

TEACHER'S HANDBOOK



STELLAR LEARNING

Political Science

9

On
Board!

BOOKS

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What is Democracy? Why Democracy?

Check Your Progress

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. In which period did China face one of the worst famines?

- (a) 1931–1935 (b) 1958–1961
(c) 2000–2003 (d) 2007–2010

Ans. (b) 1958–1961

2. From 1930 to 2000, which party always won elections in Mexico?

- (a) Revolutionary Party
(b) Mexican Revolutionary Party
(c) Institutional Revolutionary Party
(d) Institutional Party

Ans. (c) Institutional Revolutionary Party

3. What is the meaning of 'one person, one vote' in democracy?

- (a) One person is to be voted by all.
(b) One person has one vote and each vote has one value.
(c) A person can vote only once in his life.
(d) Both (a) and (c).

Ans. (b) One person has one vote and each vote has one value.

4. What is the simplest definition of democracy?

- (a) Rule by a king
(b) Rule by elected representatives
(c) Rule by the military
(d) Rule by the wealthy

Ans. (b) Rule by elected representatives

5. Where does the term 'democracy' originate from?

- (a) Latin (b) Greek
(c) French (d) Spanish

Ans. (b) Greek

6. Which feature is essential for a democracy?

- (a) Elected representatives
(b) Unequal voting rights
(c) Rule by a single party
(d) Hereditary leadership

Ans. (a) Elected representatives

7. In a democracy, who holds the final decision-making power?

- (a) The military
(b) The elected representatives
(c) The king or queen
(d) The wealthiest individuals

Ans. (b) The elected representatives

8. What is a key feature of free and fair elections in a democracy?

- (a) Only one candidate is allowed
(b) No real choice between political alternatives
(c) People can choose and change their rulers
(d) Elections are held once every 20 years

Ans. (c) People can choose and change their rulers

9. Which of the following is not a feature of democracy?

- (a) Universal adult franchise
(b) Free and fair electoral competition
(c) Rule by a single party
(d) Respect for citizens' rights

Ans. (c) Rule by a single party

10. Why are regular elections important in a democracy?
- They ensure a change in rulers.
 - They maintain the same rulers indefinitely.
 - They prevent citizens from voting.
 - They avoid political competition.

Ans. (a) They ensure a change in rulers.

11. Arrange the following events in chronological order and choose the correct answer from the given options.
- The concept of democracy originates in ancient Greece.
 - Universal adult franchise is established in most democracies.
 - The United Nations promotes democracy worldwide.
 - Women in France gained the right to vote.

Options:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| (a) ADBC | (b) BACD |
| (c) CBAD | (d) ACBD |

Ans. (a) ADBC

12. Arrange the following stages of an election in chronological order and choose the correct answer from the options given.
- Election campaigning
 - Counting of votes
 - Voting by citizens
 - Filing of nomination papers

Options:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| (a) ABCD | (b) BACD |
| (c) CBAD | (d) DACB |

Ans. (d) DACB

Very Short Answer Type Questions

13. Write any two features of democracy.

Ans. Two important features of democracy are: major decisions are taken by the elected leaders, and free and fair electoral competition.

14. How does democracy promote accountability?

Ans. Democracy promotes accountability by allowing citizens to elect their leaders and hold them responsible for their actions through regular elections and public participation.

15. What does political equality mean in a democracy?

Ans. Political equality means that every adult citizen has one vote and each vote has equal value, ensuring that all individuals have an equal say in the decision-making process.

16. What role does a free press play in a democracy?

Ans. A free press provides information, criticizes government actions, and enables public debate, thereby ensuring transparency and accountability in governance.

17. Why are free and fair elections important in a democracy?

Ans. Free and fair elections ensure that citizens have a real choice in selecting their leaders and can remove them if they do not perform well, maintaining accountability and legitimacy in governance.

18. Who issued the 'Legal Framework Order' in Pakistan and why?

Ans. In August 2002 General Pervez Musharraf issued a 'Legal Framework Order' that amended the Constitution of Pakistan. According to this Order, the President can dismiss the national and provincial assemblies.

19. Which political party has ruled Zimbabwe since independence? Who was the leader who ruled since 1980?

Ans. Zimbabwe attained independence from White minority rule in 1980. Since then, the country has been ruled by ZANU-PF, the party that led the freedom struggle. Its leader, Robert Mugabe, ruled the country since independence.

20. Which country does not give right to vote to Russian minorities? On the basis of what does this country exclude said minorities?

Ans. Estonia has made its citizenship rules in such a way that people belonging to Russian minority find it difficult to get the right to vote.

Short Answer Type Questions

21. How does democracy ensure accountability of the government?

Ans. Democracy ensures government accountability through mechanisms such as regular elections, a free press, public participation, and transparent decision-making processes. These elements allow citizens to monitor, evaluate, and influence their leaders' actions.

22. What role does the 'Rule of Law' play in a democracy?

Ans. The rule of law plays a crucial role in a democracy by ensuring that all individuals and institutions, including the government, are subject to and accountable under the law. It maintains order, protects citizens' rights, and prevents abuses of power.

23. Why is political equality essential in a democracy?

Ans. Political equality is essential in a democracy because it ensures that every citizen has an equal say in governance, upholding the principle of equal representation. This equality fosters inclusiveness, fairness, and legitimacy in the democratic process.

24. Differentiate between democratic and non-democratic elections.

Ans. In China, elections are held on a regular basis after every five years for electing the parliament. In order to contest an election, it is mandatory for a candidate to get the approval of the Chinese Communist Party. The government is always formed by the Communist Party of China because they have a single party system and there is no choice for voters. So it is clear from the above discussion, the election process in China is non-democratic. However, the electoral process in India is democratic in real terms. In India, we have a multi-party system in which people have choice and they are free to elect their representatives freely.

25. Write a short note on the most common form of democracy. Why is it necessary?

Ans. The most common form of democracy is that of a representative democracy. In a democracy all people do not rule. A majority takes decisions on behalf of all the people. However, the majority does not rule directly but the majority of people rule through their elected representatives. It is necessary because:

- (a) In modern democracies it is not possible for large number of people to physically sit together and take collective decision.
- (b) Even if it is possible to sit together, the common people do not have the time and desire to take part in all the decisions.

26. Why are China and Mexico not regarded as democracies, despite conducting elections?

Ans. In China, elections are held on a regular basis after every five years for electing the parliament which is called 'Quanguo Renmin Daibiao Dahui' (National People's Congress). The National People's Congress appoints the President. The Parliament has nearly 3,000 members who are elected from all over the country. Some members are elected by the army. In order to contest an election, it is mandatory for a candidate to get the approval of the Chinese Communist Party. Only those who are members of the Chinese Communist Party were allowed to contest the elections held in the year 2002-03. The government is always formed by the Communist Party of China. Let us take another example, since its independence in 1930; Mexico conducts the elections to elect its President after every six years. In Mexico, there has never been a military or dictator's rule. But until the year 2000, every election were won by a party called PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party). Though opposition parties contested elections, but never managed to win.

Long Answer Type Questions

27. Elucidate the importance of free and fair elections in a democracy.

Ans. Free and fair elections are crucial in a democracy because they ensure that the government reflects the will of the people and can be held accountable. These elections provide citizens with the opportunity to choose their leaders, express their preferences, and change the government if it does not perform well. Free and fair elections require an independent electoral commission, transparent processes, equal opportunities for candidates, and protection against fraud and manipulation. By promoting competition, legitimacy, and public participation, free and fair elections strengthen democratic institutions, enhance political stability, and foster trust between the government and the people.

28. What challenges do democracies face in ensuring true political equality?

Ans. Democracies face several challenges in ensuring true political equality:

- Socio-economic Disparities: Wealthier individuals and groups often have more resources to influence political processes and outcomes.
- Discrimination and Marginalisation: Certain communities, such as minorities, women, and the poor, may face barriers to full participation in politics.
- Access to Information: Unequal access to education and information can prevent informed decision-making and engagement in democratic processes.
- Political Corruption: Corruption can undermine political equality by allowing powerful interests to exert undue influence on policymakers.
- Electoral Manipulation: Practices like gerrymandering, voter suppression, and election fraud can distort representation and undermine equality.

29. Explain the relationship between free and fair elections and democratic form of government.

Ans. From the examples of China and Mexico, it is clear that conducting elections of any kind is not sufficient. The election process must offer a choice among other political alternatives and it should be feasible for people to use their choice to remove the existing rulers according to their wish. So, it is true to say that a democracy must be based on a free and fair election where those currently in power have a fair chance of losing the elections.

30. 'Democracy is the only peaceful solution to the problems of a socially diverse country like India'. Explain.

Ans. Democratic system also provides a method to deal with differences and conflicts. In any society there is possibility of having difference in opinions and interests. These differences are mostly sharp in a country like India which has a diverse society. There is also a possibility of clash among different groups in the society. There are various methods to resolve the conflicts like through brutal power in which the more powerful group dictates its terms and others are bound to accept. But that would lead to antipathy and discontent. Whereas the democratic system provides the peaceful solutions to this problem. In democratic set up, no one is a permanent winner and no one is a permanent loser. Different groups can live with together peacefully.

Self-Assessment

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. In which of the following countries women do not enjoy the right to vote?

(a) Mexico (b) Pakistan
(c) Saudi Arabia (d) China

Ans. (c) Saudi Arabia

2. Which country is an example of a non-democratic government?

(a) India (b) Saudi Arabia
(c) United States (d) Canada

Ans. (b) Saudi Arabia

3. Which one of the following is the most common form of democracy in today's world?

(a) Representative democracy
(b) Social democracy
(c) Direct democracy
(d) Presidential democracy

Ans. (a) Representative democracy

4. Why are political parties important in a democracy?

(a) They eliminate competition.
(b) They provide choices to voters.
(c) They prevent free elections.
(d) They restrict citizens' rights.

Ans. (b) They provide choices to voters.

5. What is one of the main benefits of democracy?

(a) It guarantees economic prosperity.
(b) It prevents all forms of conflict.
(c) It allows for correction of mistakes.
(d) It ensures a single party rule.

Ans. (c) It allows for correction of mistakes.

6. How does democracy ensure accountability of the government?

(a) By appointing rulers for life
(b) By allowing citizens to vote out rulers
(c) By ignoring public opinion
(d) By preventing criticism of the government

Ans. (b) By allowing citizens to vote out rulers

7. What does 'one person, one vote' mean?

(a) Each person has multiple votes.
(b) Each adult citizen has one vote.
(c) Only wealthy individuals can vote.
(d) Votes are assigned based on social status.

Ans. (b) Each adult citizen has one vote.

8. How does democracy promote equality?

(a) By giving more power to the wealthy
(b) By ensuring equal voting rights
(c) By appointing rulers for life
(d) By restricting public participation

Ans. (b) By ensuring equal voting rights

9. What role does a free press play in a democracy?

(a) Suppresses information
(b) Provides information and criticism
(c) Supports only the ruling party
(d) Prevents public debate

Ans. (b) Provides information and criticism

10. Which among the following is the reason that China did not manage the famine effectively during 1958–1961?

(a) Due to undemocratic government
(b) The government was indifferent
(c) Due to communist government
(d) None of these

Ans. (a) Due to undemocratic government

11. What does the principle of 'political equality' in democracy imply?

(a) Each citizen has a different value.
(b) Each citizen has one vote of equal value.
(c) Only educated citizens can vote.
(d) Votes are distributed based on income.

Ans. (b) Each citizen has one vote of equal value.

12. Arrange the following steps in the decision-making process in a democracy in chronological order and choose the correct answer from the options given below.

A. Public debate and consultation
B. Implementation of policies
C. Formulation of laws and policies
D. Parliamentary debate and cross-examinations

Options:

- (a) ABCD (b) BACD
(c) CBAD (d) ACDB

Ans. (d) ACDB

Assertion-Reason Type Questions

For question numbers 13 to 21, two statements are given as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option.

Options:

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(c) A is true but R is false.
(d) A is false but R is true.

13. **Assertion (A):** In Pakistan, General Pervez Musharraf led a military coup in October 1997.

Reason (R): He overthrew a democratically elected government and declared himself the 'Chief Executive' of the country.

Ans. (d) A is false but R is true.

14. **Assertion (A):** The National People's Congress has the power to appoint the President of China.

Reason (R): It has nearly 2500 members elected from all over China.

Ans. (c) A is true but R is false.

15. **Assertion (A):** China's famine of 1958–1961 was the worst recorded famine in world history.

Reason (R): Nearly three crore people died in this famine.

Ans. (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

16. **Assertion (A):** Leaders keep changing in a democracy. This leads to instability.

Reason (R): Many people have to be consulted in a democracy that eventually leads to delays.

Ans. (b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.

