

**LESSON NO: 1 (THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION)****SOCIAL AND POLITICAL LIFE****GLOSSARY;**

Arbitrary: when nothing is fixed and is instead left of one's judgment or choice. It refers to rules that are not fixed or decisions that have no basis etc.

Ideal: a goal or a principle in its most excellent or perfect form.

Indian national movement: the Indian national movement emerged in 19th century, thousands of people came together to fight British rule. This culminated in India's independence in 1947.

Polity: a society that has an organized political structure. India is a democratic polity.

Sovereign: it refers to an independent people governed by supreme law and externally independent.

Human trafficking: the practice of the illegal buying and selling of different commodities across national borders. It refers to illegal trade in human beings, particularly women and children.

Tyranny: the cruel and unjust use of power or authority.

State: the state refers to a political institution that represents a sovereign people who occupy a definite territory. The Indian state has a democratic form of government. The government or executive is one part of state.

Q1. Why does a democratic country need a constitution?

Ans. A democratic country needs a constitution because:-

- i) It specifies how the government will be constituted and who will have the power to take decisions.
- ii) It lays down the ideals that form the basis of the kind of country that its citizens aspire to live in.
- iii) It serves as a set of rules and principles as the basis of the kind of country has to be governed.
- iv) It lays down rules that guard against the misuse of power by any politician leader.
- v) It also provides rights to its citizens and protects their freedom.

Q2. List at the wordings of the two document.....

What is the difference in who exercises 'Executive Power' in the above two constitutions of Nepal?

Ans. According to Article 35, Part 7 (Executive) of the 1990's constitution of Nepal, the Executive powers of the kingdom were vested in the hands of His Majesty (King of Nepal) and the council of ministers. But after the constitutional framework of 2015, the Executive powers were transferred. According to Article 75, Part 7 (Federal Executive), the Executive powers of Nepal shall pursuant to new constitution and laws be vested in the council of ministers.

Q3. What would happen if there were no restrictions on the power of elected representatives?

Ans. If there will be no restrictions on the power of elected representatives, it may lead to misuse of authority and this may cause injustice and tyranny, development of favoured group and injustice to other, wrong self oriented decision making. It sometimes creates inter-community and intra-community conflicts. If leaders are not made accountable, they might exploit the national resource for their selfish needs leading towards anarchy and dictatorship.



Q4. In each of the following situations, identify the minority. Write one reason why you think it is important to respect the views of the minority in each of these situations.

a) In a school with 30 teachers, 20 of them are male.

Ans. Female teachers are in minority. It is important to respect their views and opinions. This will create a democratic environment in school and in turn will improve the management and functioning of the institution.

b) In a city, 5% of the population is Buddhists.

Ans. 5% Buddhists are in minority. They should be treated equally and secularly. They should be respected to avoid communal difference and social conflicts.

c) In a factory mess for all employees, 80 % are vegetarians.

Ans. 20% non- vegetarians are in minority. They should be treated well without discrimination. Otherwise this will create division among workers.

d) In a class of 50 students, 40 belong to more well off families.

Ans. 10 students belong to minority (poor families). They should be treated equally as students from well off families. This positive treatment will lead to democratic class based on equality, friendship and brotherhood.

Q5. The column on the left lists some.....

Key Feature	Significance
1. Federalism	This refers to the existence of more than one level of government in the country. In India, we have governments at the centre and at the state level. Panchayati Raj is the third tier of federal government.
2. Separation of powers	According to the constitution there are three organs of government. These are, legislature (law making body), the executive (law enforcing body) and the judiciary (law interpretation body). Each organ acts a check on the other organs of government and this ensures the balance of power between all three.
3. Fundamental rights	The section of fundamental rights has often been referred to as 'conscience' of the Indian constitution. Fundamental rights protect citizen against the arbitrary and absolute exercise of power by the state. The fundamental rights are; i) Right to Equality, ii) Right to freedom. iii) Right against exploitation iv) Right to freedom of Religion. v) Cultural and Educational rights. vi) Right to Constitutional Remedies.
4. Parliamentary form of government	The constitution of India guarantees universal adult suffrage for all citizens. This means that the people of India have a direct role in electing their representatives. Also, every citizen of the country irrespective of his/her social background can also contest in election. These representatives are accountable to the people.

Q6. Write down the names of the Indian States, which share borders with the following neighbouring nations:

a) Bangladesh: West Bengal, Jharkhand, Assam, Meghalaya.

b) Bhutan: Jharkhand, Assam, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh.

c) Nepal: Uttarakhand, U.P, Sikkim, Bihar, Jharkhand.