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Session: 2022-2023 – Question/ Answers

Class: IX

Subject: Political Science

Topic: Constitutional Design

INTRODUCTION

- South African leader, Nelson Mandela of African National Congress, fought a long battle against apartheid.
- He was imprisoned for 28 years and became the First President of Republic of South Africa.
- Apartheid was finally defeated in 1994 and 1996 a new constitution was formed.
- Constitution generates a degree of trust and coordination that is necessary for different kind of people to live together.
- Constitution specifies how the government will be constituted, who will have the power to take decisions.
- Constitution lays down limits on the government and tells us what the rights of the citizens are.
- Constitution expresses the aspirations of the people about creating a good society.
- Constitution was made by the constituent assembly.
- Dr.B.R. Ambedkar was appointed as the chairman of the drafting committee.
- Constitution was adopted on 26 November 1949, and enacted on 26 January 1950 India became a Republic.

Question/ Answers

Q1. What was apartheid?

Ans. It was a policy of racial discrimination and ill treatment of blacks followed by the white government in South Africa from 1948 to 1989.

Q2. Why was apartheid oppressive for blacks?

Ans. 1) Blacks were forbidden from living in white areas. They could work in white areas only if they had a permit.

2) Trains, buses, taxis, hotels, hospitals, schools and colleges, libraries, cinema halls, theatres, beaches, swimming pools, public toilets, were all separate for the white and blacks. This was called segregation.

3) They could not even visit the churches where the whites worshipped. Blacks could not form associations or protest against the terrible treatment.

Q3. What is Constitution? Write its need.

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 that determine the relationship among people living in a territory and also the relationship between the people and the government.

First, it generates a degree of trust and coordination that is necessary for different kind of people to live together.

It specifies how the government will be constituted, who will have the power to take which decisions.

It lays down limits on the powers of the government and tells us what the rights of the citizens are.

It expresses the aspirations of the people about creating a good society.

Q4. India's constitution was formed under very difficult circumstances. Explain.

Ans. 1) The country was born through a partition on the basis of religious differences. This was a traumatic experience for the people of India and Pakistan.

2) At least 10 lakh people were killed on both sides of the border in partition related violence.

3) The British had left it to the rulers of the princely states to decide whether they wanted to merge with India or with Pakistan or remain independent.

4) When the constitution was being written, the future of the country did not look as secure as it does today.

Q5. What is the relevance of Indian constitution?

Ans. 1) The constitution does not reflect the views of its members alone. It expresses a broad consensus of its time.

2) 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.

3) The constituent assembly could not have been chosen directly by all the people of India. It was elected mainly by the members of the existing provincial legislatures. This ensured a fair geographical share of members from all the regions of the country.

4) The constituent assembly worked in a systematic, open and consensual manner.

Q6. What do you mean by Constituent Assembly Debates?

Ans. More than two thousand 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. These are called ‘Constituent Assembly Debates’.

Q7. What is the relevance of Preamble?

OR

Explain why Preamble is called the soul of Indian constitution?

Ans. 1) The preamble of the constitution reads like a poem on democracy. It contains the philosophy on which the entire constitution has been built.

2) It provides a standard to examine and evaluate any law and action of government, to find out whether it is good or bad. It is the soul of the Indian constitution.

Q8. What is preamble? Explain the values of Indian constitution?

Ans. The constitution begins with a short statement of its basic values. This is called the preamble to the constitution.

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.

Sovereign - People have supreme right to make decisions on internal as well as external matter. No external power can dictate the Government of India.

Socialist- Wealth is generated socially and should be shared equally by society . Government should regulate the ownership of land and industry to reduce socio economic inequalities.

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.

Democratic- A form of government where people enjoy equal political rights, elect their rulers and hold them accountable. The government run according to some basic rules.

Republic- The head of the state is an elected person and not a hereditary position.

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 of the disadvantaged groups.

Liberty- There are no unreasonable restrictions on the citizens in what they think, how they wish to express their thoughts and the way they wish to follow up their thoughts in action.

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

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

Q9. What do you mean by Constitutional Amendment? Why are they essential?

Ans. 1) It is a value and philosophy and is a very long and detailed statement that needs to amend regularly.

2). The constitution may felt that it has to be in accordance and in change of society. So, they need to incorporate changes from time to time. The changes are called constitutional amendment.

Q10. Write a note on Institutional Design?

Ans. The working of institution is divided into three categories :-

- 1) Legislature- It is the law making body of India. Parliament is having a role in making the law of the country. It is divided into two parts- Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

- 2) Executive- The role of executive is to execute the laws and to make day-to-day discussions.
- 3) Judiciary- It is an independent and powerful body that consists of different courts at different levels. Supreme court is the highest court in India which control the lower level courts.