

CLASS: 9TH ASSIGNMENT:
CIVICS
Session: 2024-2025 UNIT
2ND

Lesson: 2

CONSTITUTIONAL DESIGN

Introduction

The chapter is mainly about the democratic constitution of South Africa and the making of Indian constitution. After reading this chapter the students will learn the following points.

- i. Constitution of South Africa and their struggle against Apartheid.
- ii. Meaning and importance of constitution.
- iii. Making of Indian constitution and it's guiding values.

Q1) Here are some false statements. Identify the mistake in each case and rewrite these correctly based on what you have read in this chapter.

(a) Leaders of the freedom movement had an open mind about whether the country should be democratic or not after independence.

Ans) Leaders of the freedom movement had a consensus that the country should be a democratic nation after independence.

(b) Members of the Constituent Assembly of India held the same views on all provisions of the Constitution.

Ans) Members of the Constituent Assembly of India had different opinions on various provisions of the constitution.

(c) A country that has a constitution must be a democracy.

Ans) A country that is democratic must have a constitution.

(d) Constitution cannot be amended because it is the supreme law of a country.

Ans) Constitution can be amended to keep up with the changes in aspirations of the society

Q2) Which of these was the most salient underlying conflict in the making of a democratic constitution in South Africa?

- a) Between South Africa and its neighbours
- b) Between men and women
- c) Between the white majority and the black minority
- d) Between the coloured minority and the black majority

Ans) (d) Between the coloured minority and the black majority

Q3) Which of these is a provision that a democratic constitution does not have?

- a) Powers of the head of the state
- b) Name of the head of the state
- c) Powers of the legislature
- d) Name of the country

Ans) (b) Name of the head of the state.

Q4) Match the following leaders with their roles in the making of the Constitution:

(A)

- (a)** Motilal Nehru
- (b)** B.R. Ambedkar
- (c)** Rajendra Prasad
- (d)** Sarojini Naidu

(B)

- 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

Ans) (a-iv), (b – iii), (c – i), (d – ii)

Q5) Read again the extracts from Nehru's speech 'Tryst with Destiny' and answer the following:

(a) Why did Nehru use the expression "not wholly or in full measure" in the first sentence?

Ans) The task of building a nation is a massive and colossal task which cannot be fulfilled in one's lifetime. Hence Nehru had used the expression, "not wholly or in full measure, but substantially".

(b) What pledge did he want the makers of the Indian Constitution to take?

Ans) The pledge that he wanted the makers of the Indian Constitution to take was to dedicate their lives to the service of India, the Indian people and the humanity at large.

c) "The ambition of the greatest man of our generation has been to wipe every tear from every eye". Who was he referring to?

Ans) He was referring to Mahatma Gandhi.

Q6) Here are some of the guiding values of the Constitution and their meaning.

Rewrite them by matching them correctly.

(A)

- (a) Sovereign**
- (b) Republic**
- (c) Fraternity**
- (d) Secular**

(B)

- 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**

Ans)

- (a – ii),**
- (b – iii),**
- (c – iv),**
- (d – i)**

Q8) Here are different opinions about what made India a democracy. How much importance would you give to each of these factors?

(a) Democracy in India is a gift of the British rulers. We received training to work with representative legislative institutions under the British rule.

Ans) Democracy in India is not a gift of British rulers. People of India had to fight a long struggle and make many sacrifices to get freedom from British rule. During British rule, our leaders learnt about how to work with representative legislative institutions during the last few years of the rule, as the British allowed elections in a limited way and creation of some legislative assemblies.

(b) Freedom Struggle challenged the colonial exploitation and denial of different freedoms to Indians. Free India could not be anything but democratic.

Ans) Freedom struggle against the colonial exploitation contributed a lot to make India a democracy because, it spread the idea of nationalism and inculcated the practice of making decisions by consensus.

(c) We were lucky to have leaders who had democratic convictions. The denial of democracy in several other newly independent countries shows the important role of these leaders.

Ans) This is the most important factor in making India a democracy. The absence of these type of leaders made many other newly independent countries undemocratic.

