordinary citizen.

Q.8. What does 'untouchability' mean?

Ans. Untouchability refers to refusal to touch people belonging to certain castes as well as any belief of social practice which looks down upon people on account of their birth with certain caste labels.

Q.9. What does 'freedom' mean?

Ans. Freedom means absence of constraints. In practical life, it means absence of interference in our affairs by others, be it the individuals or the government.

Q.10. What is meant by 'traffic in human beings'?

Ans. Traffic here means selling and buying of human being, usually women for immoral purposes.

Q.11. What is 'Begar'?

Ans. 'Begar' is a practice where the worker is forced to render service to the 'master' free of charge or at a nominal remuneration. When this practice takes place on a lifelong basis, it is called the practice of bonded labour.

Q.12. In what way is child labour prohibited by the Indian constitution?

Ans. The constitution prohibits child labour. No one can employ a child below the age of fourteen to work in any factory or mine or in any other hazardous work, such as railways and ports.

Q.13. What is 'Secularism'?

Ans. Secularism is based on the idea that the state is concerned only with relations among human beings, and not with the relation between human beings and the God. Indian secularism practises an attitude of a principled and equal distance from all religions.

Q.14. What is a 'secular state'?

Ans. A secular state is one that does not establish any one religion as official religion. The state has to be neutral and impartial in dealing with all religions.

Q.15. Why do we need Cultural and Educational rights?

Ans. It is language, culture and religion of minorities that needs special protection. Otherwise they may get neglected or undermined under the impact of the language, religion and culture of the majority. That is why, the constitution specifies the cultural and educational rights of the minorities.

Q.16. What are writs?

Ans. A formal document containing an order of the court to the government issued only by High Court or the Supreme Court.

Q.17. What does 'Right to freedom of Religion' mean?

Ans. Every person has a right to choose, practise and propagate any religion he or she believes in. Every religious group or sect is free to manage its religious affairs.

Q.18. What is PIL?

Ans. PIL is called as Public Interest litigation. Under PIL, any citizen or group of citizens can approach the Supreme Court or a High Court for the protection of public interest against a particular law or action of the government.

Q.19. What does 'Right to Education' mean?

Ans. Now school education has become a right for Indian citizens. The governments are responsible for providing free and compulsory education to all children up to the age of 14 years under this right.

Short Answer Questions

Q.1. What are the three qualities of rights?

Ans. (i) They are reasonable claims of persons.

(ii) They are recognised by society.

(iii) They are sanctioned by law.

Q.2. Why are rights necessary for the very sustenance of a democracy?

Ans. In a democracy, every citizen has to have the right to vote and the right to be elected to government. For democratic elections to take place it is necessary that citizens should have the right to express their opinion, form political parties and take part in political activities.

Q.3. What does 'rule of law' mean?

Ans. (i) The constitution says that the government shall not deny to any person in India equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws.

(ii) It means that the laws apply in the same manner to all, regardless of a person's status. This is called the 'Rule of Law'.

Q.4. Is it true that every citizen from the Prime Minister to a small farmer, is subjected to the same laws?

Ans. Yes, this is true because the Constitution of India provides a provision of 'rule of law' which means that no person is above the law. The laws apply in the same manner to all, regardless of person's status (whether he is a Prime Minister or a farmer).

Q.5. How is right to equality exercised?

Ans. The government shall not discriminate against any citizen on the grounds of religion, caste, ethnicity, sex or place of birth. Every citizen shall have access to public places like shops, restaurants, hotels and cinema halls. All citizens have equality in the matters relating to employment also.

Q.6. What is RTI?

Ans. RTI is Right to Information. Parliament has enacted a law giving the right to information to the citizens. This Act was made under the Fundamental Right to freedom of thought and expression. We have a right to seek information from government offices.

Q.7. What are Human Rights?

