

Class 8

Civics

Chapter 1

The Indian Constitution

Extra Questions and Answers

Very Short Answers Type

1. What is a Constitution?

Ans- A written document in which we find rules that are formulated through consensus is called a Constitution

2. Is it necessary that all countries having a Constitution are democratic?

Ans- No, it is not necessary that all countries having Constitution are democratic.

3. During which time period did the Constituent Assembly draft a Constitution for independent India?

Ans-Between December 1946 and November 1949.

4. Define Right to Freedom of Religion.

Ans-Right to Freedom of Religion is provided to all citizens. Every person has the right to practise, profess and propagate the religion of his choice.

5. When did the Interim Constitution come into effect in Nepal?

Ans -In Nepal, The Interim Constitution came in effect from 2007.

6. Name the 3 organs of state as per the separation of power done in Indian constitution.

Ans- (i) The legislative
(ii) The Executive
(iii) The Judiciary

7. From what does the Fundamental Rights protects the citizens?

Ans-The Fundamental Rights protect the citizens against any arbitrary exercise of power by the state.

8. Define Sovereign

Ans-Sovereign means possessing supreme or ultimate power.

9. What does legislative refers to?

Ans-Legislative refers to the elected representatives.

10. Define Tyranny.

Ans- The cruel and unjust use of power or authority.

11. What do you understand by the term Federation?

Ans- Federation refers to the existence of more than one level of government in the country.

12. Which is known as the 3rd tier of the Government?

Ans- Panchayati Raj is the 3rd tier of the government.

13. What does a secular state never officially promotes?

Ans- A secular state is a state which never officially promotes any type of Religion as the state Religion.

14. When was constituent assembly was founded?

Ans- Constituent assembly was founded in 1946.

15. In what sense Indian constitution defines the power of each government?

Ans- The Indian constitution defines the power of each government at each level and at every tier.

Short Answers Type

1. How does the Constitution define the nature of a country's political system?

Ans- The Constitution defines the nature of a country's political system. As in countries that have adopted a democratic form of government or polity, the Constitution plays a crucial role in laying out certain important guidelines that govern decision making within societies. Nepal's earliest Constitution stated that the country was to be ruled by the king and his Council of Minister. This shows how the Constitution defines the political nature of a country.

2. How can we say that the Constitution saves us from ourselves?

Ans- This can sound strange but this is true to say as this means that we might feel strongly about an issue that might go against larger interest and the Constitution helps us to guard against this.

Constitution also helps to protect us against certain decisions that we might take that could adversely effect on larger principle that the country relies in. Therefore a good Constitution does not allow these whims to change its basic structure.

3. What is meant by the concept of separation of power.?

Ans- According to the Constitution there are 3 organs of the state. There are the legislature, the Executive and the judiciary. In order prevent the

misuse of power by any one branch of the state the Constitution says that each of these organs should exercise different powers. Through this, each organ acts as a check on the other organs of the state and this ensures the balance of power between all three.

4. Name the Fundamental Rights mentioned in the Indian Constitution.

Ans- The Fundamental right in the Indian Constitution includes:

1. Right of Equality
2. Right to Freedom
3. Right against Exploitation
4. Right to Freedom of Religion
5. Cultural and Educational Rights
6. Right to Constitutional Remedies

5. What was the Indian National Movement?

Ans- The Indian National Movement emerged the 19th Century India and saw 1000's of men and women coming together to fight the British. The Indian National Movement has a series of activities whose ultimate aim was to end the British Rule from India.

Since its beginning Indian National Congress was an organization which played an important role in Indian National Movement. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, Pt. Jawahar Lai Nehru, Subhash Chandra Bose, Rabindranath Taroge, Bal Gangadhar Tilak etc. are some examples of the leaders who lead the movement time to time.

LONG ANSWERS TYPE

1. Define Secularism and Separation of Power as the key feature of the Indian Constitution?

Ans- Secularism:

a) A secular state is one which does not officially promote any one religion as the state religion.

b) The Constitution plays crucial role in laying out the ideals that we would like all citizens of the country to adhere to.

Separation of Power:

a) According to the Constitution, there are 3 organs of the state. These are the legislature, the executive and the judiciary. The legislature refers to our elected representatives. The executive is a smaller group of people who are responsible for the implementation of the laws and running the government, the judiciary refers to the system of courts in this country.

b) In order to prevent the misuse of power by any one branch of the state, the Constitution says that each of these organs should exercise different powers.

c) Each organ acts as a check on the other organs of the state through the separation of powers and this feature also ensures the balance of power between all three.

2. Describe how the Constitution helps serve as a set of rules and principles that all persons in a country can agree upon through the example of Nepal'.

Answer:

A Constitution helps serve as a set of rules and principles that all persons in a country can agree upon as the basis of the way in which they want the country to be governed. This includes not only the type of government but also an agreement on certain ideals that they all believe the country should uphold.

Examples of Nepal shows the meaning of the above concept.

Nepal is a country that borders India on the North. Until quite recently, Nepal was a monarchy. The previous Constitution of Nepal, adopted in 1990 reflected the fact that the final authority rested with the king.

A people's movement in Nepal fought for several decades to establish democracy and in 2006 they finally succeeded in putting an end to the powers of the king. Now the people have to write a new Constitution to establish Nepal as a democracy.

EXERCISE QUESTIONS/ANSWERS:

1. Why does a democratic country need a Constitution?

Ans- A democratic country needs a constitution because

- In a democracy people choose their representatives and the leaders might misuse their powers. Constitution provides safeguards against this.
- In a democracy, the constitution ensures that the dominant group does not use power against less powerful groups.
- The constitution guarantees fundamental rights to the citizens for their social, economic, and political welfare.

2. Listed below are the key features of the Indian Constitution. Write two sentences, in your own words, on why you think this feature is an important.

1. Federalism
2. Separation of Powers
3. Fundamental Rights.
4. Parliamentary Form of Government

Ans-

1. **Federalism:**

means more than one level of government in the country. India has a 3 tier government. India needs a 3 tier government because of the diverse religious and cultural composition of its citizens. A government in the centre alone could not be effective for everyone.

2. **Separation of Powers:**

In order to prevent the misuse of power by the elected representative the constitution advocate Separation of powers. Each branch of the government has its powers fixed by the Constitution. The Constitution ensures that a balance of power is maintained between the Legislature Executive and the Judiciary.

3. **Fundamental Rights:**

Fundamental Rights guarantees the rights of individuals against the State as well as against other individuals. It protects minority communities and guarantees rights against the majority.

4. **Parliamentary Form of Government:**

In a Parliamentary form of government, the constitution guarantees universal adult franchise for all citizens. That is, all adults have a right to vote, irrespective of whether they are poor or rich, educated or uneducated, a Hindu, Muslim or a Christian. The idea of a universal adult franchise is based on equality.

II Fill in the blanks:

1. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar is known as the father of ...**constitution**.
2. ...**Tyranny**... refers to the cruel and unjust use of power or authority.
3. Buddhists in India are counted as ...**minority**....
4.**Jawaharlal Nehru** ...was the first Prime Minister of Free India
5. **Ideal**. refers to a goal or a principle in its more excellent or perfect form.