17. **Assertion (A):** In a democracy, rulers are elected by the people.

Reason (R): Elections ensure that the government is accountable to the people.

Ans. (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

18. **Assertion (A):** In a democratic election, there must be a real choice between political alternatives.

Reason (R): A real choice in elections allows people to remove the existing rulers if they wish to.

Ans. (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

19. **Assertion (A):** Democracy is based on the principle of political equality.

Reason (R): Political equality means that every citizen has one vote and each vote has equal value.

Ans. (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

20. **Assertion (A):** Democracies do not guarantee economic prosperity.

Reason (R): Democracy ensures that all major decisions are taken by elected representatives.

Ans. (c) A is true, but R is false.

21. **Assertion (A):** Democracies allow for public participation in decision-making.

Reason (R): Public participation leads to delays in decision-making processes.

Ans. (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.

Match the Following

22. Match the following items given in Column A with those in Column B. Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

Column A (Countries)	Column B (Leaders/Political Parties)
A. Pakistan	1. Pervez Musharraf
B. Syria	2. Ba'ath Party
C. China	3. Communist Party
D. Zimbabwe	4. Robert Mugabe

Codes:

A	B	C	D
(a) 1	2	3	4
(b) 2	1	4	3
(c) 4	1	3	2
(d) 1	3	2	4

Ans. (a) 1 2 3 4

23. Match the following terms given in Column A with their definitions in Column B. Choose the correct answer from the options given.

Column A (Terms)	Column B (Definitions)
A. Universal Adult Franchise	1. Right to vote for all adult citizens
B. Political Equality	2. Each citizen has one vote of equal value
C. Free and Fair Elections	3. Elections where all candidates have an equal chance
D. Open Political Competition	4. Anyone can form a party or contest elections

Codes:

	A	B	C	D
(a)	1	2	4	3
(b)	2	1	3	4
(c)	3	2	4	1
(d)	1	3	4	2

Ans. (b) 2 1 3 4

24. Match the countries given in Column A with their government types in Column B. Choose the correct answer from the given options:

Column A (Countries)	Column B (Government Types)
A. Saudi Arabia	1. Monarchy
B. India	2. Democracy
C. North Korea	3. Dictatorship
D. China	4. Communism

Codes:

	A	B	C	D
(a)	1	2	3	4
(b)	2	1	3	4
(c)	4	1	2	3
(d)	1	3	2	4

Ans. (a) 1 2 3 4

25. Match the following features given in Column A with their descriptions in Column B. Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

Column A (Features)	Column B (Descriptions)
A. Accountability	1. Everyone is subject to the law equally
B. Transparency	2. Openness in government actions
C. Rule of Law	3. Government's responsibility to the people
D. Good governance	4. Effective ways of obtaining and using public power and resources

Codes:

	A	B	C	D
(a)	1	4	3	2
(b)	2	4	3	1
(c)	3	2	4	1
(d)	1	3	2	4

Ans. (d) 1 3 2 4

Find the Incorrect Option

26. (a) President Mugabe was popular because he never used unfair practices in elections.

- (b) Until 2015, in Saudi Arabia women did not have the right to vote.
 (c) Democracy is based on a fundamental principle of political equality.
 (d) Democracy leads to corruption for it is based on electoral competition.

Ans. (a) President Mugabe was popular because he never used unfair practices in elections.

Correct and Rewrite the Following Statement

27. A democratic government is a better government because it is not accountable to anyone.

Ans. A democratic government is a better government because it is a more accountable form of government.

Fill in the Blanks

28. In August 2002 General Pervez Musharraf issued a 'Legal Framework Order' that amended the Constitution of Pakistan.
 29. Since 1980, Zimbabwe has been ruled by ZANU-PF.
 30. Democracy provides a method to deal with differences and conflicts.

Very Short Answer Type Questions

31. What is universal adult franchise?
Ans. Universal adult franchise is the right of all adult citizens to vote in elections, ensuring that everyone has a voice in the democratic process regardless of their socio-economic status.
 32. Why are regular elections important in a democracy?
Ans. Regular elections are important because they provide a mechanism for citizens to choose their representatives, express their preferences, and ensure that leaders remain accountable to the people.
 33. Why is public participation crucial in a democracy?
Ans. Public participation is crucial in a democracy because it ensures that the government reflects the will of the people, allows citizens to influence decision-making, and holds leaders accountable.
 34. What is the significance of the rule of law in a democracy?
Ans. The rule of law ensures that all individuals and institutions, including the government, are subject to and accountable under the law, maintaining order and protecting citizens' rights.
 35. Name the leader who ruled Zimbabwe from 1980 to 2017. What kind of corrupt political practices did he encourage?
Ans. Robert Mugabe ruled Zimbabwe from 1980 to 2017. President Mugabe was popular but also used unfair practices in elections. Over the years

his government changed the constitution several times to increase the powers of the President and make him less accountable. Opposition party workers were harassed and their meeting disrupted. Public protests and demonstrations against the government were declared illegal.

36. How did General Pervez Musharraf come to power in Pakistan? Additionally, how did he managed to retain his power?

Ans. General Pervez Musharraf led a military coup in October 1999. He overthrew a democratically elected government and declared himself the 'Chief Executive' of the country. Later he changed his designation to President and in 2002 held a referendum in the country that granted him a five-year extension.

37. Write one common feature of democracies across the world. How is it superior than any of the features of a non-democratic country?

Ans. Elections that are free, fair, and held regularly are a hallmark of democracies globally. In these systems, citizens have the opportunity to engage as both voters and candidates. Democracy empowers individuals to select their leaders through transparent electoral processes, a privilege that is often absent in non-democratic nations.

38. How many people lost their lives because of famine in China? According to economists, what kind of governance prevented such a disaster from happening in India?

Ans. Nearly three crore people died in 1958–61 China famine. During those days, India's economic condition was not much better than China. Yet India did not have a famine of the kind China had. Economists think that the existence of democracy in India made the Indian government respond to food scarcity in a way that the Chinese government did not.

Short Answer Type Questions

39. Discuss the arguments in favour of democracy.

Ans. Democratic form of government is based on consultation and discussion which involves many persons, discussions and meetings. When a number of people give their ideas there is possibility to point out probable mistakes in any decision. However, this process is time taking but it reduces the chances of negligent decisions. Democratic system also provides a method to deal with differences and conflicts. Different groups can live with together peacefully. Democracy enhances the dignity of citizens. Democracy is based on the principle of political equality according to which

the poorest and the least educated enjoy the same status as the rich and the educated.

40. Why is the free press important for a healthy democracy?

Ans. A free press is important for a healthy democracy because it provides information, encourages public debate, and holds the government accountable. It ensures transparency, exposes corruption, and empowers citizens to make informed decisions.

41. What is the significance of universal adult franchise in a democracy?

Ans. Universal adult franchise is significant in a democracy because it grants all adult citizens the right to vote, ensuring equal participation in the electoral process. This inclusiveness legitimises the government and reflects the diversity of society.

42. How does public participation enhance democratic governance?

Ans. Public participation enhances democratic governance by involving citizens in decision-making, ensuring that their needs and preferences are considered. It promotes transparency, accountability, and responsiveness, leading to more effective and representative policies.

43. What options do we have in a democracy if any mistake is committed?

Ans. Democracy is better than other types of government because it allows us to correct its own wrong decisions. Though there is no guarantee that mistakes cannot be made in democracy but the other forms of government also cannot guarantee that. The advantage in a democracy is that wrong decisions cannot be hidden. There is always a space for public discussion and there is a scope for correction. Either the rulers have to rectify their mistakes, or the rulers can be changed. This is not possible in a non-democratic government. Democracy is not the solution to all problems but it is clearly better than any other form of government.

44. 'Popular approval of the rulers is necessary in a democracy, but it is not sufficient'. Explain.

Ans. The example of Zimbabwe shows that popular approval of the rulers is necessary in a democracy, but it is not sufficient and the popular governments can be undemocratic, popular leaders can be oppressive. In order to assess a democracy, it is significant to look at the election process. But in the same way it is essential to look before and after the elections. There should be sufficient room for political opposition. This requires that the state should ensure some basic rights of the citizen and they should be free to think, to have opinions, to form associations,

to protest and take other political actions. The above mentioned rights must be protected by an independent judiciary.

45. 'Democracy is a form of government in which the rulers are elected by the people.' Justify the statement.

Ans. The above given statement is true because, the election of a person as the representative of people depends on the wish and will of the common masses. If we talk about India, a largest democracy in the world, it's we the voter of the country which decides who will rule us. We decide whether a particular person will represent us in the Parliament and the Legislative assembly of the concerned states. The elected representatives rule us and take care of the aspirations of the common people.

Paragraph Based Questions

46. Read the sources given below and answer the questions that follow:

Source A – Rule of Law and Respect for Rights

Zimbabwe attained independence from White minority rule in 1980. Since then the country has been ruled by ZANU-PF, the party that led the freedom struggle. Its leader, Robert Mugabe, ruled the country since independence. Elections were held regularly and always won by ZANU-PF. President Mugabe was popular but also used unfair practices in elections.

- (a) What strategy was adopted by Robert Mugabe to win the elections?

Source B – Arguments for Democracy

China's famine of 1958–1961 was the worst recorded famine in world history. Nearly three crore people died in this famine. During those days, India's economic condition was not much better than China. Yet India did not have a famine of the kind China had.

- (b) Is it true that the policies of government were responsible for such condition in China?

Source C – Broader Meanings of Democracy

There can be various ways of taking decisions in a democratic manner, as long as the basic principle of consultation on an equal basis is accepted. The most common form of democracy in today's world is rule through people's elected representatives.

- (c) Define the term Representative Democracy.

Ans. (a) Zimbabwe attained its independence in the year 1980 and since then the country has been ruled by ZANU-PF. Its leader, Robert Mugabe, ruled the country since independence. ZANU-PF regularly won elections, because President Mugabe used unfair practices to win the elections.

- (b) Yes, it is true that policies of Chinese government were responsible for such conditions in China.
- (c) This is the most common type of democracy. In this, the majority does not rule directly but the majority of People rule through their elected representative.

Case Based Questions

47. Democracy is a form of government in which the rulers are elected by the people. Leaders keep changing in a democracy, which leads to instability. It is all about political competition and power play with no scope for morality. So many people have to be consulted in a democracy that it leads to delays. Elected leaders do not know the best interest of the people. It leads to bad decisions. Democracy leads to corruption for it is based on electoral competition. Ordinary people don't know what is good for them; they should not decide anything. Democracy is not a magical solution for all the problems. It has not ended poverty in our country and in other parts of the world. Democracy as a form of government only ensures that people take their own decisions. This does not guarantee that their decisions will be good. People can make mistakes. Involving the people in these decisions does lead to delays in decision making. It is also true that democracy leads to frequent changes in leadership. Sometimes this can set back big decisions and affect the government's efficiency.

47.1 Why is democracy called an unstable form of a government?

Ans. Leader keep changing in a democracy, which leads to instability. It is all about political competition and power play with no scope for morality.

47.2 What lies at the core of democracy?

Ans. The principles of freedom, respect for human rights, and the commitment to conducting regular and fair elections through universal adult suffrage are the fundamental components of a democratic system.

47.3 Democracy is not a magical solution for all problems. Justify this statement.

Ans. Democracy has not eradicated poverty in our nation or across the globe. As a system of governance, democracy allows individuals to make their own choices; however, this does not assure that those choices will be beneficial. Human error is a possibility. Engaging the populace in decision-making processes can result in prolonged deliberations. Additionally, it is a fact that democracy often results in regular shifts in leadership.

48. In Pakistan, General Pervez Musharraf led a military coup in October 1999. He overthrew a democratically elected government and declared himself the 'Chief Executive' of the country. Later he changed his designation to President and in 2002 held a referendum in the country that granted him a five year extension. Pakistani media, human rights organisations and democracy activists said that the referendum was based on malpractices and fraud. In August 2002 he issued a 'Legal Framework Order' that amended the Constitution of Pakistan. According to this Order, the President can dismiss the national and provincial assemblies. The work of the civilian cabinet is supervised by a National Security Council which is dominated by military officers. After passing this law, elections were held to the national and provincial assemblies. So Pakistan has had elections, elected representatives have some powers. But the final power rested with military officers and General Musharraf himself. Clearly, there are many reasons why Pakistan under General Musharraf should not be called a democracy. But let us focus on one of these. Can we say that the rulers are elected by the people in Pakistan? Not quite. People may have elected their representatives to the national and provincial assemblies but those elected representatives were not really the rulers. They cannot take the final decisions. The power to take final decision rested with army officials and with General Musharraf, and none of them were elected by the people. This happens in many dictatorships and monarchies. They formally have an elected parliament and government but the real power is with those who are not elected.