Ans. Human Rights are universal moral claims that may or may not have been recognised by law. But then rights give you a right to be treated as equal by law. Every human being who is born anywhere has the right to live and enjoy his life and should not be tortured by any means.

Q.8. How were prisoners tortured by the US army in Guantanamo Bay prison?

Ans. (i) The prisoners were being tortured in ways that violated the US laws.

(ii) They were being denied the treatment that even prisoners of war must get as per the international treaties.

(iii) Prisoners were not released even after they were officially declared 'not guilty'.

Q.9. What was the background in which the ethnic massacre took place in Kosovo?

Ans. (i) Kosovo was a province of Yugoslavia before it split. In this province, the Serbs were in minority and Albanians were in majority, while it was the other way round in the rest of the country.

(ii) A narrow-minded Serb nationalist Milosevic had won the elections. His government was hostile to the Kosovo Albanians.

(iii) He wanted the Serbs to dominate the country.

Many Serb leaders thought that ethnic minorities like the Albanians should either leave the country or accept the dominance of the Serbs.

Q.10. How does society affect the implementation of rights?

Ans.

- Every society makes certain rules to regulate one's conduct. They tell us what is right and what is wrong. What is recognised by the society as rightful becomes the basis of rights.
- The notion of 'right' changes from time to time and society to society.
- When the socially recognised claims are written into law, they acquire real force. Otherwise, they remain merely as natural or moral rights.
- When law recognises some claims, they become enforceable. We can then demand their application. When fellow citizens or the government do not respect these rights, we call it violation of our rights.

Q.11. Which three qualities are required for calling any claim, a right?

Ans. (i) Rights are reasonable claims of persons.

(ii) Rights are recognised by the society.

(iii) Rights are sanctioned by law.

Q.12. How or why is the 'Right to Freedom' called a cluster of several rights?

Ans. Under the Indian Constitution, all citizens exercise a number of freedoms which are all covered in the right to freedom. So every citizen has the right to all of the following freedoms:

(i) Freedom of speech and expression

(ii) Freedom of assembly in a peaceful manner

(iii) Freedom to form associations and unions

(iv) Freedom to move freely throughout the country

(v) Freedom to reside in any part of the country

(vi) Freedom to practise any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business.

Q.13. How can you say that freedom of speech and expression is one of the essential features of any democracy?

Ans. (i) Our ideas and personality develop only when we are able to freely communicate with others. Even if hundred people think in one way, you should have the freedom to think differently and express your views accordingly.

(ii) You may disagree with a policy of the government or activities of an association. You are free to criticise the government in your conversation with parents, friends and relatives.

(iii) You may publicise your views through a pamphlet, magazine or newspaper. You can do the same through paintings, poetry or songs.

Q.14. How can citizens exercise their freedom to hold rallies and demonstrations?

Ans.

- Citizens have the freedom to hold rallies and demonstrations in our country guaranteed by the constitution.
- But such meetings have to be peaceful.
- They should not lead to public disorder or breach of peace in society.

- Those who participate in these activities and meetings should not carry weapons with them.
- Citizens can also form associations like workers in a factory can form a workers' union to promote their interests.

Q.15. Can an Indian citizen enjoy the freedom to travel in any part of the country?

Ans.

- Citizens are free to reside and settle in any part of India.
- This right allows lakhs of people to migrate from villages to towns and from poorer regions of the country to prosperous regions and big cities.
- For example, a person who belongs to Assam wants to start a business in Hyderabad. He may not have any connections with that place or people there, he may have not seen it ever. Yet as a citizen of India, he has the right to set up base there.

Q.16. Which three evils are tackled by right against exploitation?

Ans. The Constitution mentions three specific evils and declares them illegal.

(i) Traffic in human beings: Traffic here means selling and buying of human beings, usually women, for immoral purposes.

(ii) Begar: Our constitution also prohibits forced labour or begar in any form. It is a practice where the worker is forced to render service to the 'master', free of charge or at a nominal salary. When this practice takes place on a lifelong basis, it is called 'bonded labour'.

