

The Constitution & the Preamble

EXERCISE

A. Fill in the blanks :

1. The Constitution of India was framed by the **constituent Assembly**.
2. The Preambles tells us about the **source** of the Constitution, the nature of the state and its main **objectives of the Constitution**.
3. Socialism involves **fair** distribution of the country's wealth among **all** sections of the people.
4. The people of India elect their own government because India is a **Democratic** country.
5. The President of India has a fixed term of **5** years.

B. Match the following :

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 1. 1946 | (a) India became independent. |
| 2. 1947 | (b) The Constitution of India was passed. |
| 3. 1949 | (c) The first meeting of the Constituent Assembly was held. |
| 4. 1950 | (d) The Constitution of India was amended. |
| 5. 1976 | (e) India became a sovereign, democratic, Republic. |

Answer:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 1. 1946 | (c) The first meeting of the Constituent Assembly was held. |
| 2. 1947 | (a) India became independent. |
| 3. 1949 | (b) The Constitution of India was passed. |
| 4. 1950 | (e) India became a sovereign, democratic, Republic. |
| 5. 1976 | (d) The Constitution of India was amended. |

C. Choose the correct answer :

1. India won freedom from British/French/Portuguese rule on 15 August 1947.

Ans. India won freedom from **British** rule on 15 August 1947.

2. The chairman of the Constituent Assembly of India was Dr Rajendra Prasad/B. R. Ambedkar/Maulana Azad.

Ans. The chairman of the Constituent Assembly of India was **Dr Rajendra Prasad**.

3. The source of the Indian Constitution is the President/ the Prime Minister/the people of India.

Ans. The source of the Indian Constitution is **the people** of India.

4. A democratic/socialist/secular state does not have an official religion.

Ans. A **secular** state does not have an official religion.

5. A democracy can work only if there is a spirit of jealousy/brotherhood/competition among the different sections of society.

Ans. A democracy can work only if there is a spirit of **brotherhood** among the different sections of society.

D. State whether the following are true or false :

1. The Constitution of India was framed by the British government.

Ans. False.

Correct : The Constitution of India was framed by the **Constituent Assembly**.

2. Sarojini Naidu was a member of the Constituent Assembly.

Ans. True.

3. The Preamble is the conclusion to the Constitution.

Ans. False.

Correct : The Preamble is the **introduction** to the Constitution.

4. When the President of India dies, his/her son becomes the next President.

Ans. False.

5. All Indian citizens are equal in the eyes of the law.

Ans. True.

E. Answer the following questions in one or two words/ sentences :

Question 1.

Define the term 'constitution'.

Answer:

A Constitution is a statement which defines the powers and functions of the government as well as the rights and duties of the citizens. It is the fundamental law of that nation.

Question 2.

When did the Constitution of India come into force?

Answer:

The Constitution of India came into force on 26 January 1950.

Question 3.

What is a preamble.

Answer:

The Preamble is a kind of introductory statement which comes before the Constitution. It is not a law but it explains the true spirit of the Indian Constitution.

Question 4.

How do we know that the Constitution of India was not imposed on us by the British?

Answer:

Constitution of India was not imposed on us by the British. After we got independence

in 1947, a constituent Assembly under the chairmanship of Dr. Rajendra Prasad was appointed to frame the constitution.

Question 5.

Who gives the government of India the authority to govern the country?

Answer:

Our Constitution gives the government of India the authority to govern the country

F. Answer the following questions briefly :

Question 1.

Explain the meaning of the following terms :

- (a) Sovereign
- (b) Democratic
- (c) Republic

Answer:

(a) **Sovereign** : Means that India is an independent country. No external power can control or interfere in its internal affairs.

(b) **Democratic** : A democratic government is a government of the people, for the people, by the people.

(c) **Republic** : A country where head of the state is elected by the people.

Question 2.

State the basic features of the following :

- (a) a socialist state
- (b) a secular state

Answer:

(a) **Socialist state** : Is one where there is fair distribution of the country's wealth among all sections of the people. It means providing equal opportunities to all in order to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor.

(b) **Secular state** : A secular state is one which :

- does not have an official or state religion.
- does not discriminate against anybody on grounds of religion.
- does not favour or promote any particular religion.
- guarantees the freedom of every individual to profess, practise and propagate his or her own religion.

Question 3.

State the objectives of the Constitution with reference to :

- (a) Justice
- (b) Liberty
- (c) Equality

Answer:

(a) Justice : All citizens are equal in the eyes of law. Justice shall not be denied to anybody on the basis of place of birth, race, caste, creed, sex status or religion. Every individual will get what is his or her due,

(b) Liberty : Even, 'Indian citizen shall enjoy certain fundamental rights such as the freedom to think and express oneself and the freedom to follow the religion of our choice.

(c) Equality : All citizens are equal before law and will be protected equally by the laws of the land. The state shall not discriminate between people on the basis of place of birth, sex, Caste, creed, race, religion or wealth.

Question 4.

Why did the framers of the Constitution decide to promote fraternity among the people of India?

Answer:

A democracy can work only if there is a spirit of brotherhood and oneness among the different sections of society. When this feeling of being 'one people' is promoted and firmly established, social evils such as untouchability and communalism can be removed. Harmony will prevail and the country can progress unitedly towards its goal of securing justice, liberty' and equality for all its citizens.

G Picture study :

This is a picture of the Chairman of the Constituent Assembly of India which drafted the Indian Constitution.



Question 1.

Identify the person in the Picture

Answer:

Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

Question 2.

Name two other prominent members of the Constituent Assembly.

Answer:

- (a) B. Rammbedkar
- (b) Maulana Azad

Question 3.

When was the first meeting of the Constituent Assembly held?

Answer:

9 Dec 1946.

Question 4.

When did the Constitution come into force?

Answer:

26 January 1950

Question 5.

What is the introduction to the Constitution called? What does it tell us about the source of the Constitution?

Answer:

The Preamble is an introduction to the Constitution. It helps us to understand the vision and the aspirations of the framers of our Constitution. The Preamble tells us about the source of the Constitution, the nature of the state and its main objectives.

Question 6.

Mention the objectives stated in the introduction.

Answer:

- **Justice** : All citizens are equal in the eyes of law. Justice shall not be denied to anybody.
- **Liberty** : Every Indian citizen shall enjoy certain fundamental rights such as the freedom to think and express oneself and the freedom to follow the religion of our choice.
- **Equality** : All citizens are equal before law and will be protected equally by the laws of the land.
- **Fraternity** : A democracy can work only if there is a spirit of brotherhood and oneness among the different sections of society.

OTHER IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

Question 1.

Give three points which define the philosophy underlying the Constitution?

Answer:

The philosophy underlying the Constitution is :

1. The Constitution derives all its authority from the citizens of the country and the state is the creation of the people.
2. The country must be governed according to the limits set by the sovereign people.
3. The Supreme Court has the sole authority to interpret the Constitution.

Question 2.

Throw some light on the Equality of all the individuals as stated in the Constitution?

Answer:

According to the constitution, all the individuals are equal in the eye of law and no discrimination should be done on the basis of caste, creed, race, gender, religion or wealth.

Question 3.

What is Universal Adult Franchise?

Answer:

The Constitution gives all adult India citizens the right to vote, irrespective of caste, sex, religion, social status, wealth and education. The right to vote is denied to those who are of unsound mental health or are insolvent. This right is called Universal Adult Franchise.