

Class: 7

CIVICS

CH 1. THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

A. Tick the correct option.

1. Our country was ruled by the British for nearly _____ years.
 - a. Three hundred
 - b. Four hundred
 - c. Two hundred**
 - d. One hundred

2. The constitution of independent India came into force on _____.
 - a. 26 January 1949
 - b. 26 January 1950**
 - c. 26 January 1948
 - d. 26 January 1951

3. _____ was the chairman of the Drafting Committee.
 - a. Dr. B.R.Ambedkar**
 - b. Dr. Rajendra Prasad
 - c. Sardar Vallabhai Patel
 - d. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru

4. Originally, our Constitution had 395 Articles and _____ schedules.
 - a. 5
 - b. 9
 - c. 7
 - d. 8**

5. The Preamble of our Constitution declares India to be _____ state.
 - a. Sovereign

- b. Secular
 - c. Socialist
 - d. All of these**
6. In our country, the _____ is the real head of state.
- a. President
 - b. Vice President
 - c. Prime Minister**
 - d. None of these

B. Fill in the blanks:

1. Our **Constitution** is the fundamental law of the country.
2. It took almost **three** years to prepare our Constitution.
3. **Dr. Rajendra Prasad** and **Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru** were two prominent members of the Constituent Assembly.
4. Our country became a republic in the year **1950** .
5. Our Constitution is a nice blend of rigidity and **flexibility** .

C. Match the following:

(Answers)

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. Dr. Rajendra Prasad | - | First President of India |
| 2. Fraternity | - | Brotherhood among all Indians |
| 3. British Constitution | - | Unwritten |
| 4. Prime Minister | - | Real head of state |
| 5. Right to Equality | - | A Fundamental Right |

D. Write in brief :

1. When did the Constitution of India come into force?

Ans. The Constitution of India came into force on 26 January 1950.

2. When did India achieve Independence?

Ans. India achieved independence on 15th of August 1947.

3. Who was the president of the Constituent Assembly?

Ans. Dr. Rajendra Prasad was the President of the Constituent Assembly.

4. Who was the chairman of the Drafting Committee?

Ans. Dr.B.R.Ambedkar was the chairman of the Drafting Committee.

5. Name two countries from which certain principles have been adopted in our Constitution.

Ans. From U.S.A and U.K (or Ireland) certain principles have been adopted in our Constitution.

6. Who was the first President of Indian Republic?

Ans. Dr. Rajendra Prasad was the first president of Indian Republic.

7. Who was the first Prime Minister of Indian Republic?

Ans. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru was the first Prime Minister of Indian Republic.

8. Mention three kinds of justice mainly enlisted in the Preamble.

Ans. Three kinds of justice mainly enlisted in the Preamble are social justice, economic justice and political justice.

9. What do you mean by Universal Adult Franchise?

Ans. Universal Adult Franchise means that all citizens of the country who have attained the age of 18 years or above have the right to vote and choose their representative for the government, irrespective of caste, religion, gender or status.

10. What do you mean by the Parliamentary System?

Ans. Parliamentary form of government is both at the centre and in the states. The central government is answerable to the Parliament which consists of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Likewise, a state government is answerable to the state legislature consisting of the Vidhan Sabha and Vidhan Parishad. President is the nominal head of state and the Prime Minister is the real head of state.

E. Answer in detail:

1. What do you understand by the ' Constitution ' ? What are the objectives of the Constitution?

Ans. The term Constitution may be defined as a body of rules and laws according to which a country is governed.

The objectives of the Constitution are to secure to all its citizens:

Justice – social, economic and political

Liberty – of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship.

Equality – of status and opportunity

Fraternity – assuring brotherhood among all.

2. Write what you know about the Constituent Assembly.

Ans. The Constitution of India was prepared by a body called the Constituent Assembly. The Constituent Assembly had many members who hailed from different political parties, communities and regions. Some prominent members were Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Sardar Vallabhai Patel, Sarojini Naidu and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.

3. Why was the Drafting Committee set up?

Ans. The Drafting Committee was set up by the Constituent Assembly to prepare the draft of the Indian Constitution under the chairmanship of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.

They kept in mind the vastness and diversity regarding culture, language , religion and the history of the country. They also studied the salient features of the Constitution of other countries like U.S.A, U.K and Ireland and included the good features from these Constitutions in preparing the draft of our Constitution.

4. What is the Preamble of our Constitution? What does it state?

Ans. The Preamble of our Constitution is a short introduction to the Constitution. Hence, it is like a preface of a book. It sheds light on the source, nature, aims and objectives of our constitution.

The Preamble begins with the words. ' We the people of India and defines the Indian state as a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic, republic and secure to all its citizens justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

5. What do you understand by the words sovereign, socialist and secular?

Ans. Sovereign means free from foreign power. It means India is an independent nation and no country can interfere in her internal and external affairs.

Socialist provides equal opportunities to all the citizens of the country in all the fields and eliminate inequality regarding income and status.

Secular means that the Indian state does not support any particular religion.

6. Write about the features of our Constitution.

Ans. The features of the Indian Constitution are as follows:

- Written Constitution – The Indian Constitution is a written document unlike the British Constitution.
- Longest Constitution – The Indian constitution is the lengthiest constitution in the world. It is also the most detailed in the entire world. Originally it had 395 Articles and 8 schedules. It is divided into many different parts.
- Both Rigid and Flexible – Some parts of our Constitution can be easily changed or amended by our Parliamentarians in the Indian Parliament via a simple majority.
- Federal Form of Government – Both the central government and state government governs the country and there is also clear division of powers between the central government and the state government.
- Parliamentary System – the central government is answerable to the Parliament which consists of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. Likewise, a state is answerable to the state legislature consisting of the Vidhan Sabha and Vidhan Parishad. The President is the nominal head of the state where as the Prime Minister is the real head of state.
- Fundamental Rights – Our Constitution guarantees a number of basic rights to all the Indians to lead a dignified life. If any violation occurs regarding a fundamental right, it can be restored via the law courts.
- Directive Principles of State Policy – They are mentioned in Part IV of our constitution and were taken from the Irish Constitution. The Directive Principles act as guiding principles of policy making for the government.

- Single Citizenship – We are all the citizens of India since we were all born here i.e. in India. The Constitution of India provides for a single common citizenship to all Indians. We cannot have citizenship of the state as in case of U.S. citizens.
- Universal Adult Franchise – It means that all adult citizens of the country who have attained the age of 18 years or above have the right to vote and choose their representatives for the governments, irrespective of caste, religion, gender or status.

F. Snap shot.

1. Identify the building.

Ans. Parliament of India.

2. Where is it located?

Ans. It is located in New Delhi.

3. What is the significance of the building?

Ans. Parliament consists of two houses – Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha whose members are elected to make laws for a country and discuss national affairs.

NEW WORDS

Tyrannical – Marked by unjust severity or arbitrary behaviour.

Draft – A first or preliminary form of any writing, subject to revision, copying etc.

Salient – Prominent.

Propagate – To spread.

Codify – To organise or collect another laws, rules, procedures, etc into a system or

Code.

Convention – A rule, method or practice established by usage; custom.

Gauged – Determined.

Nominal – Existing in name only.

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