(iii) Child labour: The Constitution also prohibits child labour. No one can employ a child below the age of 14 years to work in any factory or mine or in any other hazardous work such as in the railways and at ports.

Many laws have been made to prohibit children from working in industries such as beedi making, firecrackers and matchbox, printing and dyeing.

Q.17. How does a person exercise his right to freedom of religion?

Ans.

- Every person has a right to profess, practise and propagate the religion he or she believes in.
- Every religious group or sect is free to manage its religious affairs.
- A right to propagate one's religion, however, does not mean that a person has the right to compel another person to convert into his religion by means of force, fraud, inducement or allurement.

Q.18. What are the provisions of cultural and educational rights?

Ans. The Constitution specifies the cultural and educational rights of the minorities.

(i) Any section of citizens with a distinct language or culture have a right to conserve it.

(ii) Admission to any educational institution maintained by the government or receiving government aid cannot be denied to any citizen on the grounds of religion or language.

(iii) All minorities have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice. Here, minority does not mean only religious minority at the national level.

Q.19. Why did Dr. Ambedkar call the Right to Constitutional Remedies ‘the heart and soul’ of our constitution?

OR

What does Right to Constitutional Remedies imply?

Ans. (i) Right to Constitutional Remedies is a fundamental right. This right makes other rights effective.

(ii) It is possible that sometimes our rights may be violated by fellow citizens, private bodies or by the government. When any of our rights is violated, we can seek remedy through courts.

(iii) If it is a Fundamental Right, we can directly approach the Supreme Court or the High Court of a state.

That is why, Dr. Ambedkar called the Right to Constitutional Remedies ‘the heart and soul’ of our constitution.

Q.20. What is PIL? How does it work?

Ans. PIL is Public Interest Litigation.

(i) In case of any violation of a Fundamental Right, the aggrieved person can go to a court for remedy.

(ii) But now, any person can go to court against the violation of a Fundamental Right, if it is of social or public interest. This is called Public Interest Litigation (PIL).

(iii) Under the PIL, any citizen or group of citizens can approach the Supreme Court or the High Court for the protection of public interest against a particular law or action of the government.

Q.21. How were prisoners treated in Guantanamo Bay? Write three main features of the prison.

Ans. Treatment of prisoners in Guantanamo Bay was very humiliating.

(i) There was no trial before any magistrate and US law was completely violated.

(ii) This place was not located in US but an area near Cuba, controlled by American Navy, so nobody knew the location of the prison.

(iii) Families of prisoners, media or even UN representatives were not allowed to meet the prisoners.

Q.22. What did Amnesty International do to get Guantanamo Bay prison closed?

Ans. (i) Amnesty International, an international human rights organisation, collected information on the condition of the prisoners in Guantanamo Bay and reported that prisoners were being tortured in ways that violated the US laws.

(ii) They were being denied the treatment that even prisoners of war must get as per international treaties. Prisoners were not released even after they were officially declared not guilty.

(iii) The UN Secretary General said that the prison in Guantanamo Bay should be closed down. The US government refused to accept these pleas.

Q.23. What happened in Kosovo (Albania) in 1999?

Ans. (i) A massacre was being carried out by the army of their own country, working under the directions of a leader, Milosevic, who came to power through democratic election.

(ii) This was one of the worst instances of killings based on ethnic lines in recent time.

(iii) Finally, several other countries intervened to stop the massacre. Milosevic lost power and was tried by an International Court of Justice for crimes against humanity.

Q.24. Why do some rights need to be placed higher than the government?

Ans. (i) Things may go wrong when some citizens may wish to take away the rights of others. This usually happens when those in majority want to dominate in the minority.

(ii) The government should protect the citizens' rights in such a situation. But sometimes elected governments may not protect or may even attack the rights of their own citizens.

(iii) That is why, some rights need to be placed higher than the government, so that the government cannot violate them.

