

Class - 9

Subject - Social Science (Civics)

Chapter - 2 Constitutional Design

* Apartheid was a system of racial discrimination in South Africa during 17th - 18th centuries. According to this people were discriminated on the basis of their colour of the skin.

Constitution - The Constitution is a set of written rules that are accepted by all the people living together in a country.

We need a constitution because:-

1. It generates a degree of trust and co-ordination that is necessary for different kind of people to live together.
2. It specifies how the government will be constituted and who will have power to take which decision.
3. It lays down limits on the powers of the government and tell us what are the rights of the citizens.
4. It expresses the aspirations of the people about creating a good society.

Preamble is an introductory statement in a Constitution which states the reason and guiding values of the Constitution.

Important terms of Preamble:

1. We the people of India: The Constitution has been drawn up and enacted by the people through their representatives.
2. Sovereign: People have supreme right to make decisions on internal as well as external matters. No external power can dictate the Government of India.
3. Socialist: Wealth is generated socially and should be shared equally by society.
4. Secular: There is no official religion. Citizens have complete freedom to follow any religion. Government treats all religion with equal respect.
5. Democratic: A form of government where people enjoy equal political rights, elect their rulers and hold them accountable.
6. Republic: The head of the state is an elected person the not a hereditary position.
7. Justice: Citizens would not be discriminated on the basis of caste, religion and gender. Government should work for the welfare of all, especially of disadvantaged groups.
8. Liberty: There are no unreasonable restrictions on the citizens in what they think, how they wish to express their thought and the way they wish to follow up their thoughts in action.
9. Equality: All are equal before the law. The government should ensure equal opportunity for all.
10. Fraternity: All of us should behave as if we are members of the same family. No one should treat a fellow citizen as inferior.

Q1- Why does Africa call itself as a rainbow nation?

Ans. South Africans call themselves as a rainbow nation because of people of different skin colour like whites, blacks, coloured and migrants all living together as one people and unified like the colours of a rainbow.

Q2- Read the following statements about a Constitution. Give reasons why each of these is true or not true.

a. The authority of the rules of the Constitution is the same as that of any other law.

Ans. NOT TRUE Any ordinary law passed by Parliament can be amended by the will of Parliament whereas the rules of the Constitution have greater authority and Parliament is also abide by them. So, to amend these rules, a special procedure has to be adopted.

b. Constitution lays down how different organs of the government will be formed.

Ans. TRUE The Constitution lays down in detail the structure, power and function of the different organs like Executive, Legislature and Judiciary of the Government.

c. Rights of citizens and limits on the power of the government are laid down in the constitution.

Ans. TRUE Rights of Citizens are laid down in the Constitution as fundamental rights. The powers of the government are divided among the Executive, Legislature and the Judiciary which keep a check on each other, thus there are limits on the power of the government.

d. A Constitution is about institutions not about values.

Ans. NOT TRUE A Constitution is a supreme law which lays down the composition, powers and functions of the various institutions of government. But the Constitution is guided by values which we found in the form of a Preamble. Principles and values like equality, liberty, fraternity, brotherhood, secularism, justice etc are included in the preamble to our Constitution.

Q3- What is the significance of the Preamble to the Indian Constitution?

Ans. Indian Constitution begins with a short statement of its basic values called Preamble to the Constitution. It guides all the articles of the Indian Constitution. It is very significant because:

i. It contains the philosophy on which the entire Constitution has been built.

ii. It is regarded as the soul of the Indian Constitution.

iii. It provides a standard to examine and evaluate any law and action of government to find out whether it is good or bad.

Q4. Mention any three characteristics of the Indian constitution OR Highlight the salient features of the Indian Constitution.

Ans. The three characteristics of Indian Constitution are:

i. It generates a degree of trust and coordination that is necessary for different kind of people to live together.

ii. The lays down a procedure for electing people to govern the country. It also specifies how the government will be constituted and who will have power to take which decisions.

iii. The Indian constitutions needs to be amended quite regularly to keep it updated.

Q5. What is Preamble? Explain any four guiding principles of Preamble to the Indian Constitution.

Ans. Preamble is an introductory statement in a Constitution which states the reasons and guiding values of the Constitution. It contains the philosophy on which the entire Constitution has been built.

The major guiding principles of Preamble to the Indian Constitution are:-

- i. 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 power.
- ii. Sovereign People have supreme right to make decisions on internal as well as external matters.
- iii. Socialist Wealth is generated socially and should be shared equally by society.
- iv. Secular Citizens have complete freedom to follow any religion.

Q6. What is a Constitution? Why do we need a Constitution? Give any five reasons.

Ans. The Constitution of a country is set of written rules that are accepted by all people living together in a country. It is also the supreme law that determines the relationship between the people and government and also the relationship among the people.

We need a Constitution because:

- i. It generates a degree of trust and co-ordination that is necessary for different kinds of people to live together.
- ii. It specifies how the government will be constituted and who will have power to take which decisions.
- iii. It lays down limits to the powers of the government and tell us what are the rights of citizens.
- iv. It expresses the aspirations of the people about creating a good society.
- v. Indian Constitution safeguards the interests of minorities, the backward classes, poor and weaker sections of our society.

Q7. "Indian Constitution is both rigid and flexible." Explain.

Ans. Indian Constitution is both rigid and flexible because the procedure of amendment is neither easy nor difficult. The Constitution has provided a federal structure for India. The jurisdictions of the centre and the states have been defined and demarked. Both the centre and the states have been authorised to exercise powers independently.

There are provisions which can change the federal structure into unitary one. Amendments can be made only with the consent of both the centre and the states. To amend the constitution a majority of not less than two-third is needed in the Parliament. Thus we can say that Indian Constitution is both flexible as well rigid.

Q8. Mention any three values which can prove that "The Indian Constituent Assembly worked in a systematic, open and consensual manner."

Ans. The manner in which the Constituent Assembly worked gives sanctity to the Constitution and proves that "The Indian like:-

- i. First some basic principles were decided and agreed upon and a draft of the Constitution was prepared.
- ii. Several rounds of thorough discussion took place clause by clause. More than two thousand amendments were considered.
- iii. Every document presented and every word spoken in the Constituent Assembly was recorded and preserved.

Q9. Mention any three values which are embedded in the Preamble to the Indian Constitution.

Ans. The values that inspired our freedom struggle are included in the Preamble to the Indian Constitution. Some of them are:

- i. India is a sovereign country means no external power can dictate to the government of India. People have the supreme right to take decisions on internal as well as external matters.
- ii. India is a socialist country where wealth is generated socially and should be shared equally by society.
- iii. India is a secular country, there is no official religion. Citizens have complete freedom to follow any religion.