

## Very Short Answer Questions

**Q. 1. When did India get its Independence?**

**Ans.** On 15th August, 1947, India got its Independence.

**Q. 2. Why did Nathuram Godse assassinate Mahatma Gandhi?**

**Ans.** Nathuram Godse assassinated Mahatma Gandhi because he disagreed with Gandhiji's conviction that Hindus and Muslims should live together in harmony.

**Q. 3. Describe Universal Adult Franchise.**

**Ans.** Universal Adult Franchise refers to the people above the age of 21 would be allowed to vote in state and national elections. It is one of the features of the Indian Constitution.

**Q. 4. Mention the second feature of the constitution.**

**Ans.** To guarantee equality before the law to all citizens, regardless of their caste or religious affiliation was the second feature of the Indian constitution

**Q. 5. What does the third feature of the constitution offer?**

**Ans.** A third feature of the constitution was that it offered special privileges for the poorest and most disadvantaged Indians.

**Q. 6. Besides Muslims, people of which religion were the part of Indian population?**

**Ans.** Besides Muslims, India had large populations of Sikhs, Christians, Parsis and Jains.

**Q. 7. What was the result of partition?**

**Ans.** As a result of partition of India, more than a million people had been killed, in riots between Hindus and Muslims.

**Q. 8. Mention the speakers who looked forward to having their own state.**

**Ans.** The speakers of Kannada, Malayalam and Marathi had looked forward to having their own state.

## Short Answer Questions

**Q. 1. What was the final speech of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar to the constituent Assembly?**

**Ans. (i)** Dr. Ambedkar pointed out that political democracy had to be accompanied by economic and social democracy.

**(ii)** Giving the right to vote would not automatically lead to the removal of other inequalities such as between the rich and the poor, or between upper and lower castes.

**Q. 2. What was States Reorganisation Commission?**

**Ans. (i)** A States Reorganisation Commission was set up which submitted its report in 1956, recommending the redrawing of district and provincial boundaries to form compact provinces of Assamese, Bengali, Oriya, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada and Telugu speakers respectively.

**(ii)** The large Hindi-speaking region of North-India was also to be broken up into several states.

## Long Answer Questions

**Q. 1. Briefly describe the three lists of subjects under the constitution of India.**

**Ans.** The Constitution sought to balance the power between the centre and states by providing three lists of subjects:

**(i) Union list:** It includes the subjects such as taxes, defence and foreign affairs which would be the exclusive responsibility of the Centre.

**(ii) State list:** It has the subjects such as education and health, which would be taken care of principally by the states.

**(iii) Concurrent list:** It has the subjects as forests and agriculture in which the centre and the states would have joint responsibility.

**Q. 2. Briefly describe India's foreign policy and Non-Aligned Movement.**

**Ans.** Foreign Policy

**(i)** Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, who was also the foreign minister of newly independent India, developed free India's foreign policy.

**(ii)** Non-alignment formed the bedrock of the new foreign policy.

**(iii)** Nehru wished to extend India's support to those countries which were under the control of colonialism and imperialism. He wanted to promote peace and harmony in the world.

### **Non-Alignment Movement**

**(i)** Non-Alignment Movement urged countries not to join USA or USSR. Yugoslavia, Egypt, Indonesia, Ghana and India were the part of nonaligned movement.

**(ii)** They remained neutral or isolated by staying away from the two alliances (USA and USSR).

**(iii)** They tried to prevent war by often taking a humanitarian and moral stand against war.

**(iv)** By the 1970s, a large number of countries had joined the non-aligned movement.

**Q. 3. What special privileges were offered to disadvantaged and poor sections of India by the constitution.**

**Ans. (i)** First of all, 'slur and a blot' on the 'fair name of India', untouchability was abolished. Hindu temples were thrown open to all citizens of India.

**(ii)** After a long debate, the constituent assembly recommended that a certain percentage of seats in legislatures as well as jobs in government be reserved for the members of the lowest castes.

**(iii)** Along with the former Untouchables, the adivasis or Scheduled Tribes were also granted reservation in seats and jobs. Like the Scheduled Castes, these Indians too had been deprived and discriminated against.

## **Hots (Higher Order Thinking Skills)**

**Q. 1. Give an account on the successes and failures of India over 60 years.**

**Ans. The successes of India over 60 years are—**

- (i)** After sixty years of Independence India is still united and democratic.
- (ii)** There is a free press and an independent judiciary.
- (iii)** People speak different languages or practise different faiths and yet show unity in diversity.
- (iv)** Thirteen general elections and hundreds of state and local elections have been held since independence.

**The failures of India over 60 years are—**

- (i)** Deep divisions persist.
- (ii)** Despite constitutional guarantees the untouchables and the Dalits face violence and discrimination. They are not allowed access to water sources, temples, parks and other public places.
- (iii)** Despite being a secular country, there have been clashes between religious groups in many states.
- (iv)** Large gap exists between the rich and the poor.