Q.25. Why has constitution made untouchability a punishable offence?

Ans. (i) The constitution mentions an extreme form of social discrimination, the practice of untouchability and clearly directs the government to put an end to it.

(ii) The practice of untouchability has been forbidden in any form.

(iii) Untouchability, here does not only mean refusal to touch people belonging to certain castes. It refers to any belief or social practice which looks down upon people on account of their birth with certain caste labels.

(iv) Such practice denies them interaction with others or access to public places as equal citizens. So, the constitution made untouchability a punishable offence.

Q.26. Women are subjected to many public restrictions. What values are neglected in this conduct?

Ans. (i) Right to Freedom

(ii) Right to Equality

(iii) Cultural & Educational Right

(iv) Right against Exploitation.

Q.27. On what grounds are 'rights' morally justified to citizens?

Ans. (i) To promote democracy

(ii) To promote right to live

(iii) To promote rights of minorities

(iv) To give people right to freedom of conscience

(v) To give people right to express.

Q.28. What rights would you enjoy and not enjoy if you are granted freedom of speech and expression?

Ans. Enjoyments

(i) To elect the government

(ii) To develop personality

(iii) To communicate freely.

Limitations

(i) Cannot instigate violence

(ii) Cannot rebel against government

(iii) Cannot damage a person's reputation.

Q.29. The Indian Constitution under right against exploitation highlights certain values. What are these?

Ans. (i) To prohibit selling and buying of human beings

(ii) To prohibit forced labour

(iii) To ban bonded labour

(iv) To ban child labour in hazardous industries.

Long Answer Questions

Q.1. What are 'rights'? How can we claim a right?

Ans. 'Rights' are claims of a person over other fellow beings, the society and the government.

(i) A right is possible when we make a claim that is equally possible for others. You cannot have a right that harms or hurts others.

(ii) The Serbs in Yugoslavia could not have claimed the whole country for themselves.

(iii) The claims we make should be reasonable. They should be such that they can be made available to others in equal measure.

(iv) A right comes with an obligation to respect others' rights.

Q.2. Why do we need rights in a democracy?

Ans. (i) Rights are necessary for the very sustenance of a democracy.

(ii) In a democracy, every citizen has to have the right to vote and the right to be elected to the government.

(iii) For democratic elections, it is necessary that citizens should have the right to express their opinion, form political parties and take part in political activities.

(iv) Rights protect the minorities from the oppression of the majority.

(v) Rights are a guarantee which can be used when things go wrong. Things may go wrong when some citizens may wish to take away the rights of others.

So, rights perform a very special role in democracy.

Q.3. What are the main features of 'Right to equality?'

Ans. (i) Every citizen, from the Prime Minister to a small farmer in a remote village, is subject to the same laws.

(ii) Under Right to equality, the government shall not discriminate against any citizen on the grounds of religion, ethnicity, sex or place of birth.

(iii) Every citizen shall have access to public places like shops, restaurants, hotels and cinema halls.

(iv) All citizens have equality of opportunity in matters relating to employment or appointment to any position in the government. No citizen shall be discriminated against or made ineligible for employment on any grounds.

(v) Equality means giving everyone an equal opportunity to achieve whatever one is capable of. Sometimes, it is necessary to give special treatment to someone in order to ensure equal opportunity.

Q.4. What is Secularism? How did the Indian Constitution make India a secular state?

Ans. Secularism does not confer any privilege or favour on any particular religion. All religions are treated equally by the law.

(i) Secularism is based on the idea that the state is concerned only with relations among human beings and not with the relation between human beings and God.

(ii) A secular state is one that does not establish any one religion as the official religion.

(iii) Indian secularism keeps equal distance from all religions.

(iv) The state has to be neutral and impartial in dealing with all religions.

Q.5. How does the constitution protect our rights?

Ans. (i) Fundamental Rights are guaranteed against the actions of the Legislature, the Executive and any other authority instituted by the government.