48.1 What steps were taken by General Pervez Musharraf to consolidate his power and position after a military coup?

Ans. General Pervez Musharraf led a military coup in October 1999 and overthrew a democratically elected government. Later he declared himself the 'Chief Executive' of Pakistan after that he changed his designation to President. A referendum was held in the year 2002 in Pakistan that granted him a five year extension.

48.2 Why Pakistan under General Musharraf should not be called a democracy?

Ans. Though elections were held in Pakistan and elected representatives had some powers, but the final power rested with military officers and General Musharraf himself. People may have elected their representatives to the national and provincial assemblies but the elected

representatives were not really the rulers. They had no authority to take the final decisions.

48.3 What is the common feature of dictatorships and monarchies across the world?

Ans. The common feature of dictatorships and monarchies across the world is that they formally have an elected parliament and government but the real power is with those who are not elected.

49. Democracy offers a way to address differences and conflicts. In any society, people will have varying opinions and interests. These differences are especially pronounced in a country like ours, which boasts incredible social diversity. People come from different regions, speak various languages, practice different religions, and belong to different castes. They have unique perspectives and preferences, which can often clash. How do we resolve such conflicts? One way is through brute force, where the more powerful group imposes its will, and others must comply. However, this approach breeds resentment and unhappiness, making it difficult for different groups to coexist peacefully. Democracy, on the other hand, provides a peaceful solution. In a democracy, no one is a permanent winner or loser. Different groups can live together harmoniously. In a diverse country like India, democracy is what holds us together. These arguments discuss the impact of democracy on the quality of government and social life. However, the most compelling argument for democracy isn't about its effect on government but on its impact on citizens. Even if democracy doesn't always result in better decisions and accountable governance, it is still superior to other forms of government. Democracy enhances the dignity of citizens. As mentioned earlier, democracy is grounded in the principle of political equality.

49.1 What role does democracy play in addressing differences and conflicts in a diverse society?

Ans. Democracy offers a peaceful solution to differences and conflicts in a diverse society. It ensures that no group is a permanent winner or loser.

49.2 What is the most compelling argument for democracy according to the text?

Ans. The most compelling argument for democracy is its impact on citizens. Democracy enhances the dignity of citizens by promoting political equality.

49.3 Why is resolving conflicts through strong force not ideal in a diverse country like India?

Ans. Resolving conflicts through strong force leads to resentment and unhappiness, making it difficult for different groups to coexist peacefully. In

contrast, democracy provides a fair and peaceful way to address these conflicts, promoting harmony and unity in a diverse country like India.

- 50.** This also means that no country is a perfect democracy. Most countries provide only the minimum conditions. This does not make it an ideal democracy. Every democracy must strive to achieve the ideals of democratic decision-making. This requires constant effort to save and strengthen democratic forms of decision-making. Our actions as citizens can make our country more or less democratic. This is both the strength and the weakness of democracy: the fate of the country depends not just on the rulers, but mainly on us, the citizens. This is what distinguishes democracy from other forms of government. Monarchy, dictatorship, or one-party rule do not require all citizens to participate in politics. In fact, most non-democratic governments prefer citizens not to engage in politics. However, democracy relies on active political participation by all citizens. That is why the study of democracy must focus on democratic politics.

50.1 Why is no country considered a perfect democracy?

Ans. No country is a perfect democracy because most countries provide only minimum conditions for democracy.

50.2 What is necessary to save and strengthen democratic decision-making?

Ans. Constant effort is necessary to save and strengthen democratic decision-making. This involves active participation from citizens in democratic processes.

50.3 How does democracy differ from other forms of government?

Ans. Democracy differs from monarchy, dictatorship, or one-party rule as it relies on active political participation by all citizens, whereas non-democratic governments prefer minimal citizen engagement in politics.

Long Answer Type Questions

51. 'Democracy enhances the dignity of citizens'. Explain.

Ans. Even if democracy does not bring about better decisions, it is still better than other government set ups. Democracy enhances the dignity of citizens. Democracy is based on the principle of political equality according to which the poorest and the least educated enjoy the same status as the rich and the educated. People are not under any ruler but they are the rulers themselves. Even if they commit any mistake, they are responsible for their conduct. Democracy is better than other

types of government because it allows us to correct its own wrong decisions. Though there is no guarantee that mistakes cannot be made in democracy but the other forms of government also cannot guarantee that. The advantage in a democracy is that wrong decisions cannot be hidden. There is always a space for public discussion and there is a scope for correction.

52. Describe the steps taken by PRI to win election in Mexico.

Ans. In Mexico, there has never been a military or dictator's rule. But until the year 2000, every election were won by a party called PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party). Though opposition parties contested elections, but never managed to win. In order to win elections, the PRI used dirty tricks. All government officials were forced to attend its party meetings. Teachers of government schools used to force parents to cast their votes in favour of the PRI. Media was used only to criticise the opposition political parties. On some occasions the polling booths were shifted from one place to another in the last minute to refrain people from casting their votes. Huge sums of money were also used by the PRI in the campaign for its candidates.

53. How does democracy promote political equality and inclusiveness?

Ans. Democracy promotes political equality and inclusiveness by ensuring that every adult citizen has the right to vote and participate in the political process. This principle of 'one person, one vote' ensures equal representation and prevents discrimination based on socio-economic status, gender, or ethnicity. Additionally, democratic institutions and processes, such as free and fair elections, public consultations, and transparent decision-making, enable diverse groups and individuals to express their opinions, influence policies, and hold leaders accountable. By involving a wide range of voices and perspectives, democracy fosters inclusiveness, empowers marginalised communities, and enhances the legitimacy and effectiveness of governance.

54. What are the advantages of democracy over other forms of government?

Ans. Democracy has several advantages over other forms of government:

- Accountability: Elected leaders are accountable to the people and can be removed if they do not perform well.
- Transparency: Democratic processes and institutions are transparent, allowing citizens to scrutinise government actions.

- **Inclusiveness:** Democracy ensures political equality, giving every adult citizen an equal voice in governance.
- **Responsiveness:** Democratic governments are more responsive to the needs and preferences of the people.
- **Protection of Rights:** Democracies protect citizens' rights, such as freedom of speech, assembly, and association, fostering a vibrant civil society.
- **Peaceful Conflict Resolution:** Democracies provide mechanisms for peaceful conflict resolution, promoting stability and social harmony.

Let's Compete

Multiple-Choice Questions

- Which one of the following is the Chinese Parliament?
 - National People's Congress
 - House of Commons
 - House of Representatives
 - National Assembly**Ans.** (a) National People's Congress
- What is the meaning of 'democracy'?
 - Rule of a monarch
 - Rule of a dictator
 - Rule of people's representatives
 - Rule of military**Ans.** (c) Rule of people's representatives
- In which of the following countries, presidential form of democracy is practised?

(a) UK	(b) USA
(c) China	(d) None of these

Ans. (b) USA
- Which among the following political parties always forms government in Mexico?

(a) CPC	(b) PRI
(c) INC	(d) None of these

Ans. (b) PRI
- In which year General Pervez Musharraf lead a military coup?

(a) 1997	(b) 2001
(c) 1999	(d) 1995

Ans. (c) 1999
- In Fiji, the electoral system does not give equal voting rights to

(a) Indians.	(b) Estonians.
(c) an Indian-Fijian.	(d) none of these.

Ans. (c) an Indian-Fijian.

- Which among the following statements is incorrect regarding democracy?
 - Few people are given right to vote.
 - Democratic governments are supposed to frame rules according to the provisions of the constitution.
 - Democracy is a form of government in which rulers are elected by the people.
 - Free and fair elections are conducted.**Ans.** (a) Few people are given right to vote.
- Why is it said that the government in China is not democratic?
 - Members are free to contest the elections.
 - Elections are scheduled after 5 years.
 - Elections are scheduled under Communist Party's approval.
 - All of these.**Ans.** (c) Elections are scheduled under Communist Party's approval.
- The election process offers an opportunity to the people to change the current rulers. This feature is associated with which of the following countries?
 - Myanmar-dictatorship
 - China-communist
 - Saudi Arabia
 - India**Ans.** (d) India
- Which of the following countries has framed its citizenship rules in such a way that people belonging to the Russian minority find it difficult to get the right to vote?

(a) Estonia	(b) UK
(c) Mexico	(d) All of these

Ans. (a) Estonia

Life Skills

- 'Democracy is all about political competition and power play. There is no scope for morality'. Justify this statement.
- Democracy is the most popular form of government as it allows people from all sections of the society to participate and further grants various political and civil rights. However, there are various drawbacks associated with it. Democratic government has been questioned on various fronts like instability, which leads to frequent change in the policies. It is about competition for power amongst political parties for which they resort to various methods to retain the power. Such competition leads to polarisation of society and disunity among various castes

and classes. Political parties also use muscle and money power in order to gain and retain power. Several people are consulted in a democracy so this result in delay in decision making. Elected leaders are not aware of the best interest of the people which sometimes leads to bad decisions. Democracy leads to corruption as it is based on electoral competition. Ordinary people are not aware of what is good for them; they should not decide anything.

2. 'Elections in China do not represent people's verdict'. Explain.

Ans. In China, elections are held on a regular basis after every five years for electing the parliament

which is called 'Quanguo Renmin Daibiao Dahui' (National People's Congress). The National People's Congress appoints the President. The Parliament has nearly 3,000 members who are elected from all over the country. Some members are elected by the army. In order to contest an election, it is mandatory for a candidate to get the approval of the Chinese Communist Party. Only those who are members of the Chinese Communist Party were allowed to contest the elections held in the year 2002-03. The government is always formed by the Communist Party of China.

Constitutional Design

Check Your Progress

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. Which one of the following in a constitution is an introductory statement which states the reasons and guiding values?

(a) Article (b) Preface
(c) Preamble (d) Introduction

Ans. (c) Preamble

2. Mahatma Gandhi and his vision were often bitterly criticised by which leader?

(a) Dr Rajendra Prasad (b) Dr B R Ambedkar
(c) Somnath Lahiri (d) Abul Kalam Azad

Ans. (b) Dr B R Ambedkar

3. In which year did the Constituent Assembly adopt the Indian Constitution?

(a) 1946 (b) 1947
(c) 1949 (d) 1950

Ans. (c) 1949

4. How many members were there in the Indian Constituent Assembly?

(a) 200 (b) 299
(c) 400 (d) 500

Ans. (b) 299

5. Who was the first Prime Minister of independent India?

(a) Mahatma Gandhi (b) Jawaharlal Nehru
(c) Dr B R Ambedkar (d) Rajendra Prasad

Ans. (b) Jawaharlal Nehru

6. Who among the following Indian National Congress leaders took part in the drafting of the Constitution in 1928?

(a) Mahatma Gandhi (b) Jawaharlal Nehru
(c) Dr B R Ambedkar (d) Motilal Nehru

Ans. (d) Motilal Nehru

7. Which system of racial discrimination was unique to South Africa?

(a) Caste system (b) Apartheid
(c) Segregation (d) Colonialism

Ans. (b) Apartheid

8. What is the supreme law of a country called?

(a) Constitution (b) Legislation
(c) Judiciary (d) Executive Order

Ans. (a) Constitution

9. Which document is referred to as the 'soul' of the Indian Constitution?

(a) Fundamental Rights (b) Directive Principles
(c) Preamble (d) Schedules

Ans. (c) Preamble

10. Which leader walked out of South Africa's most dreaded prison after 27 years?

(a) Oliver Tambo (b) Nelson Mandela
(c) Desmond Tutu (d) F W de Klerk

Ans. (b) Nelson Mandela

11. Who was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Indian Constitution?

(a) Jawaharlal Nehru (b) Mahatma Gandhi
(c) Dr B R Ambedkar (d) Sardar Patel

Ans. (c) Dr B R Ambedkar

12. Which of the following sentences is correct?
- All countries that are democratic necessarily have constitutions.
 - All countries that have constitutions are necessarily democratic.
 - Both (a) and (b).
 - None of these.

Ans. (a) All countries that are democratic necessarily have constitutions.

13. Arrange the following in chronological order and choose the correct answer from the options given below.

- Government of India Act, 1935
- Indian Constitution
- Karachi Session Resolution
- Draft Constitution of 1928

Options:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| (a) ABCD | (b) BACD |
| (c) CBAD | (d) DCAB |

Ans. (d) DCAB

Very Short Answer Type Questions

14. What are constitutional amendments?

Ans. Constitutional amendments are changes made to the constitution to keep it updated and in line with societal changes. These amendments are made by the supreme legislative body and reflect the evolving needs and aspirations of the people.

15. Why is the Indian Constitution considered unique?

Ans. The Indian Constitution is considered unique because it was created through a broad consensus during a time of significant challenges. It adopted institutional details from colonial laws and was inspired by global ideals, but tailored to suit India's diverse needs.

