

Chapter - 04

Answers

1A.) Over the last half a century, no large social group or political party has ever questioned the legitimacy of the constitution itself. This is an unusual achievement for our Constitution

2A.) Constituent Assembly of India was set up under Cabinet Mission Plan of 1946. It consisted of 385 members, of which 292 were elected by the elected members of the provincial Legislative Assemblies while 93 members were nominated by the Princely States. It also had one representative each from the four chief Commissioners provinces of Delhi, Ajmer-Marwar, Coorg and British Baluchistan.

B N Rao was the Constitutional Advisor of the Assembly. Dr. Rajendra prasad was elected as its president.

3A.) Like South Africa, India's Constitution was written under very difficult situation. The making of a Constitution for such a huge and diverse country like India is not an easy task.

(i) After partition, the people of India were emerging from the status of subjects to that of citizens.

(ii) India was born through a partition of undivided India on the basis of religious differences. It was a traumatic experience for both the people of India and Pakistan.

(iii) The British had left it to the rulers of the princely states to decide whether they wanted to merge with India or with Pakistan or remain independent. The merger of these princely states was a difficult and uncertain task.

(iv) When the constitution was being written, the future of the country did not look as secure as it does today.

(v) The makers of the Constitution had anxieties about the present and future of the country.

4A.) (i) Apartheid was the name of a system of racial discrimination imposed on South Africa by the white Europeans. During the 17th and 18th centuries, the trading companies from Europe occupied South Africa with arms and forces.

(ii) Afterwards a large number of 'whites' got settled there and became the local rulers. The system of apartheid divided the people and labelled them on the basis of their skin colour.

(iii) The native people of South Africa are black in colour. There were others who were of mixed races and were called 'coloured'. People who migrated from India also comprised the non-white population.

(iv) The white ruler treated all non-whites as inferiors. The non-whites did not have voting rights. They were suppressed in a number of ways.

5A.) 1) Liberty means freedom to individual to do he/she wants to do without harming others Liberty.

2) Equality means an equal opportunity to all the citizens irrespective of their caste, religion, race, gender.

3) Fraternity means an environment of brotherhood among the citizens of a nation.

6A.) Indian constitution is the lengthiest constitution in the world.

Also, it is an elaborate document containing fundamental rights, directive principles of state policy, fundamental duties of the citizens, federal in nature, rigid as well as flexible document.

7A.) The Constituent assembly of India was formed in the year 1946

8A.) Law allows all the citizens of a country, the right to follow different faith and religious beliefs. All citizens enjoy the freedom of worship. The country does not have a religion of its own. All the religions in our country hold the same status.

9A.) The Constitution came into force on 26 January 1950. This day was chosen as it was on this day in 1929 that the idea of Purna Swaraj was adopted.

10A.) A Constitution can be said to be rigid or flexible on the basis of its amendability. A flexible constitution can be amended by ordinary law making procedure whereas a rigid one requires special procedures.

11A.) Indian Constitution strikes a balance between the rigidity and flexibility. Some of its features can be amended by ordinary procedure for e.g. abolition or creation of Legislative Councils. Some

of the amendments are made by special majority or special majority plus with ratification by half of the States.

12A.) Nelson Mandela was the first President of the newly born democracy in South Africa.

13A.) The whites agreed to the principle of majority rule and that one person one vote.

The blacks agreed that majority rule would not be absolute

14A.) The apartheid system was particularly oppressive for the blacks in the following ways:

(i) The blacks were forbidden from living in white areas. They could work in white areas only if they had a permit.

(ii) Trains, buses, taxis, hotels, hospitals, schools and colleges, libraries, cinema halls, theatres, beaches, swimming pools, public toilets, were all separate for the whites and blacks.

(iii) The blacks could not visit churches where the whites worshipped.

(iv) They could not form associations or protest against the terrible system of apartheid

15A.) A systematic compilation of set of rules to run the government of a country is known as the 'constitution' of the country