



Class 9 Political Sci. Notes

Constitutional Design

Key Notes and Important Questions with Answers

CHAPTER: 2

CONSTITUTIONAL DESIGN

Points to remember-

- **Apartheid** was the name of a system of racial discrimination unique to South Africa. The system of apartheid divided the people and labeled them on the basis of their skin colour.
- The white rulers treated all non-whites (native blacks, coloured and people migrated from India etc.) as **inferiors**. The non-whites did not have **voting rights**.
- The blacks, coloured and Indians fought against the apartheid system since 1950 under an umbrella organization called **African National Congress(ANC)**
- Finally, on 26 April, 1994, the apartheid government came to an end, paving the way for the formation of a multi-racial government.
- A constitution was framed which gave to its citizens the most extensive rights available in any country.
- **Nelson Mandela**, the hero of the struggle, was imprisoned for 28 years. His autobiography is '**The Long Walk to Freedom**'.
- The **constitution** of a country is set of **written rules** that are accepted by all people living together. Constitution is the **supreme law** that determines the relationship among citizens and also between the citizens and government.
- **Functions of the Constitution:**
 - (i) It generates a degree of trust and coordination that is necessary for different kind of people to live together.
 - (ii) It specifies how the government will be constituted etc.
 - (iii) It lays down limits on the powers of the government and tells us what the rights of the citizens are; and
 - (iv) It expresses the aspirations of the people about creating a good society.

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- All countries that have constitutions are not necessarily democratic. But **all countries that are democratic will have constitutions.**
 - **Circumstances at the time of making of the Indian Constitution:**
 - (i) India was still the colony of the Britain.
 - (ii) Partition of the country on religious basis.
 - (iii) Large scale violence; at least 10 lakh people were killed.
 - (iv) Refugee problem
 - (v) Merger of the princely states.
 - (vi) Economically a poor country.
 - **Advantages to the makers of the Indian Constitution:**
 - (i) Consensus about what a democratic India should look like.
 - (ii) In 1928, Motilal Nehru and eight other Congress leaders had drafted a constitution for India. Further, Karachi resolution of the Indian National Congress dwelt on how independent India should look like. Thus, the basic values were accepted by most of the leaders before the working of the Constituent Assembly.
 - (iii) The familiarity with political institutions of colonial rule.
 - (iv) Existence of colonial laws like the Government of India Act, 1935.
 - (v) Learning from the various systems of the world.
 - The constitution of India was written by the **Constituent Assembly** comprising **299 members**. It was adopted on November 26, 1949.
 - The Constitution of India was implemented on January 26, 1950. To mark this day we celebrate January 26, as Republic Day every year.
 - **Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was the chairman** of the Drafting Committee.
 - **Dr. Rajendra Prasad was the President** of the Constituent Assembly.
 - The Preamble of the constitution provides **philosophy of the constitution**. Justice, Equality, Fraternity, Liberty, Sovereignty, Socialism, Secularism etc. are the important values enshrined in the Preamble.
 - **Purpose of the Preamble:**
 - (i) It indicates the source from which the Constitution derives its authority. (We, the people of India.....)

- (ii) It states the objectives of the 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.

QUESTIONS

Very Short Questions (1 Mark)

1. Name the autobiography of Nelson Mandela.
2. Which party fought the liberation movement in South Africa?
3. Mention the main leader of South Africa who opposed Apartheid.
4. When Motilal Nehru and eight other Congress leaders drafted a constitution for India?
5. In which magazine Mahatma Gandhi wrote his expectations from the constitution?
6. Who was the chairman of the Drafting committee of the constitution?
7. Who was the President of the Constituent Assembly?
8. When was the constitution of India adopted by the constituent Assembly?
9. When did the constitution of India come into effect?
10. How many members were there in the Constituent Assembly?
11. From which colonial law, the constitution makers adopted many provisions in the constitution?

Short/ Long Questions (3/5 Marks)

1. What do you understand by Apartheid?
2. Briefly explain the liberation movement of South Africa.
3. What are the important functions of the constitution?
4. Briefly explain the following important words of the Preamble:
 - (i) Secularism
 - (ii) Republic
 - (iii) Sovereignty
 - (iv) Justice
 - (v) Equality

5. Why do we need constitution?
6. What do you understand by Constitutional Amendment?
7. What are the important features of the constitution of India?
8. Why do you think that the preamble contains the philosophy of the constitution?
9. What were the circumstances at the time of making of the Indian Constitution?
10. What were the advantages to the makers of the Indian Constitution?

ANSWERS

Very Short Answer Type Questions (1 Mark each)

1. The Long Walk to Freedom
2. African National Congress(ANC)
3. Nelson Mandela
4. 1928
5. Young India
6. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
7. Dr. Rajendra Prasad
8. November 26, 1949
9. Januaary 26, 1950
10. 299
11. The Government of India Act, 1935

Short/Long Questions (3/5 Marks)

1.
 - (i) Apartheid was the name of a system of racial discrimination unique to South Africa. The system of apartheid divided the people and labeled them on the basis of their skin colour.

- (ii) The white rulers treated all non-whites (native blacks, coloured and people migrated from India etc.) as inferiors. The non-whites did not have voting rights.
 - (iii) The apartheid system was oppressive for the blacks. They were forbidden from living in white areas. Trains, buses, taxis, hotels, hospitals, schools and colleges, libraries, swimming pools, public toilets, were all separate for the whites and blacks. They could not even visit the churches where the white worshipped. They could not form associations or protest against the system.
2. (i) The blacks coloured and Indians fought against the apartheid system since 1950. They launched protest marches and strikes.
- (ii) The African National Congress (ANC) was the umbrella organisation that led the struggle against the policies of segregation.

(iii) Many sensitive whites also joined the ANC to protest against the apartheid system.

- (iv) With increasing protest, the white regime changed its policies. Discriminatory laws were repealed. Ban on political parties and restrictions on media were lifted.
- (v) Nelson Mandela was freed after 28 years of imprisonment.
- (vi) Finally, at the midnight of 26 April 1994, the new national flag of the Republic of South Africa was unfurled marking the newly born democracy in the world.

3. See the key points.

4. (i) Freedom to follow any religion. No official religion. Government treats all religions with equal respect.
- (ii) If head of the state is an elected person, the state is known as Republic. For example, in India, the President is elected every five years.

(iii) It means the independent authority of a state. No external power can dictate the government of India.

- (iv) There cannot be any discrimination on the grounds of caste, religion, gender etc. Social inequalities have to be reduced. Government should work for the welfare of all especially of the disadvantaged groups.
- (v) All are equal before the law and all citizens have the equal protection of law. The government should ensure equal opportunity for all.

5. See the key points

6. A change in the constitution made by the supreme legislative body in a country is known as constitutional amendment. The Parliament of India can bring constitutional amendment in India.

The constitution makers felt that it has to be in accordance with people's aspirations and changes in society. They did not see it as a sacred, static and unalterable law. That is why; our constitution is neither too rigid nor too flexible.

7. Important features of Indian constitution are as follows:

- (i) Our constitution is the longest known constitution.
- (ii) It has been drawn from different sources and from several constitution of the world.
- (iii) Our constitution is more flexible than rigid. Required constitutional amendments can be incorporated.
- (iv) Provision of Fundamental rights and Fundamental duties.
- (v) Provision of universal adult franchise.
- (vi) Parliamentary form of government
- (vii) Federal structure
- (viii) Independent judiciary

8. See the key points.

9. See the key points.

10. See the key points.