16. What is segregation in the context of apartheid?

Ans. Segregation, under apartheid, was the enforced separation of races in South Africa. Blacks and other non-whites were forbidden from living in white areas and using the same facilities as whites. It extended to public places, schools, transportation, and more.

17. On which date did the Constitution of India come into force? What do we, Indians, celebrate on that date?

Ans. The Assembly adopted the Constitution on 26 November 1949 but it came into effect on 26 January 1950. 26 January is celebrated as Republic Day.

18. For how many days did the Constituent Assembly meet in order to draft the Constitution? What does it indicate?

Ans. The members deliberated for 114 days spread over three years. It indicates that the drafting of the Constitution was a significant task that required a considerable amount of time and discussion.

19. Under whose leadership was the first attempt made by Indians to draft a constitution? When was it formally implemented?

Ans. The first attempt to draft a constitution in India was made in 1928 under the leadership of Motilal Nehru. 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.

20. What did the white minority in South Africa want to protect through the new Constitution? What can one infer from that?

Ans. The white minority was keen to protect its privileges and property. After long negotiations, both the white minority and the black majority agreed to a compromise. The white minority agreed to the principle of majority rule, one person one vote and accepting some basic rights for the poor and the workers.

21. When was the new national flag of the Republic of South Africa hoisted for the first time? What did it herald?

Ans. 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. The apartheid government came to an end, paving way for the formation of a multi-racial government.

Short Answer Type Questions

22. Write a short note on 'Constituent Assembly Debates'.

Ans. The Constituent Assembly worked in an organised, open and consensual manner. Initially some basic principles were determined and agreed upon. After that a Drafting Committee which was chaired by Dr B R Ambedkar prepared a draft constitution for discussion. Several rounds of thorough discussion were held on the Draft Constitution. Every document presented and every word spoken in the Assembly was recorded which is preserved till date. These are called 'Constituent Assembly Debates'. These debates present the rationale behind the provisions of the Constitution which is helpful in interpreting the meaning of the Constitution.

- 23.** Discuss the major events that led to the formation of a democratic government in South Africa.
- Ans.** With the increase in protests and struggles against apartheid, the 'whites' realised that it is no longer feasible for them to rule the blacks through suppression, so the white regime modified its policies and various discriminatory laws were repealed. The ban imposed on political parties and restrictions on the media ended. Nelson Mandela walked out of the jail as a free man after 28 years of imprisonment. On 26th April 1994, the new national flag of South Africa was unfurled which marked the emergence of a new democracy in the world. After the birth of democratic South Africa, black leaders made an appeal to the natives to forgive the whites for the atrocities committed by them in the past. Both the black natives and whites sat together to frame a common constitution.
- 24.** Describe the apprehensions among the people of South Africa before the making of their constitution.
- Ans.** The natives of South Africa are black in colour so they were called 'blacks' and they constituted about three-fourth of the total population. In addition to these two groups, there were people of mixed races who were called 'coloured' and people who migrated from India. According to white rulers all non-whites were inferior to them. Also the non-whites did not have the right to vote. The apartheid system was predominantly repressive for the blacks. They were not allowed to live in white areas and they could work in white areas only if they had a permit. Trains, schools and colleges, libraries, buses, taxis, hotels, hospitals, cinema halls, theatres, beaches, swimming pools, public toilets, were all separate for the whites and blacks. This was called segregation.
- 25.** What role did the African National Congress (ANC) play in the struggle against apartheid?
- Ans.** The African National Congress (ANC) played a pivotal role in the struggle against apartheid by organising protests, strikes, and civil disobedience movements. It united various anti-apartheid groups, including workers' unions and the Communist Party, to fight against racial segregation and discrimination. The ANC's efforts, along with international support, eventually led to the end of apartheid and the establishment of a democratic South Africa.
- 26.** How did the Constituent Assembly of India ensure a broad consensus in drafting the Constitution?
- Ans.** The Constituent Assembly of India ensured a broad consensus in drafting the Constitution by

including representatives from diverse political, social, and regional backgrounds. Extensive debates and discussions were held on various provisions, reflecting the aspirations and concerns of different sections of society. The Assembly drew from global constitutional practices while adapting them to India's unique context, ensuring widespread acceptance of the Constitution.

Long Answer Type Questions

- 27.** Who was Nelson Mandela and why was he imprisoned? How were the blacks discriminated in South Africa?
- Ans.** Nelson Mandela was a South African freedom fighter who fought against the policy of apartheid. He was imprisoned for treason. Blacks were not allowed to live in white areas and they could work in white areas only if they had a permit. Trains, schools and colleges, libraries, buses, taxis, hotels, hospitals, cinema halls, theatres, beaches, swimming pools, public toilets, were all separate for the whites and blacks. This was called segregation. They were not allowed even to visit the churches for offering prayers where the whites worshipped. Blacks were also prohibited from constituting any kind of associations or protest against the dreadful treatment.
- 28.** Explain in detail the major factors which contributed in the making of our constitution.
- Ans.** Like South Africa, the Constitution of India was also framed under very complicated circumstances. It was not an easy task to make the constitution for a huge and diverse country like India. The country came into existence through a partition on the basis of religion which was a shocking experience for the people of both India and Pakistan. Around ten lakh people lost their lives because of violence during the partition. The British left it to the discretion of the rulers of the princely states whether to merge with India or with Pakistan or remain independent. The merger of princely states was a complicated and vague task.
- 29.** Compare and contrast the struggles for freedom in India and South Africa.
- Ans.** The struggles for freedom in India and South Africa share similarities and differences. Both movements were led by charismatic leaders – Mahatma Gandhi in India and Nelson Mandela in South Africa – who advocated non-violent resistance. In India, the struggle was against British colonial rule, aiming for political independence and social reforms. The INC played a central role, mobilising masses through civil disobedience and non-cooperation movements.

In contrast, South Africa's struggle was against the internal system of apartheid, enforced by a white minority government. The ANC led the resistance, which included protests, strikes, and international advocacy. While India's movement resulted in independence in 1947, South Africa's fight culminated in the end of apartheid and democratic elections in 1994.

Self-Assessment

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. Apartheid is a discrimination based on which of the following?

- (a) Religion (b) Race
(c) Sex (d) None of these

Ans. (b) Race

2. When was the South African Constitution adopted?

- (a) 1990 (b) 1994
(c) 1996 (d) 2000

Ans. (b) 1994

3. When did the National Flag of the Republic of South Africa get unfurled?

- (a) 26 January 1950 (b) 15 August 1947
(c) 26 April 1994 (d) 24 June 1995

Ans. (c) 26 April 1994

4. When did India officially become a Republic?

- (a) 15 August 1947 (b) 26 January 1950
(c) 26 November 1949 (d) 30 January 1948

Ans. (b) 26 January 1950

5. The heart of Constitution of South Africa lies in which one of the following?

- (a) Black majority rule
(b) Provisions of human rights
(c) Secularism
(d) Preamble

Ans. (d) Preamble

6. What is the term used for the official policy of racial separation in South Africa?

- (a) Apartheid (b) Segregation
(c) Racism (d) Discrimination

Ans. (a) Apartheid

7. Who was the President of the Constituent Assembly?

- (a) Dr B R Ambedkar (b) Dr Rajendra Prasad
(c) Sardar Patel (d) Jawaharlal Nehru

Ans. (b) Dr Rajendra Prasad

8. Which Constitution inspired the Preamble of the Indian Constitution?

- (a) American Constitution (b) British Constitution
(c) French Constitution (d) Japanese Constitution

Ans. (a) American Constitution

9. What is the significance of 26 November 1949 in Indian history?

- (a) Independence Day (b) Republic Day
(c) Constitution Day (d) Martyrs' Day

Ans. (c) Constitution Day

10. Which organisation led the struggle against apartheid?

- (a) Indian National Congress
(b) African National Congress
(c) Communist Party
(d) Labour Union

Ans. (b) African National Congress

11. What does the term 'Republic' signify in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution?

- (a) No official religion
(b) Head of state is an elected person
(c) Equality before law
(d) Social and economic justice

Ans. (b) Head of state is an elected person

12. Arrange the following events in chronological order and choose the correct answer from the options given below.

- A. Adoption of the Indian Constitution
B. Partition of India
C. Formation of Constituent Assembly
D. India becomes a Republic

Options:

- (a) ABCD (b) BACD
(c) CBAD (d) ACBD

Ans. (c) CBAD

13. Arrange the following events in the order in which they happened and choose the correct answer from the options given below.

- A. Nelson Mandela's release from prison
B. Formation of the multi-racial government in South Africa
C. Sentencing of Nelson Mandela to life imprisonment
D. The introduction of the apartheid

Options:

- (a) CABD (b) CBAD
(c) ACBD (d) CADB

Ans. (d) CADB

Assertion-Reason Type Questions

For question numbers 14 to 22, two statements are given as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option.

Options:

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

- (b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
 (c) A is true but R is false.
 (d) A is false but R is true.

14. Assertion (A): Since 1950, the blacks, coloured and Indians fought against the apartheid system.

Reason (R): The African National Congress (ANC) was the umbrella organisation that led the struggle against the policies of segregation.

Ans. (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

15. Assertion (A): Nelson Mandela and seven other leaders were sentenced to life imprisonment in 1968.

Reason (R): He spent the next 27 years in South Africa's most dreaded prison, Robben Island.

Ans. (d) A is false but R is true.

16. Assertion (A): The apartheid government came to an end, paving way for the formation of a multi-racial government.

Reason (R): At the midnight of 26 April 1996, the new national flag of the Republic of South Africa was unfurled marking the newly born democracy in the world.

Ans. (c) A is true but R is false.

17. Assertion (A): The whites agreed to the principle of majority rule and that of one person one vote.

Reason (R): The blacks agreed that the majority would not take away the property of the white minority.

Ans. (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

18. Assertion (A): The Indian Constitution was adopted on 26 November 1949.

Reason (R): The Constitution came into effect on 26 January 1950.

Ans. (b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.

19. Assertion (A): Constitutions can be amended to reflect changes in society.

Reason (R): The Indian Constitution has provisions for amendments.

Ans. (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

20. Assertion (A): Apartheid was a system of racial discrimination in South Africa.

Reason (R): The white Europeans wanted to dominate the native black population.

Ans. (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

21. Assertion (A): Nelson Mandela spent 27 years in Robben Island.

Reason (R): He was imprisoned for fighting for black domination.

Ans. (c) A is true but R is false.

22. Assertion (A): The Constituent Assembly of India had 299 members.

Reason (R): The Assembly was divided into India and Pakistan after partition.

Ans. (b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.

Match the Following

23. Match the following leaders given in Column A with their roles in Column B. Choose the correct answer from the given options:

Column A (Leaders)	Column B (Roles)
A. Motilal Nehru	1. President of the Constituent Assembly
B. Dr B R Ambedkar	2. Chairman of the Drafting Committee
C. Rajendra Prasad	3. Prepared a Constitution for India in 1928
D. Sarojini Naidu	4. Member of the Constituent Assembly

Codes:

A	B	C	D
(a) 3	2	1	4
(b) 2	3	1	4
(c) 4	2	3	1
(d) 3	1	2	4

Ans. (a) 3 2 1 4

24. Match the following terms given in Column A with their meanings in Column B. Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

Column A (Terms)	Column B (Meanings)
A. Sovereign	1. Government will not favour any religion.
B. Republic	2. People have the supreme right to make decisions.
C. Fraternity	3. Head of the state is an elected person.
D. Secular	4. People should live like brothers and sisters.

Codes:

A	B	C	D
(a) 3	2	1	4
(b) 2	3	4	1
(c) 4	2	3	1
(d) 3	1	2	4

Ans. (b) 2 3 4 1

25. Match the following events given in Column A with their dates in Column B. Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

Column A (Events)	Column B (Dates)
A. Independence Day of India	1. 15 August 1947
B. Republic Day of India	2. 26 January 1950
C. Adoption of the Constitution	3. 26 November 1949
D. Formation of Constituent Assembly	4. December 1946

Codes:

- | | | | | |
|-----|---|---|---|---|
| | A | B | C | D |
| (a) | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| (b) | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| (c) | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| (d) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
- Ans. (d) 1 2 3 4

Study the Picture and Answer the Question



26. Which one of the following option best signifies the given image?
- The spirit of present day South Africa
 - Bad condition of industrial workers in South Africa
 - Condition in rural South Africa
 - Armed forces of South Africa

Ans. (a) The spirit of present day South Africa

Find the Incorrect Option

27. (a) As far back as in 1928, Motilal Nehru and eight other Congress leaders drafted a constitution for India.
- (b) In 1931, the resolution at the Karachi session of the Indian National Congress dwelt on how

independent India's constitution should look like.

