

# CIVICS

## CH-4

### UNDERSTANDING LAWS

#### IMPORTANT TERMINOLOGIES

**Criticise:** It means to find fault with or disapprove of a person or thing.

**Repressive:** It means to control severely in order to prevent free and natural development or expression.

**Evolution:** Evolution refers to the process of development from a simple to a complex form and is often used to discuss the development of a species of plants and animals.

#### (A) Write (T) for true and (F) for false:

1. The most important provision in our constitution is all persons in independent India are equal in the eyes of law.

Answer: **True**

2. Our law gives special treatment for government officers and wealthy persons.

Answer: **False**

3. Colonial law was arbitrary.

Answer: **True**

4. Hindu Succession Amendment Act, 2005 gives priority to daughter over son.

Answer: **False**

5. Sedition Act, 1870 was an example of arbitrariness existing in British India.

Answer: **True**

#### (B) Fill in the blanks:

1. .... **Illegal**.... activities are done against the law.

2. Evolution is the process of ... **development**... from a simple to complex form.
3. The Parliament is the ... **Institution**... which makes the new rules.
4. The Court has the power of .... **judicial review** ..... to modify or cancel laws
5. Dr. Satyapal and Dr. Saifuddin Kichlew were ... **arrested**... on 10 April 1919.
6. The Parliament consists of Rajya Sabha and .. **Lok Sabh**....

### **(C) VERY SHORT QUESTIONS**

1. In a democracy like ours what can a citizen do to reject the repressive laws framed by the Parliament?

**Answer:**

In a democracy like ours, citizens can express unwillingness for the reflection of the repressive laws.

2. Name the African American woman who played a key role in the starting of the Civil Right Movement.

**Answer:**

Rosa Parks was the African American women who started the Civil Rights Movement.

3. State the two examples of-Arbitrariness performed by the British.

**Answer:**

The two examples are:

- (a)Sedition Act of 1870
- (b)The Rowlatt Act.

4. When did the Jallianwala Bagh incident take place?

**Answer:**

This incident took place on 13th April 1919.

5. Name the two leaders arrested for the protests against the Rowlatt Act.

**Answer:**

The two leaders were Dr. Satyapal and Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew.

6. What does the Hindu Succession Amendment Act 2005 say?

**Answer:**

According to this law, sons, daughter and their mother can get an equal share of family property.

7. What did the Rowlatt allow the Britishers to perform as arbitrariness?

**Answer:**

Rowlatt Act allowed the Britishers to imprison people without due trial.

8. In which year was the sedition Act was introduced?

**Answer:**

In 1870.

9. On what basis law cannot discriminate between persons?

**Answer:**

Law cannot discriminate between persons on the basis of their religion, caste and gender.

10. What was scenario of local laws in Ancient India?

**Answer:**

In Ancient India, there were innumerable and often overlapping local laws.

11. Who is believed to be the introducer of the rule of law in India?

**Answer:**

It is believed that British colonials were the introducers of the Rule of law in India.

12. When did standing committee submit its recommendation for the implementation of Domestic violence Act?

**Answer:**

In May 2002.

## **(D) SHORT QUESTIONS/ANSWERS**

1. Define 'Sedition'.

**Answer:**

This applies to anything that the government might consider as striating up resistance or rebellion against it. In such cases, government does not need absolute evidence in order to arrest persons. Under the sedition Act of 1870, the British had a very broad interpretation of what constituted sedition, and what this meant was that they could arrest and detain any person they wanted under this act.

2. Describe the incident that led to the of Civil Rights Movements and the Civil Rights Act in 1964 in the U.S.A.

**Answer:**

Rosa Parks an African – American woman refused to give up her

seat on a bus to a white man on December 1, 1955. She was protesting against the law on segregation that divided up all public spaces, including the streets, between the whites and the Africans – Americans.

Her refusal was a key event that marked the start of the Civil Rights Movement that led to the Civil Rights Act in 1964 prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, religion or national origin in the U.S.A.

3. Describe the process after which Domestic Violence Act came into effect in 2006.

**Answer:**

(a) In December 2002, the Standing Committee submitted its recommendations to the Rajya Sabha and these were also tabled in the Lok Sabha.

(b) The Committee's report accepted most of the demands of the women's, groups.

(c) Finally a new bill was reintroduced in Parliament in 2005.

(d) After being passed in both the house of the Parliament, it was sent to the president for his assent.

(e) The protection of women from Domestic violence came into effect in 2006.

4. How can we say that Parliament has an important role in making laws?

**Answer:**

The Parliament has an important role in making laws.

(a) There are many ways through which this takes place and it is often different groups in society that raise the need for a particular law.

(b) An important role of Parliament is to be sensitive to the problems faced by the people.

(c) The issues are brought to the attention of the Parliament and the issues to become law.

## **(E) EXERCISE QUESTIONS/ANSWERS**

**1. Write in your own words what you understand by the term the 'rule of law'. In your response include a fictitious or real example of a violation of the rule of law.**

**Answer:** The rule of law is a provision of the Indian Constitution that states that all people in independent India are equal before the law. Every law is equal for every citizen in the country. Neither the President or any other high official is above the law. The punishment for any crime committed will be the same for every person, irrespective of post or power. For example if a Clerk is punished for corruption, the same punishment needs to be given to a higher Official or Minister for committing the same crime of corruption.

**2. State two reasons why historians refute the claim that the British introduced the rule of law in India.**

**Answer:** Two reasons why historians refute to claim that the British introduced the rule of law in India are:

(a) The colonial law was arbitrary

(b) The Indian Nationalists played a prominent role in the development of the legal sphere in British India

**3. Re-read the storyboard on how a new law on domestic violence got passed. Describe in your own words the different ways in which women's groups worked to make this happen.**

**Answer**

**(a):** The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005 was passed with an aim to protect women against any kind of violence, be it physical or verbal.

**(b)** Various women's groups worked to make this happen by reporting multiple cases of domestic violence to various forums.

**(c)** A group of lawyers, law students and activists worked together for drafting the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection Bill).

**(d)** Other than this, various Women organisations, National Commission for Women made submissions to the Parliamentary Standing Committee.

**(e)** All these actions taken by women, together made the Government pass the bill against domestic violence.

**4. Write in your own words what you understand by the following sentence on page 44-45: They also began fighting for greater equality and wanted to change the idea of law from a set of rules that they were forced to obey, to the law as including ideas of justice.**

**Answer:**

**(a)** India before independence was forced to follow the rules set by the British Government.

**(b)** These set of rules were arbitrary and were not authorised by the Indian nationalists.

**(c)** Hence the freedom struggle against the Britishers also aimed at making a set of rules that were fair and just for all and were not just imposed on the Indians to follow.

**(d)** The Indian Nationalists began to fight for their rights and wanted a set of rules that were equal for all.