(ii) There can be no law or action that violates the Fundamental Rights.

(iii) Courts also enforce the Fundamental Rights against private individuals and bodies.

(iv) The Supreme Court and High Courts have the power to issue orders or 'writs' for the enforcement of the Fundamental Rights.

(v) They can also award compensation to the victims and punishment to the violators.

In case of any violation of a Fundamental Right, the aggrieved person can go to a court for remedy.

Q.6. Write a short note on the National Human Rights Commission.

Ans.

- NHRC is an independent commission set up by the law in 1993.
- Like the Judiciary, the commission is independent of the government.
- The commission is appointed by the President and includes retired judges, officers and eminent citizens.
- It does not bear the burden of deciding cases. So it can focus on helping the victims secure their human rights.
- These include all the rights granted to the citizens by the constitution.
- The NHRC cannot punish the guilty. That is the responsibility of the courts.
- Like any court, it can summon witnesses, question any government official, demand any official paper, visit any prison for inspection or send its own team for on-the-spot inquiry.

Q.7. How are the scope of rights expanded?

Ans. (i) Certain rights like right to freedom of press, right to information, and right to education are derived from the Fundamental Rights.

(ii) Now school education has become a right for Indian citizens. The governments are responsible for providing free and compulsory education to all children up to the age of 14 years.

(iii) Parliament has enacted a law giving the right to information to the citizens. This Act was made under the Fundamental Right to freedom of thought and expression.

(iv) Constitution provides many more rights, which may not be Fundamental Rights. For example, the right to property is not a Fundamental Right, but it is a constitutional right.

(v) Sometimes, the expansion takes place in what is called human rights. There are universal moral claims that may or may not have been recognised by law.

Q.8. What are Fundamental Rights? Mention the six Fundamental Rights provided in the Indian Constitutions. Which Fundamental Right protects the rest of the Fundamental Rights?

Ans. Some rights which are fundamental to our life are given a special status in the Constitution. They are called Fundamental Rights.

The Constitution provides six Fundamental Rights:

- (a)** Right to Equality
- (b)** Right to Freedom
- (c)** Right to Freedom of Religion

(d) Cultural and Educational Rights

(e) Right against Exploitation

(f) Right to Constitutional Remedies.

Right to constitutional remedies protects the rest of the Fundamental Rights.

HOTS (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

Q.1. "Rights are claims of persons over other fellow beings, over the society and over the government Justify the statement.

Ans. (i) Rights are reasonable claims of persons recognised by society and authorised by law.

(ii) In a democracy, every citizen has to have the right to vote and the right to be elected in the government.

(iii) Rights are guarantees which can be used when things go wrong. Things may go wrong when some citizens may wish to take away the rights of others

(iv) The government should protect the citizens rights in such situations.

(v) When law recognises some claims they become enforceable. We can then demand their application.

(vi) When fellow citizens or the government do not respect these rights we call it violation or infringement of our rights.

Q.2. Suggest some constitutional basis to oppose the construction of any dam which may displace the residents of that area.

Ans. (i) Residents of that area can oppose the construction of dam in their area.

(ii) Since they are exercising the Right to freedom, nobody even the government has any right to stop them from opposing the dam which would affect the residents of that area and displace them.

(iii) The people of that area have a right to equality which means they must get equal opportunity to live in their residential area.

(iv) They can hold protests to stop the building of dam without their permission.

Q.3. Explain the procedure to be followed for arresting and detaining of any person.

OR

What procedure should a citizen follow to get proper legal justification, if he or she is arrested?

Ans. Following procedure needs to be followed:

(i) A person who is arrested and detained in custody will have to be informed of the reasons for such arrest and detention.

(ii) A person who is arrested and detained shall be produced before the nearest magistrate within a period of 24 hours of arrest.

(iii) Such a person has the right to consult a lawyer or engage a lawyer for his defence.