- Elections were held in 1937 to Provincial Legislatures and Ministries all over British India.
- At least twenty five lakh people were killed on both sides of the border in partition related violence.

Ans. (d) At least twenty five lakh people were killed on both sides of the border in partition related violence.

Correct and Rewrite the Following Statement

28. Indian constitution adopted many institutional details and procedures from colonial laws like the Government of India Act, 1909.
- Ans. Indian constitution adopted many institutional details and procedures from colonial laws like the Government of India Act, 1935.

Fill in the Blanks

29. The **Preamble** of the Constitution reads like a poem on democracy.
30. Elections to the Constituent Assembly were held in **July 1946**.
31. South Africans call themselves a '**rainbow nation**'.

Very Short Answer Type Questions

32. What role did the Constituent Assembly play in India?
- Ans. The Constituent Assembly of India was responsible for drafting and adopting the Indian Constitution, providing a framework for the democratic governance of the country and protecting the rights of its citizens.
33. Who led the struggle against apartheid in South Africa?
- Ans. Nelson Mandela led the struggle against apartheid in South Africa, enduring 27 years of imprisonment before becoming the first black president of South Africa and helping to establish a democratic and multiracial society.
34. What was the apartheid system in South Africa?
- Ans. Apartheid was a system of racial segregation and discrimination enforced by the white minority government in South Africa, which oppressed the black majority and other non-white communities by denying them basic rights and freedoms.
35. What is the significance of the Preamble of the Indian Constitution?
- Ans. The Preamble of the Indian Constitution outlines the fundamental values and guiding principles of the Constitution, serving as its philosophical foundation and a standard to evaluate government laws and actions.

36. Why is India called a 'Republic'? Can a nation be both a Republic as well as a democratic nation?

Ans. A republic country is where the head of a State is an elected person and not someone from a hereditary monarch. India is known as a republic because the people of India elect the head of the State. It is possible to be both a republic and democratic but it is very rare.

37. Why was Nelson Mandela sentenced to life imprisonment? Which policy justified his imprisonment?

Ans. Nelson Mandela received a life sentence for his opposition to the apartheid system in South Africa and for his acts of sabotage against the apartheid government. The rationale behind Mandela's incarceration was rooted in the apartheid system, characterised by racial segregation and oppression within the country.

38. In which session of the INC, did the Congress plan on how independent India's Constitution should look like? What does the date of the session indicate?

Ans. In 1931, the resolution at the Karachi session of the Indian National Congress dwelt on how independent India's constitution should look like. The Congress reaffirmed its commitment to the goal of Poorna Swaraj, emphasising the need to continue the fight for freedom.

Short Answer Type Questions

39. Write a short note on the landmark years in the making of the Indian Constitution.

Ans. In 1928, Motilal Nehru along with eight other Congress leaders drafted a constitution for India. In 1931, the resolution at the Karachi session of the INC dwelt on the nature of India's constitution. The acquaintance with political institutions of the colonial rule also proved helpful in developing conformity over the institutional design. In 1937 elections to Provincial Legislatures and Ministries though the governments formed were not fully democratic but the experience gained in the working of the legislative institutions proved useful for the country. This is the reason why the constitution of India adopted many procedures from colonial laws like the Government of India Act 1935.

40. What do you mean by Constitutional Amendments and what is their importance?

Ans. Constitution needs to be amended regularly according to change in circumstances in order to keep it updated. Those who drafted the Indian Constitution felt that it has to be in accordance with people's aspirations. According to them,

Constitution is not a static and unalterable law. So, they provided for the provisions to include changes from time to time, which are called constitutional amendments.

41. How did the apartheid system affect the lives of black people in South Africa?

Ans. The apartheid system severely restricted the lives of black people in South Africa by enforcing racial segregation, denying them basic rights, and limiting their movements. Blacks were forbidden from living in white areas, required permits to work in white zones, and faced discrimination in public facilities, education, and employment, leading to widespread oppression and inequality.

42. Explain the significance of the Preamble to the Indian Constitution.

Ans. The Preamble to the Indian Constitution is significant as it encapsulates the core values and principles that guide the Constitution. It declares India as a sovereign, socialist, secular, and democratic republic, ensuring justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity for its citizens. The Preamble serves as a guiding light for interpreting the Constitution and evaluating the actions of the government.

43. 'The apartheid system was particularly oppressive for the blacks.' Justify the statement.

Ans. The above given statement is true because, the blacks were not allowed to reside in whites' areas. They were allowed to work in white areas only if they had a permit. There were separate trains, buses, taxis, hotels, hospitals, schools and colleges, libraries, cinema halls, theatres, beaches, swimming pools, public toilets for the whites and blacks. This was called segregation. They were prohibited from even visiting the churches where the whites worshipped. Blacks were not allowed to protest against the terrible treatment.

Paragraph Based Questions

44. Read the sources given below and answer the questions that follow:

Source A – Towards a New Constitution

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. 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.

(a) On which date the new national flag of the Republic of South Africa was unfurled?

Source B – Towards a New Constitution

At least ten lakh people were killed on both sides of the border in partition related violence. There was another problem. 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. When the constitution was being written, the future of the country did not look as secure as it does today.

- (b) Write a brief note on the problems faced by India after independence.

Source C – The Path to Constitution

Many of our leaders were inspired by the ideals of French Revolution, the practice of parliamentary democracy in Britain and the Bill of Rights in the US. The socialist revolution in Russia had inspired many Indians to think of shaping a system based on social and economic equality. Yet they were not simply imitating what others had done. At each step they were questioning whether these things suited our country.

- (c) Which concepts inspired the makers of Indian Constitution?

- Ans.** (a) At the midnight of 26 April 1994, the new national flag of the Republic of South Africa was unfurled which marked the birth of a new democracy in the world.
- (b) Around ten lakh people lost their lives on both sides of the border in partition related violence. Another major problem was that 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.
- (c) The makers of the Indian Constitution were inspired by the ideals of French Revolution, the practice of parliamentary democracy in Britain and the Bill of Rights in the US, the socialist revolution in Russia inspired our leaders in shaping the system based on social and economic equality.

Case Based Questions

- 45.** A constitution is not just a declaration of values and philosophy. It primarily focuses on embodying these values into institutional arrangements. The Constitution of India, for example, extensively details these arrangements. Due to its comprehensive nature, it requires regular amendments to stay current. The framers

of the Indian Constitution believed it should reflect the evolving aspirations and changes in society. They did not view it as a sacred, static, and unalterable law, hence they included provisions for amendments. These changes are known as constitutional amendments.

Like any constitution, the Indian Constitution outlines the procedure for selecting governing officials, defines the extent of power each authority holds, and sets limits on governmental actions by guaranteeing certain inalienable rights to citizens.

45.1 What is a constitutional amendment?

Ans. A constitutional amendment is a formal change or addition made to a constitution to update or improve it, ensuring it reflects current societal needs and values.

45.2 What is the need for a constitutional amendment?

Ans. A constitutional amendment is needed to keep the constitution up-to-date, reflecting current societal changes, addressing new issues, and ensuring it aligns with the evolving aspirations and needs of the people.

45.3 Why does the constitution define the extent of power of each authority?

Ans. The constitution defines the extent of power of each authority to ensure a balanced and fair governance system. By clearly outlining the powers and limits of different branches of government, it prevents misuse or abuse of power, promotes accountability, and protects citizens' rights. This separation of powers helps maintain order and stability in the country, ensuring that no single authority becomes too powerful.

- 46.** 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 27 years of imprisonment, Nelson Mandela walked out of the jail as a free man. 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. The apartheid government came to an end, paving way for the formation of a multi-racial government.

46.1 Why did the white regime change its policies?

Ans. The white regime changed its policies because the government realised that they could no longer keep the blacks under their rule through repression.

46.2 What were the changes made to the policies of the white regime?

Ans. The white regime changed its policies. Discriminatory laws were repealed. Ban on political parties and restrictions on the media were lifted.

46.3 Nelson Mandela is also sometimes called 'Gandhiji of South Africa'. Why?

Ans. Nelson Mandela was occasionally referred to as the "Gandhi of South Africa" due to the influence of Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy and principles on his own beliefs. He incorporated Gandhi's teachings into his political activism. Both figures shared a commitment to non-violence, social unity, and the importance of domestic political stability as essential elements for achieving socioeconomic advancement.

47. Apartheid was the name of a system of racial discrimination unique to South Africa. The white Europeans imposed this system on South Africa. During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the trading companies from Europe occupied it with arms and force, in the way they occupied India. But unlike India, a large number of 'whites' had settled in South Africa and became the local rulers. The system of apartheid divided the people and labelled them on the basis of their skin colour. The native people of South Africa are black in colour. They made up about three-fourth of the population and were called 'blacks'. Besides these two groups, there were people of mixed races who were called 'coloured' and people who migrated from India. The white rulers treated all non-whites as inferiors. The non-whites did not have voting rights. The apartheid system was particularly oppressive for the blacks. They were forbidden from living in white areas. They could work in white areas only if they had a permit. 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. This was called segregation. They could not even visit the churches where the whites worshipped. Blacks could not form associations or protest against the terrible treatment.

47.1 What was apartheid?

Ans. Apartheid was the name of a system of racial discrimination unique to South Africa. The white Europeans imposed this system on South Africa from 1948 to 1994.

47.2 How did apartheid discriminate between white minority and black majority?

Ans. Blacks were forbidden from living in white areas. They could work in white areas only if they had a permit. 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.

47.3 Do you think apartheid in South Africa and the caste discrimination in India have any similarity? Justify your answer.

Ans. There are indeed parallels between apartheid in South Africa and caste discrimination in India. Both represent socially constructed hierarchies that impose discrimination based on an individual's birth status. These systems have resulted in a historical legacy of stigma and violence directed towards those deemed inferior.

48. 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 but it came into effect on 26 January 1950. To mark this day we celebrate January 26 as Republic Day every year. A Drafting Committee chaired by Dr B R Ambedkar prepared a draft constitution for discussion. Several rounds of thorough discussion took place on the Draft Constitution, clause by clause. More than two thousand amendments were considered. The members deliberated for 114 days spread over three years. Every document presented and every word spoken in the Constituent Assembly has been recorded and preserved. These are called 'Constituent Assembly Debates'.

48.1 In which year the elections to the Constituent Assembly were held and when was its first meeting held?

Ans. Elections to the Constituent Assembly were held in July 1946. Its first meeting was held in December 1946.

48.2 When and why is Republic Day celebrated in India?

Ans. The Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution on 26 November 1949 but it came into effect on 26 January 1950. To mark this day we celebrate January 26 as Republic Day every year.

48.3 Write a brief note on 'Constituent Assembly Debates'.

Ans. A Drafting Committee chaired by Dr B R Ambedkar prepared a draft constitution for discussion. Several rounds of thorough discussion took place on the draft constitution, clause by clause. More than two thousand amendments were considered. The members deliberated for 114 days spread over three years. Every document presented and every word spoken in the Constituent Assembly has been recorded and preserved. These are called 'Constituent Assembly Debates'.

Long Answer Type Questions

49. Discuss how the system of apartheid divided people in South Africa. Which type of tactics did the white racist government of South Africa use in order to continue their rule?

Ans. Apartheid was the system of racial discrimination which was unique to South Africa imposed by the white Europeans on South Africa. During the 17th and 18th centuries, the European trading companies occupied it by using force, like they occupied India. But there was dissimilarity between India and South Africa, a large number of white people settled in South Africa and became the local rulers. The apartheid system divided the people and categorised them on the basis of skin colour. The natives of South Africa are black in colour so they were called 'blacks' and they constituted about three-fourth of the total population. In addition to these two groups, there were people of mixed races who were called 'coloured' and people who migrated from India. According to white rulers all non-whites were inferior to them. Also the non-whites did not have the right to vote. The apartheid system was predominantly repressive for the blacks. They were not allowed to live in white areas and they could work in white areas only if they had a permit. Trains, schools and colleges, libraries, buses, taxis, hotels, hospitals, cinema halls, theatres, beaches, swimming pools, public toilets, were all separate for the whites and blacks. This was called segregation. They not allowed even to visit the churches for offering prayers where the whites worshipped. Blacks were also prohibited

from constituting any kind of associations or protest against the dreadful treatment.

50. What do you understand by 'Preamble'? Discuss its importance.

Ans. Values that inspired and guided the independence struggle turned out to form the foundation for India's democracy, which are enshrined in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution. These values guide all the articles of the Indian Constitution. The Constitution begins with a brief declaration of its basic values. This is called the Preamble to the constitution. Inspired from the American model, most countries in the modern world chose to begin their constitutions with a preamble. The Preamble is like a poem on democracy and it contains the philosophy on which the whole Constitution is based. It provides a measure to scan and evaluate any law and action of government, to find out whether it is good or bad. Preamble is the soul of the Constitution of India.

