

Subject- S. S. T Class- 8 Topic- The Constitution Of India

Learn and Write

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) – [Tick (✓) the correct options.]

1. Which of the following is true about the country of Nepal?

(a) Nepal was a monarchy wherein all powers were vested with the King.

(b) After 1990, the King continued to be the Head of the State but an elected Prime Minister ran the government.

(c) Both (a) and (b)

2. Who is the Father of the Indian Constitution?

(a) Dr Rajendra Prasad

(b) Dr BR Ambedkar

Fill in the blanks.

1. The is frequently referred to as the 'soul of democracy'.

2. The Indian Constitution guarantees to all citizens of 18 years of age or above.

3. Giving regard and preserving our natural and cultural heritage is the of every citizen.

4. were included in the Indian Constitution in 1976.

A. Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)—[Tick (✓) the correct options.]

1. Which of the following is not a salient feature of our Constitution?

(a) federalism

(b) separation of powers

(c) monarch as Head of the State

2. What are the guidelines that help the government in transforming the ideals enshrined in the Constitution into laws that promote socio-economic justice?

(a) Fundamental Rights

(b) Directive Principles of State Policy

(c) Secularism

B. Short Answer Questions

1. Why are rules important?

2. Why is the Constitution described as the 'soul of democracy'?

3. Describe briefly the path that determined the birth of the Constitution of India since 1943.

4. How does the Constitution safeguard the interests of the minority or underprivileged?

C. Long Answer Questions

1. Why should a country have a Constitution? Discuss.

2. Refer to the case study of Nepal to compare a monarchy and a democratic government.

3. Discuss three salient features of our Constitution.

4. Write about the Fundamental Rights and Duties.

D. HOTS (Higher Order Thinking Skills) Question

'A democratic country needs a Constitution.' Do you agree? Why/Why not?

E. Value Corner

A minister calls up the police station asking the police officer not to register a complaint against his relative. Do you think, it is against our Constitution? Why/Why not?

1-The Constitution Of India

EXERCISE

Quick Revision

- A. 1. (c) 2. (b)
- B. 1. Constitution 2. right to vote
3. fundamental duty 4. Fundamental duties

Answer The Following

- A. 1. (c) 2. (b)
- B. 1. Rules are important for the efficient functioning of the government.
2. The Constitution is referred to as the soul of democracy as it primarily aims to maintain political stability, peace and solidarity in the country.
3. In 1943, the Congress put forward the demand for a Constituent Assembly formed only of Indians. This paved way for the formation of the Constitution.
4. The Constitution safeguards the interests of the minority or underprivileged through Fundamental Rights.
- C. 1. A country should have a Constitution for the following reasons.
- It defines the basic nature of a society, that is, it lays down the ideals that all citizens believe in and agree to uphold.
 - It describes the nature of the country's political system. Constitution in a democratic set-up lays down the guidelines for the selection of representatives, distribution of power and puts down a system of checks and balances to ensure that no one misuses power and authority.
 - Constitution protects the interest of the minority against the domination of the influential sections of the society.
 - Constitution also safeguards us against choices that might have undesirable effect on rules and principles that the country believes in.
2. Nepal lies to the north of India. Nepal was a monarchy wherein all powers were vested with the king. Widespread concepts against the system eventually led to a change in 1990. However, the king

continued to be the head of the state and an elected Prime Minister ran the government. This situation lasted for twelve years, until 2002, when King Gyanendra, citing political instability, sacked the elected government and slowly began to take control of the government. In 2006, there was massive unrest throughout the country, demanding establishment of democracy. People of Nepal refused to accept the earlier constitution, as it did not reflect the ideals of the people of Nepal. Finally, the king was stripped of all his powers and in 2008, Nepal was declared a Federal Democratic Republic with President as Head of the State.

3. Three salient features of our Constitution are,

- **Federalism:** India has two levels of government – state and central.

The union, state and concurrent lists deal with the powers and functions of each level. In a federal set-up, individual states enjoy independence in matters related to their states and on matters of national significance, they have to follow orders of the central government.

- **Parliamentary form of government:** People who are chosen by the citizens through universal adult suffrage run the country. These people are the elected representatives of the citizens on behalf of whom they make laws. The Indian Constitution guarantees universal adult franchise.
- **Separation of powers:** Constitution clearly defines powers between three organs of the State – legislature, executive and judiciary.

4. **Fundamental Rights:** The Indian Constitution guarantees its citizens certain rights which are essential for our well-being and promote the ideals of equality, liberty and justice. The six Fundamental Rights are – Right to Equality, Right to Freedom, Right against Exploitation, Right to Freedom of Religion, Cultural and Educational Rights and Right to Constitutional Remedies.

Fundamental duties: Fundamental duties, though not enforceable by law, were included in the Indian Constitution in 1976. It is the fundamental duty of every citizen to:

- show respect to our National Flag and Anthem
- give regard and preserve our national and cultural heritage
- promote peace and harmony

- uphold principles of sovereignty, unity and honesty
- safeguard public property
- develop scientific temper and spirit of inquiry.

D. HOTS (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

A democratic country advocates equality and for that rules and regulations are extremely important. Constitution provides for a set of rules and regulations, and therefore, a Constitution is very important for a democratic country.