Q9) Read the following extract from a conduct book for 'married women', published in 1912.

'God has made the female species delicate and fragile both physically and emotionally, pitifully incapable of self-defence. They are destined thus by God to remain in male protection – of father, husband and son – all their lives. Women should, therefore, not despair, but feel obliged that they can dedicate themselves to the service of men'.

Do you think the values expressed in this para reflected the values underlying our constitution? Or does this go against the constitutional values?

Ans) The values expressed in this para are totally contradictory to the values underlying in our constitution. It refers to the patriarchal views and endorses the thought of gender inequality. Here, women are treated as weak while in our constitution men and women both are treated equal. The governmental policies also favour women to bring them in mainstream.

Q10) Read the following statements about a constitution. Give reasons why each of these is true or not true.

(a) The authority of the rules of the constitution is the same as that of any other law.

Ans) This is not a true statement. An ordinary law is passed by parliament and can be changed by it on its own will. On the other hand, the rules of the constitution have

greater authority, as even the Parliament has to abide by them. For amending these rules, a special procedure has to be adopted.

b) Constitution lays down how different organs of the government will be formed.

Ans) This is a correct statement. The Constitution has laid down the framework for the government formation. It has put in place the structure, power and functions of the three organs of the government, i.e. Legislature, Executive and Judiciary.

(c) Rights of citizens and limits on the power of the government are laid down in the constitution.

Ans) It is a correct statement since in our Constitution rights of citizens such as fundamental rights and limits on the power of the government have been clearly laid down.

d) A constitution is about institutions, not about values.

Ans) This statement is not true because the Constitution contains all the values which the institutions have to promote. The Preamble states clearly that justice, liberty, equality and fraternity have to be promoted. Secularism has to be followed and socialism and democracy should be the basis of the government.

Additional Question

Q1) What does the word Republic in the Preamble signify?

Ans) The word 'Republic' signifies that there exists no hereditary rule in India and the authorities of the state are directly or indirectly elected by the people.

Q2) Why do we need a Constitution?

Ans) We need a constitution because:

It generates a degree of trust and coordination.

It specifies how the government will be constituted It limits the powers of the government.

It aims at the creation of good and just society.

Q3) What are the guiding values of Indian Constitution?

Ans) The guiding values of the Indian constitution are embedded in its preamble. These are Sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic and Republic. They guide all the articles of the Indian constitution.

Q4) What is a Constitutional Amendment?

Ans) A constitutional Amendment refers to the modification of the constitution of a nation or state.

Q5) What is the importance of 26th January in India?

Ans) 26th January is celebrated as the Republic day of India. It was on 26th January 1950 that the constitution of India was implemented. It is also famous for the Purna Swaraj resolution of Indian National Congress.

Q6) When was the Preamble to the Constitution of India amended?

Ans) The preamble to the constitution was amended in 1976 by 42nd Amendment Act.

Q7) Write a note on the making of Indian Constitution.

Ans) The constitution of India was framed by the Constituent Assembly set up under cabinet mission plan of 1946. The constituent assembly consisted of 299 members. The first meeting of the constituent assembly was held on 9th December 1946. The committee which took the responsibility of drafting the constitution was drafting committee headed by Dr BR Ambedkar formed on 29th August 1947. The constitution was finally passed and accepted on 26th Nov 1949. The constituent assembly took 2 years, 11 months and 18 days to complete the constitution. Finally, it came into force on 26th January 1950. The constitution declared India to be a Sovereign, democratic, Republic and establishes the structure, procedures, powers and duties of the government and citizens.

Q8) What is a constitution?

Ans) The constitution of a country is a set of written rules that are accepted by all people living together in a country. Constitution is the supreme law of a country. It determines the relationship among people (citizens) and also the relationship between the people and government.

Q9) Explain the Gandhiji's dream of India.

Ans) Gandhiji strive for a constitution which will release India from all thralldom and patronage.

An India in which poorest have an effective voice.

An India in which there shall be no high class and low class of people.

An India in which all communities shall live in perfect harmony.