51. Elucidate the role of the Constituent Assembly in shaping the Indian Constitution.

Ans. The Constituent Assembly played a crucial role in shaping the Indian Constitution by bringing together representatives from diverse backgrounds to draft a comprehensive and inclusive document. Established in 1946, the Assembly comprised 299 members who deliberated extensively on various constitutional provisions. They drew inspiration from global constitutional practices, adapting them to India's unique socio-political context. The Assembly emphasised principles of democracy, justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity, ensuring the protection of citizens' rights and establishing a framework for governance. The drafting process involved rigorous debates, consultations, and consensus-building, reflecting the aspirations of the Indian people. The Constitution was adopted on 26 November 1949 and came into effect on 26 January 1950, laying the foundation for India's democratic republic.

52. Discuss the significance of the Preamble in understanding the philosophy of the Indian Constitution.

Ans. The Preamble is significant in understanding the philosophy of the Indian Constitution as it encapsulates the core values and guiding principles that the Constitution aims to uphold. It declares India as a sovereign, socialist, secular, and democratic republic, committed to ensuring justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity for all its

citizens. The Preamble reflects the aspirations of the Indian people for a just and inclusive society, free from discrimination and oppression. It serves as a moral compass for interpreting the Constitution and evaluating the actions of the government. By emphasising the importance of social, economic, and political justice, the Preamble underscores the commitment to creating a fair and equitable society, guiding the implementation of constitutional provisions and shaping India's democratic ethos.

Let's Compete

Multiple-Choice Questions

- Which one of the following leaders played an important role in the post-independence integration of India?

(a) J L Nehru
(b) Mahatma Gandhi
(c) Dr B R Ambedkar
(d) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

Ans. (d) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

- Under whose leadership was a Constitution drafted in the year 1928?

(a) Moti Lal Nehru (b) K M Munshi
(c) Rajendra Prasad (d) None of these

Ans. (a) Moti Lal Nehru

- Who among the following leaders was not a member of the Constituent Assembly?

(a) Jawaharlal Nehru (b) Rajendra Prasad
(c) Mahatma Gandhi (d) Dr B R Ambedkar

Ans. (c) Mahatma Gandhi

- Who among the following was the founder of Andhra Mahila Sabha?

(a) G Durgabai Deshmukh (b) Sarojini Naidu
(c) Indira Gandhi (d) None of these

Ans. (a) G Durgabai Deshmukh

- Who among the following is the author of 'Young India'?

(a) Baldev Singh (b) H C Mookherjee
(c) Mahatma Gandhi (d) Jaipal Singh

Ans. (c) Mahatma Gandhi

- A state which does not have any official religion, is called a

(a) Socialist state. (b) Republican state.
(c) Sovereign state. (d) Secular state.

Ans. (d) Secular state.

- A nation in which the Head of the State is an elected person is known as a

(a) Republic. (b) Sovereign.
(c) Democratic. (d) None of these.

Ans. (a) Republic.

- In which year were elections held to provincial legislatures and ministries all over British India?

(a) 1942 (b) 1939
(c) 1937 (d) 1931

Ans. (c) 1937

- On which date was Nelson Mandela released after 28 years of imprisonment?

(a) May 26, 1994 (b) April 26, 1994
(c) April 26, 1996 (d) April 26, 1993

Ans. (b) April 26, 1994

- Who among the following was the first captain of the Indian hockey team and was also a member of the Constituent Assembly?

(a) Jaipal Singh
(b) Baldev Singh
(c) Shyama Prasad Mukherjee
(d) Somnath Lahiri

Ans. (a) Jaipal Singh

Life Skills

- India is a 'Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic'. Explain.

Ans. India is a 'Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic'. These important ideals mentioned in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution are as follows:

Sovereign means that people have supreme right to make decisions on internal as well as external matters. Socialist means that wealth is generated socially and should be shared equally by society. It is the responsibility of the government to regulate the ownership of land and industry to reduce socio-economic inequalities. Secular means that the citizens are free to follow any religion. But there is no official religion. Democratic means a form of government where people enjoy equal political rights, elect their rulers and hold them accountable. Republic means that the head of the state is an elected person and not a hereditary position.

- 'The working of the Constituent Assembly has given sanctity to the Constitution'. Justify.

Ans. The Constitution not only reflects the views of its members alone but it also expresses the consensus during that time. In India, questions have been raised by several groups related to some provisions of the Constitution but no social

group or political party has ever questioned the legality of the Constitution. Another reason for accepting the Constitution is that the members of the Constituent Assembly represented the people of India. Though the Constituent Assembly was dominated by the Indian National Congress but the Congress included a variety of political groups and opinions within it. There were many members in the Assembly who differed in opinion with the Congress. The Assembly also

represented members from different language groups, castes, classes, religions and occupations. The Assembly worked in an organised, open and consensual manner. Initially some basic principles were determined and agreed upon. After that a Drafting Committee which was chaired by Dr B R Ambedkar prepared a draft constitution for discussion. Several rounds of thorough discussion were held on the Draft Constitution.

Electoral Politics

Check Your Progress

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. Name the Chief of the Haryana Sangharsh Samiti.

- (a) Chaudhary Charan Singh
- (b) Chaudhary Devi Lal
- (c) Ajit Singh
- (d) None of these

Ans. (b) Chaudhary Devi Lal

2. The number of seats reserved in Lok Sabha for the Scheduled Tribes are

- (a) 50.
- (b) 41.
- (c) 47.
- (d) 61.

Ans. (c) 47.

3. Who appoints the Chief Election Commissioner of India?

- (a) The Prime Minister
- (b) The President of India
- (c) The Supreme Court
- (d) The Parliament

Ans. (d) The Parliament

4. What are electronic voting machines (EVMs) used for?

- (a) To register voters
- (b) To record votes
- (c) To announce results
- (d) To conduct election campaigns

Ans. (b) To record votes

5. Which body ensures the fair conduct of elections in India?

- (a) The Parliament
- (b) The Supreme Court
- (c) The Election Commission
- (d) The President

Ans. (c) The Election Commission

6. What is the primary purpose of the Voters' List?

- (a) To record election results
- (b) To identify eligible voters
- (c) To manage polling booths
- (d) To organise election campaigns

Ans. (b) To identify eligible voters

7. What is the primary function of elections in a democracy?

- (a) To collect taxes
- (b) To judge the performance of the judiciary
- (c) To select representatives and form a government
- (d) To create new laws

Ans. (c) To select representatives and form a government

8. What does an election campaign involve?

- (a) Discussion on funding of elections
- (b) Discussion about candidates, parties, and policies
- (c) Counting of votes
- (d) Only local issues

Ans. (b) Discussion about candidates, parties, and policies

9. The term 'constituency' means

- (a) a body of voters.
- (b) a place where the copy of the constitution is kept.
- (c) a particular area from where voters elect a representative to the Lok Sabha/Vidhan Sabha.
- (d) none of these.

Ans. (c) a particular area from where voters elect a representative to the Lok Sabha/Vidhan Sabha.

10. What is a reserved constituency?
- A constituency with no candidates
 - A constituency reserved for specific weaker sections
 - A constituency where only men can vote
 - A constituency with a fixed number of voters

Ans. (b) A constituency reserved for specific weaker sections

11. What is the purpose of the Election Photo Identity Card (EPIC)?

- To provide a unique identification number
- To prevent duplicate voting
- To allow online voting
- To replace the voter list

Ans. (b) To prevent duplicate voting

12. How is voter turnout defined?

- The total number of candidates in an election
- The percentage of eligible voters who cast their vote
- The number of votes a candidate receives
- The number of polling booths in an election

Ans. (b) The percentage of eligible voters who cast their vote

13. Arrange the following events in the order they occur during an election and choose the correct answer from the given options.

- Election campaign
- Filing of nominations
- Polling day
- Counting of votes

Options:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| (a) ABCD | (b) BACD |
| (c) CBAD | (d) ACBD |

Ans. (b) BACD

Very Short Answer Type Questions

14. What is universal adult franchise?

Ans. Universal adult franchise means that all adult citizens, regardless of their caste, religion, gender, or education, have the right to vote in elections. It ensures equality in the electoral process.

15. What is the purpose of elections in a democracy?

Ans. Elections in a democracy allow citizens to choose their representatives, form a government, and influence policies. They ensure accountability, representation, and the peaceful transfer of power.

16. Who prepares the voters' list? Is it a transparent process?

Ans. Voters' list is prepared by the Election Commission of India. The list of eligible voters from a given constituency that is prepared at periodic intervals is called voter list. Yes, it is an extensive and

transparent process through which the voters' list is updated periodically.

17. How does the Election Commission ensure free and fair elections?

Ans. The Election Commission ensures free and fair elections by independently overseeing the electoral process, implementing the code of conduct, managing voter lists, monitoring campaigns, and addressing electoral malpractices.

18. For how long does an election campaign take place in India? Who coordinates it?

Ans. In India election campaign takes place for a two-week period between the announcement of the final list of candidates and the date of polling. During this period the candidates contact their voters, political leaders address election meetings and political parties mobilise their supporters. This is also the period when newspapers and television news are full of election related stories and debates.

19. Why are the agents of all political parties present at the time of counting of votes? What can one infer from that?

Ans. The agents of political parties are present during the counting of votes in the counting station to ensure that the counting is done in a fair and free manner. As the candidate or his election agent cannot be expected to be physically present at each of such counting places and tables, the law permits the candidate to appoint his counting agents.

20. Why do some good people in India hesitate to join politics? State your opinion regarding the same.

Ans. Some good people in India do not join electoral politics because of unhealthy competition, rigging and malpractices, also it must be considered that there is a huge cost of election campaign. Different political parties and leaders often level allegations against one another. Parties and candidates often use dirty tricks to win elections.

Short Answer Type Questions

21. Write a short note on the demerits of an electoral competition in India.

Ans. There are many demerits of an electoral competition like it creates a sense of disunity and 'factionalism' in the society. People often complain of 'party-politics'. Different political parties and leaders frequently make allegations against one another; they also use dirty tricks in order to win elections. Some people say that in a race to win elections the political parties are not able to formulate any long-term policies. Some people who want to serve the country do not prefer

to join politics as they do not like the idea of unhealthy political competition.

22. How does voter participation impact the legitimacy of elections?

Ans. Voter participation impacts the legitimacy of elections by reflecting public engagement and consent. High voter turnout indicates widespread involvement and support for the electoral process, enhancing the credibility and acceptance of election outcomes. Conversely, low participation may signal disenchantment or barriers to voting, potentially undermining the perceived legitimacy of the results.

23. What is the significance of the Model Code of Conduct in elections?

Ans. The Model Code of Conduct is significant as it sets ethical standards for political parties and candidates during elections. It aims to ensure a level playing field, prevent misuse of power, curb electoral malpractices, and maintain the integrity of the electoral process. Compliance with the code fosters fair competition and public confidence in elections.

24. Describe three types of elections in India for the Lok Sabha or the Legislative Assemblies.

Ans. The three types of elections in India for the Lok Sabha and for the Legislative Assemblies are General elections, Mid-term elections and By-elections.

- (i) General elections are held after every five years to select the Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assemblies.
- (ii) Sometimes elections are held before the normal term of five years either for electing Members of Parliament or Members of Legislative Assemblies, in case the government loses the support of Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly respectively.
- (iii) Sometimes the elections are held only for one or a few constituencies in order to fill the vacancy caused by death or resignation of any member. This is called by-election.

25. Discuss the provisions of the model code of conduct for an election campaign as prescribed by the Election Commission of India.

Ans. All the political parties in India have agreed to a 'Model Code of Conduct' for election campaigns. According to which, no party or candidate can:

- (i) use any place of worship for election campaign.
- (ii) use government vehicles, aircrafts and officials for elections.
- (iii) once the schedule of elections is announced, Ministers shall not lay foundation stones of any

projects, take any big policy decisions or make any promises of providing public facilities.

Long Answer Type Questions

26. Explain the election process of the Lok Sabha in India.

Ans. The election process of the Lok Sabha in India is as follows:

- (i) India is divided into 543 constituencies for the purpose of Lok Sabha elections.
- (ii) Voters' list is prepared in elections for those who are eligible to vote i.e., who are above 18 years of age.
- (iii) All the political parties nominate their candidates who get the party symbol and financial support. The candidate then is required to fill the nomination form and deposit some amount as security. He has to make a legal declaration regarding any criminal cases against them and is also required to give the details of assets and educational qualifications.
- (iv) On the day of polling, voters cast their vote.
- (v) After this, votes are counted and the candidate who secures the highest number of votes is declared elected.

