

CH :CONSTITUTION DESIGN

READ THE FOLLOWING SHORT TYPES QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS THOROUGHLY AND TRY TO UNDERSTAND AND WRITE IN YOUR H.W.COPY.

Question 1.

What were the steps involved in the framing of the Indian Constitution?

Answer:

The drafting of the document called the constitution was done by an assembly of elected representatives called the Constituent Assembly. Elections to the Constituent Assembly were held in July 1946. Its first meeting was held in December 1946. Soon after, the country was divided into India and Pakistan. The Constituent Assembly was also divided into the Constituent Assembly of India and that of Pakistan. The Constituent Assembly that wrote the Indian Constitution had 299 members. The Assembly adopted the Constitution on 26 November, 1949 and it came into force on 26 January, 1950.

Question 2.

What are the four main ideals enshrined in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution?

Answer:

The ideals written in the Preamble of the Constitution are as under :

- Justice: Every citizen of India will have social, economic and political justice.
- Liberty: Every citizen will have the liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship.
- Equality: Every citizen will be provided with the equality of status and opportunity.
- fraternity: All the citizens of India have been assured about the dignity of individual and the unity and integrity of the nation.

Question 3.

How did the Constituent Assembly work to prepare the Constitution for India?

Answer:

The Constituent Assembly worked in a systematic, open and consensual manner. First, some basic principles were decided and agreed upon. Then, a Drafting Committee chaired by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar prepared a draft constitution for discussion. Several rounds of thorough discussion took place, clause by clause. More than 2000 amendments were considered. The members deliberated for 114 days spread over 3 years. Every document presented and every word spoken in the Constituent Assembly was recorded and preserved. These are called 'Constituent Assembly Debates'.

Question 4.

What are constitutional amendments?

Answer:

A constitution is not merely a statement of values and philosophy. A constitution is mainly about embodying these values into institutional arrangements. Indian Constitution is a very long and detailed document. Therefore, it needs to be amended quite regularly to keep it updated. Those who crafted the Indian Constitution felt that it must be in accordance with people's aspirations and changes in society. They did not see it as a sacred, static and unalterable law. So, they made provisions to incorporate changes from time to time. These changes are called constitutional amendments.

Question 5.

On what terms did the blacks agreed upon while making a Constitution for South Africa?

Answer:

After two years of discussion and debate, they came out with one of the finest constitutions the world has ever had. This constitution gave to its citizens the most extensive rights available in any country. Together, they decided that in the search for a solution to the problems, nobody should be excluded, no one should be treated as a demon. They agreed that everybody should become part of the solution, whatever they might have done or represented in the past.

Question 6

What was the reaction of the government towards the protest movement against the apartheid in South Africa?

Answer:

In South Africa, the white racist government continued to rule by detaining, torturing and killing thousands of black and coloured people. As protests and struggles against apartheid had increased, the government realised that they could no longer keep the blacks under their rule through repression. The white regime changed its policies. Discriminatory laws were repealed. Ban on political parties and restrictions on the media were lifted. After 28 years of imprisonment, Nelson Mandela walked out of the jail as a free man.

Question 7.

Why did the South African people need a Constitution?

Answer:

The people of South Africa, need a constitution because :

- The oppressor and the oppressed in this new democracy were planning to live together as equals. It was not going to be easy for them to trust each other. They had their fears.
- They wanted to safeguard their interests. The black majority was keen to ensure that the democratic principle of majority rule was not compromised.
- They wanted substantial social and economic rights.

Question 8.

What was the philosophy behind the Constitution?

Answer:

- The values that inspired and guided the freedom struggle and were, in turn, nurtured by it, formed the foundation for India's democracy. These values are embedded in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution.
- They guide all the articles of the Indian Constitution. The Constitution begins with a short statement of its basic values. This is called the Preamble to the constitution.
- Taking inspiration from American model, most countries in the contemporary world have chosen to begin their constitutions with a preamble.

Question 9..

What compromises did the blacks and white make?

Answer:

It was not an easy task for the two divergent people of South Africa—the White oppressors and the Black Oppressed one—to draw up a common Constitution for the country when it became free in 1994. After long negotiations both parties agreed to a compromises.

- The whites agreed to the principle of majority rule that of one person one vote.
- They also agreed to some basic rights for the poor and the workers.
- The blacks agreed that majority rule would not be absolute.
- They also agreed that the majority would not take away the property of the white minority. (Any three)

Question 10.

What was the composition of the Constituent Assembly?

Answer:

The Constituent Assembly was elected mainly by the members of the existing Provincial Legislatures. This ensured a fair geographical share of members from all the regions of the country. The Assembly was dominated by the Indian National Congress, the party that led India's freedom struggle. But, the Congress itself included a variety of political groups and opinions. The Assembly had many members who did not agree with the Congress. In social terms too, the Assembly represented members from different language groups, castes, classes, religions and occupations.

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