27. Evaluate the impact of reserved constituencies on Indian democracy.

Ans. Reserved constituencies have a significant impact on Indian democracy by ensuring the political representation of marginalised communities, such as Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST). This system addresses historical injustices and provides these groups with a voice in legislative bodies, promoting inclusivity and social justice. Reserved constituencies help in creating policies that cater to the specific needs of these communities, fostering their socio-economic development. They also encourage political participation among marginalised groups, strengthening democratic processes. However, the system must be periodically reviewed to ensure it remains effective and does not lead to tokenism. Overall, reserved constituencies enhance the representativeness and equity of the Indian democratic framework, contributing to a more balanced and inclusive governance structure.

28. What is the importance of voter education and awareness in the electoral process?

Ans. Voter education and awareness are crucial in the electoral process as they empower citizens to make informed decisions. Educated voters understand their rights and responsibilities, the importance of their vote, and the impact of their

choices on governance. Awareness campaigns provide information about candidates, political parties, and policies, enabling voters to evaluate their options critically. Voter education helps prevent electoral malpractices, such as vote-buying and coercion, by fostering a culture of informed and ethical voting. It also encourages higher voter turnout, ensuring broad-based participation and enhancing the legitimacy of election outcomes. Ultimately, voter education strengthens democracy by promoting active citizenship, accountability, and responsive governance, leading to a more transparent and effective electoral process.

29. Explain the role of the Election Commission in conducting free and fair elections in India.

Ans. Some of the important powers of the Election Commission of India are as follows:

- (i) EC takes all the decisions on every aspect of conduct and controls the elections from the day of announcement of election schedule to the declaration of results.
- (ii) It implements the Code of Conduct strictly and if any candidate or political party violates it then the EC punishes them accordingly.
- (iii) The EC issues several orders to the government in order to prevent use and misuse of governmental machinery to enhance its chances to win elections, or to transfer some government officials.
- (iv) The government officials work under the control of the EC while on election duty and not the government.
- (v) The Election Commission reprimands the government and administrative machinery for their lapses. If the election officials are of the opinion that polling was not fair in some booths or even an entire constituency, they order a re-poll.

———— Self-Assessment ————

Multiple-Choice Questions

- 1.** The elections to the Lok Sabha that takes place after 5 years are known as
 - (a) general elections.
 - (b) by-elections.
 - (c) mid-term elections.
 - (d) none of these.

Ans. (a) general elections.

- 2.** How often is the Voters' List updated?
 - (a) Every year
 - (b) Every two years
 - (c) Every three years
 - (d) Every five years

Ans. (d) Every five years

- 3.** What is the role of party agents in polling booths?
 - (a) To influence voters
 - (b) To ensure fair voting

- (c) To distribute money
- (d) To count votes

Ans. (b) To ensure fair voting

4. Why are election campaigns important?

- (a) To distribute voter IDs
- (b) To discuss and debate policies and candidates
- (c) To conduct opinion polls
- (d) To collect votes

Ans. (b) To discuss and debate policies and candidates

5. What happens if a candidate violates the election code of conduct?

- (a) They are sent to jail.
- (b) They are disqualified.
- (c) They are fined a sum of 5 lakh.
- (d) None of these.

Ans. (b) They are disqualified.

6. What does the term 'repoll' mean?

- (a) Counting votes again
- (b) Voting again in specific booths or constituencies
- (c) Replacing candidates
- (d) Declaring results again

Ans. (b) Voting again in specific booths or constituencies

7. Which of the following is not allowed during election campaigns?

- (a) Using government resources
- (b) Holding public meetings
- (c) Distributing manifestos
- (d) Debating policies

Ans. (a) Using government resources

8. What is the role of the Election Commission in India?

- (a) To make laws
- (b) To conduct free and fair elections
- (c) To form the government
- (d) To manage political parties

Ans. (b) To conduct free and fair elections

9. Which one of the following is not allowed during the election campaign?

- (a) Campaigning through phone
- (b) Door to door canvassing
- (c) Advertisements on Television channels
- (d) Offering money to the voters

Ans. (d) Offering money to the voters

10. A 'reserved constituency' means

- (a) reserved for defence personnel.
- (b) reserved for SCs, STs, OBCs and women.
- (c) reserved for political parties belonging to the opposition.
- (d) all of these.

Ans. (b) reserved for SCs, STs, OBCs and women.

11. What does the term 'universal adult franchise' mean?

- (a) Only adults above 30 years can vote
- (b) All adults have the right to vote
- (c) Only educated adults can vote
- (d) Only men can vote

Ans. (b) All adults have the right to vote

12. What is an electoral constituency?

- (a) A place where votes are counted
- (b) A geographical area represented by an elected official
- (c) The headquarters of a political party
- (d) A list of eligible voters

Ans. (b) A geographical area represented by an elected official

13. Arrange the following activities in the sequence they happen and choose the correct answer from the options given below.

- A. Announcement of election schedule
- B. Counting of votes
- C. Release of election manifestos
- D. Declaration of results

Options:

- (a) ABCD (b) BACD
(c) CBAD (d) ACBD

Ans. (d) ACBD

14. Arrange the following stages in the election process in chronological order and choose the correct answer from the given options.

- A. Updating the Voters' List
- B. Conducting election campaigns
- C. Nomination of candidates
- D. Polling and counting of votes

Options:

- (a) ABCD (b) BACD
(c) CBAD (d) DCAB

Ans. (d) DCAB

Assertion-Reason Type Questions

For question numbers 15 to 23, two statements are given as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option.

Options:

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is true but R is false.
- (d) A is false but R is true.

15. Assertion (A): Lok Dal and its partners won 86 out of 90 seats in the State Assembly.

Reason (R): Lok Dal alone won 60 seats and thus had a clear majority in the Assembly.

Ans. (d) A is false but R is true.

16. Assertion (A): Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha (Assembly) elections are held regularly after every five years.

Reason (R): After five years the term of all the elected representatives comes to an end.

Ans. (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

17. Assertion (A): The representative elected from each constituency is called a Member of Parliament or MP.

Reason (R): For Lok Sabha elections, the country is divided into 546 constituencies.

Ans. (c) A is true but R is false.

18. Assertion (A): The Congress party led by Indira Gandhi gave the slogan of Garibi Hatao (Remove poverty) in the Lok Sabha elections of 1969.

Reason (R): The party promised to reorient all the policies of the government to remove poverty from the country.

Ans. (d) A is false but R is true.

19. Assertion (A): Elections in India are conducted by an independent Election Commission.

Reason (R): The Election Commission ensures free and fair elections by exercising its powers.

Ans. (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

20. Assertion (A): The Voters' List is updated every five years in India.

Reason (R): This ensures that all eligible voters can vote and no eligible voter is left out.

Ans. (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

21. Assertion (A): Election campaigns are not necessary for a democratic election.

Reason (R): Campaigns allow candidates to discuss their policies and attract voters.

Ans. (d) A is false but R is true.

22. Assertion (A): Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) prevent duplicate voting.

Reason (R): EVMs are used to record votes electronically and ensure accuracy.

Ans. (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

23. Assertion (A): Elections in India are held at regular intervals.

Reason (R): Regular elections ensure that new candidates get a chance to represent the people.

Ans. (c) A is true but R is false.

Match the Following

24. Match the following items given in Column A with those in Column B. Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

Column A (Slogans)	Column B (Leaders/Political Parties)
A. Garibi Hatao	1. Congress Party
B. Save Democracy	2. Jayaprakash Narayan
C. Land to the Tiller	3. Left Front
D. Protect the Self-Respect of the Telugus	4. N T Rama Rao

Codes:

A	B	C	D
(a) 1	2	3	4
(b) 2	1	4	3
(c) 4	1	3	2
(d) 1	3	2	4

Ans. (a) 1 2 3 4

25. Match the following principles given in Column A with their features in Column B. Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

Column A (Principles)	Column B (Features)
A. Universal adult franchise	1. Each constituency has roughly the same population
B. Representation of weaker sections	2. Reservation of seats for the SCs and STs
C. One vote one value	3. Everyone who is 18 years of age or older has a right to vote
D. Open political competition	4. Anyone can form a party or contest elections

Codes:

A	B	C	D
(a) 3	2	1	4
(b) 2	3	1	4
(c) 4	2	3	1
(d) 3	1	2	4

Ans. (a) 3 2 1 4

26. Match the following stages given in Column A with their descriptions in Column B. Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

Column A (Stages)	Column B (Descriptions)
A. Election campaign	1. Voters cast their votes
B. Polling day	2. Candidates contact voters

C. Counting of votes	3. Votes are counted
D. Declaration of results	4. Results are announced

Codes:

A	B	C	D
(a) 3	2	1	4
(b) 2	1	3	4
(c) 4	2	3	1
(d) 3	1	2	4

Ans. (b) 2 1 3 4

27. Match the following terms given in Column A with their meanings in Column B. Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

Column A (Terms)	Column B (Meanings)
A. Electoral roll	1. Geographical area represented by an elected official
B. Constituency	2. List of eligible voters
C. EVM	3. Machine used to record votes
D. Voter turnout	4. Percentage of eligible voters who cast their vote

Codes:

A	B	C	D
(a) 3	2	1	4
(b) 2	1	3	4
(c) 4	2	3	1
(d) 1	2	3	4

Ans. (b) 2 1 3 4

Find the Incorrect Option

28. (a) The government spent about 3,500 crores in conducting Lok Sabha elections in 2014.
 (b) In 2005, our government decided to buy six nuclear submarines from France. Each submarine cost about 3,000 crores.
 (c) Delhi hosted the Commonwealth Games in 2010. The estimate for its cost is around ₹ 20,000 crores.
 (d) A complete revision of the voter list takes place every three years.

Ans. (d) A complete revision of the voter list takes place every three years.

Correct and Rewrite the Following Statement

29. Currently, in the Lok Sabha, 80 seats are reserved for the Scheduled Castes and 41 for the Scheduled Tribes (as on 26 January 2019).

Ans. Currently, in the Lok Sabha, 84 seats are reserved for the Scheduled Castes and 47 for the Scheduled Tribes (as on 26 January 2019).

Fill in the Blanks

30. **One-third** of the seats are reserved in rural and urban local bodies for women candidates.
31. Political parties nominate their candidates who get the party symbol and support. Party's nomination is often called **party 'ticket'**.
32. People's participation in election is usually measured by **voter turnout**.

Very Short Answer Type Questions

33. What is a general election?
Ans. A general election is an election where all or most members of a given political body are chosen. In India, general elections are held for the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies every five years, involving all constituencies.
34. Why is the Voters' List important?
Ans. The Voters' List is crucial as it identifies all eligible voters, ensuring that only those who are registered can vote. It prevents electoral fraud, facilitates the organisation of polling, and upholds the principle of one person, one vote.
35. What is the role of election campaigns?
Ans. Election campaigns allow candidates and political parties to present their policies, visions, and achievements to voters. Campaigns facilitate informed decision-making, public debate, and political engagement, helping voters choose representatives aligned with their interests.
36. What is the full form of 'EPIC'? What is its significance?
Ans. In the last few years a new system of Election Photo Identity Card [EPIC] has been introduced. The government has tried to give this card to every person on the voters list. The voters are required to carry this card when they go out to vote, so that no one can vote for someone else.
37. What are the main challenges in ensuring free and fair elections?
Ans. Challenges in ensuring free and fair elections include electoral malpractices like bribery, coercion, misuse of government resources, voter fraud, and the influence of money and criminal elements. Addressing these issues requires robust legal frameworks and vigilant enforcement by election authorities.
38. What is voters' list? After how many years is the voters' list revised in India?
Ans. In a democratic election, the list of those who are eligible to vote is prepared much before the election and given to everyone. This list is officially called the Electoral Roll and is commonly known as the Voters' List. A complete revision of the list takes place every five years.

39. Who appoints the Chief Election Commissioner of India? Write any one power of CEC.

Ans. The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) is appointed by the President of India. CEC takes decisions on every aspect of conduct and control of elections from the announcement of elections to the declaration of results.

Short Answer Type Questions

40. How do reserved constituencies promote inclusivity in elections?
Ans. Reserved constituencies promote inclusivity by ensuring representation for marginalised communities, such as Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST). This system addresses historical disadvantages, providing these groups with a voice in legislative bodies and helping to create a more equitable and representative political system, thus strengthening democracy.
41. Discuss the conditions which make an election democratic.
Ans. Newspapers and television reports frequently refer to allegations about the following issues:
 - (i) Inclusion of false names and exclusion of genuine names in the voters' list.
 - (ii) Misuse of government facilities and officials by the ruling party.
 - (iii) Excessive use of money by wealthy candidates and political parties.
 - (iv) Intimidation of voters and rigging on the polling day.

Many of the reports published in the newspapers are correct, but luckily they are not on such a scale so as to beat the purpose of elections.
42. Why is the independence of the Election Commission crucial for democracy?
Ans. The independence of the Election Commission is crucial for democracy because it ensures that elections are conducted impartially, without undue influence from the government or political parties. An independent Election Commission can enforce rules fairly, maintain public trust, and uphold the integrity of the electoral process, thereby safeguarding democratic principles.
43. Why is there no criteria of educational qualification for contesting elections?
Ans. Educational qualifications are not relevant to all kinds of jobs. The relevant qualification for selection to the Indian cricket team is not the attainment of educational degrees in cricket, but the ability to play cricket well. Similarly the relevant qualification for being an MLA or an MP is the ability to understand people's needs,

problems and to represent their interests. In India it would mean depriving a majority of the country's citizens the right to contest elections. For example, if graduation is made compulsory for candidates then more than 90 per cent of the citizens will become ineligible to contest elections.

44. How many seats are reserved of SCs and STs in the Lok Sabha and what are the reasons for taking this step?

Ans. The makers of our Constitution knew that in an open electoral competition there is a possibility that certain weaker sections may not get an opportunity to get elected to the Lok Sabha and the state Legislative Assemblies. If that happens, our Parliament and Assemblies would be deprived of the voice of an important part of our population. In order to deal with such a situation the makers of our Constitution came out with an idea of a special system of reserved constituencies for those belonging to the weaker sections. At present, 84 seats are reserved for the Scheduled Castes and 47 for the Scheduled Tribes in Lok Sabha (as on 1st September 2012). The number of seats reserved for SCs and STs is in proportion to their share in the total population.

45. 'The makers of our Constitution thought of a special system of reserved constituencies for the weaker sections.' Justify the statement.

Ans. The above given statement is true because the socially and economically weaker sections of the Indian society had suffered a lot in the past. So the makers of our Constitution decided to incorporate the provisions in the constitution to ensure the upliftment of the weaker sections. Some constituencies are reserved for people who belong to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In a SC reserved constituency only someone who belongs to the Scheduled Castes is eligible to contest the election. Similarly only those belonging to the Scheduled Tribes can contest an election from a constituency reserved for ST. Currently, in the Lok Sabha, 84 seats are reserved for the Scheduled Castes and 47 for the Scheduled Tribes.

Paragraph Based Questions

46. Read the sources given below and answer the questions that follow:

Source A – Assembly Elections in Haryana

The State had been ruled by a Congress party led government since 1982. Chaudhary Devi Lal, then an opposition leader, led a movement

called 'Nyaya Yudh' (Struggle for Justice) and formed a new party, Lok Dal. His party joined other opposition parties to form a front against the Congress in the elections. In the election campaign, Devi Lal said that if his party won the elections, his government would waive the loans of farmers and small businessmen. He promised that this would be the first action of his government.

- (a) Write a short note on the strategy adopted by Chaudhary Devi Lal to win the assembly elections in Haryana.

Source B – Is It Good to Have Political Competition?

Different political parties and leaders often level allegations against one another. Parties and candidates often use dirty tricks to win elections. Some people say that this pressure to win electoral fights does not allow sensible long-term policies to be formulated. Some good people who may wish to serve the country do not enter this arena. They do not like the idea of being dragged into unhealthy competition.

- (b) Why does honest and good people do not join politics?

Source C – What is Our System of Elections?

Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha (Assembly) elections are held regularly after every five years. After five years the term of all the elected representatives comes to an end. The Lok Sabha or Vidhan Sabha stands 'dissolved'. Elections are held in all constituencies at the same time, either on the same day or within a few days. This is called a general election. Sometimes election is held only for one constituency to fill the vacancy caused by death or resignation of a member. This is called a by-election.

- (c) Write a short note on the distinction between a general election and by-election.

Ans. (a) Chaudhary Devi Lal led a movement called 'Nyaya Yudh' (Struggle for Justice) and formed a new party, Lok Dal. Newly formed party along with other opposition parties formed a front against the Congress in the elections. During the election campaign, Devi Lal said that if his party wins the elections, his government would waive the loans of farmers and small businessmen.

(b) Almost all the politicians and political parties adopt various methods to win elections at any cost, like levelling allegations against each other. Due to this pressure of winning an election the politicians are not able to frame the sensible long-term policies for the growth

of a country. Though there are many honest people in our country who wish to serve the nation, but they do not like the idea of being dragged into this unhealthy competition.

- (c) Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections are held regularly after every five years. Elections are conducted at the same time in all constituencies, either on the same day or within a span of few days. This is called a general election. Sometimes elections are conducted only for one constituency to fill the vacancy due to death or resignation of a member. This is called a by-election.

Case Based Questions

- 47.** Our constitution entitles every citizen to elect her/his representative and to be elected as a representative. The constitution makers, however, were worried that in an open electoral competition, certain weaker sections may not stand a good chance to get elected to the Lok Sabha and the state Legislative Assemblies. They may not have the required resources, education and contacts to contest and win elections against others. Those who are influential and resourceful may prevent them from winning elections. If that happens, our Parliament and Assemblies would be deprived of the voice of a significant section of our population. That would make our democracy less representative and less democratic. So, the makers of our constitution thought of a special system of reserved constituencies for the weaker sections. Some constituencies are reserved for people who belong to the Scheduled Castes [SC] and Scheduled Tribes [ST]. In a SC reserved constituency only someone who belongs to the Scheduled Castes can stand for election. Similarly only those belonging to the Scheduled Tribes can contest an election from a constituency reserved for ST. Currently, in the Lok Sabha, 84 seats are reserved for the Scheduled Castes and 47 for the Scheduled Tribes (as on 26 January 2019). This number is in proportion to their share in the total population. Thus, the reserved seats for SC and ST do not take away the legitimate share of any other social group.

- 47.1** What are the parameters, which can help in winning the elections?

Ans. Resources, education and contacts play an important role in winning elections.

- 47.2** What is the negative impact of having influential people contesting elections?

Ans. Those who are influential and resourceful may prevent them from winning elections. If that happens, our Parliament and Assemblies would

be deprived of the voice of a significant section of our population. That would make our democracy less representative and less democratic.

- 47.3** Do you think reserving constituencies was a good idea? Justify your answer giving a suitable reason.

Ans. It is essential for democracies to distribute power among all communities. In India, certain constituencies have been reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to guarantee that individuals from these groups are elected to legislative bodies. This measure aims to rectify the historical marginalisation of these communities and to ensure their adequate representation.

- 48.** We noted that in a democratic election people should have a real choice. This happens only when there are almost no restrictions on anyone to contest an election. This is what our system provides. Anyone who can be a voter can also become a candidate in elections. The only difference is that in order to be a candidate the minimum age is 25 years, while it is only 18 years for being a voter. There are some other restrictions on criminals, etc. but these apply in very extreme cases. Political parties nominate their candidates who get the party symbol and support. Party's nomination is often called party 'ticket'. Every person who wishes to contest an election has to fill a 'nomination form' and give some money as 'security deposit'. Recently, a new system of declaration has been introduced on direction from the Supreme Court. Every candidate has to make a legal declaration, giving full details of: serious criminal cases pending against the candidate; the assets and liabilities of the candidate and his or her family; and educational qualifications of the candidate. This information has to be made public. This provides an opportunity to the voters to make their decision on the basis of the information provided by the candidates.

- 48.1** What do the legal declarations to be made by a candidate include?

Ans. Every candidate has to make a legal declaration, giving full details of: serious criminal cases pending against the candidate; the assets and liabilities of the candidate and her or his family; and educational qualifications of the candidate.

- 48.2** What is a party 'ticket'?

Ans. Political parties nominate their candidates who get the party symbol and support. Party's nomination is often called party 'ticket'.

- 48.3** Why did the supreme court give the direction related to a candidates's educational qualification, assets and liabilities and criminal background?

Ans. The legal declaration has been incorporated into the nomination process following the recent directives of the Supreme Court. This measure aims to ensure that voters are informed about the particulars of the candidates for whom they are casting their votes.

49. Indian elections are generally free and fair, with the winning party forming the government because people choose it over its rivals. However, this is not always true for every constituency. Some candidates may win due to money power and unfair means, but overall, general election results reflect popular preference. Over the past 60 years, exceptions have been rare, showcasing India's democratic election process.

However, deeper questions reveal challenges: Are voters well-informed? Do they have real choices? Is the playing field level for everyone? Can an ordinary citizen win elections? These questions highlight limitations such as candidates with money having an unfair advantage, criminal connections influencing elections, political families dominating ticket distribution, and major parties being too similar in policies and practice. Smaller parties and independent candidates face significant disadvantages. These issues are not unique to India but are concerns in many democracies. Citizens, social activists, and organizations are calling for electoral reforms to address these challenges. What reforms can you think of? How can an ordinary citizen address these issues?

49.1 Are Indian elections generally free and fair?

Ans. Yes, Indian elections are generally free and fair, with the winning party forming the government because people choose it over its rivals. However, in some constituencies, money power and unfair means can influence the outcome.

49.2 What are citizens and organisations doing about the challenges in Indian elections?

Ans. Citizens, social activists, and organisations are calling for electoral reforms to address these challenges. They are seeking ways to ensure a level playing field and more informed, real choices for voters.

49.3 Analyse the challenges faced by Indian voters in elections.

Ans. Challenges include candidates with money having an unfair advantage, criminal connections influencing elections, political families dominating ticket distribution, and major parties being too similar in policies. Smaller parties and independents face significant disadvantages. Owing to these challenges, a normal voter is

sometimes unable to exercise their voting right leading to corrupt candidate winning the election.

Long Answer Type Questions

50. Explain the system of electoral constituencies in India.

Ans. Our country is divided into different areas which are called electoral constituencies. For Lok Sabha elections, India is divided into 543 parliamentary constituencies. The representatives who are elected from the parliamentary constituencies are called a Member of Parliament. In a democratic election every vote has equal value and in order to ensure this, our Constitution requires that each constituency should have a roughly equal population. Each state is divided into a number of Assembly constituencies. The elected representatives are called the Member of Legislative Assembly. There are several assembly constituencies in each Parliamentary constituency. The same principle applies for elections to local bodies like Panchayats and Municipal corporations. Each village or town is divided into several 'wards'. Each ward elects one member of the village or the urban local body.

51. Elucidate the significance of electoral competition in a democracy.

Ans. Electoral competition is significant in a democracy as it provides citizens with choices among different candidates and political parties, ensuring that elected representatives are accountable to the people. Competition fosters debate on policies and governance, encouraging political parties to address public issues and improve their performance. It incentivises politicians to respond to constituents' needs and preferences, promoting better governance and public service. Healthy competition prevents the concentration of power, reducing the risk of authoritarianism. It also encourages political participation, as citizens feel their vote can influence outcomes. Ultimately, electoral competition strengthens democratic principles by ensuring that government authority is derived from the consent of the governed through regular, free, and fair elections.

52. Analyse the challenges faced by the Indian electoral system in maintaining fairness.

Ans. The Indian electoral system faces several challenges in maintaining fairness, including electoral malpractices like bribery, vote-buying, and intimidation. The influence of money power and criminal elements distorts the level playing field, favouring wealthy and influential candidates. The presence of fake voters and issues with

the Voters' List can undermine the integrity of the electoral process. Media bias and misuse of government resources by ruling parties also pose significant challenges. Ensuring transparency in campaign finance and adherence to the Model Code of Conduct are ongoing concerns. Addressing these issues requires robust legal frameworks, vigilant enforcement by the Election Commission, public awareness campaigns, and reforms to enhance the inclusivity, transparency, and accountability of the electoral process.

53. Discuss the provisions which make the Election Commission of India an independent body.

Ans. In India the elections are conducted by an independent and powerful constitutional body, the Election Commission of India. It functions independently in same way as the judiciary does. The President of India appoints the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and after appointment, the Chief Election Commissioner is not answerable to the President or the government. It is practically impossible for the government to remove the CEC even if the government does not like what the Commission does. Some of the important powers of the Election Commission of India are as follows:

- EC takes all the decisions on every aspect of conduct and controls the elections from the day of announcement of election schedule to the declaration of results.
- It implements the Code of Conduct strictly and if any candidate or political party violates it then the EC punishes them accordingly.
- The EC issues several orders to the government in order to prevent use and misuse of governmental machinery to enhance its chances to win elections, or to transfer some government officials.
- The government officials work under the control of the EC while on election duty and not the government.

————— Let's Compete —————

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. Who among the following gave the slogan 'Garibi Hatao'?

- (a) Rajiv Gandhi (b) Rahul Gandhi
(c) Jawaharlal Nehru (d) Indira Gandhi

Ans. (d) Indira Gandhi

2. How many seats are reserved for the SCs and STs in the Lok Sabha?

- (a) 84, 47 (b) 94, 57
(c) 84, 67 (d) 94, 77

Ans. (a) 84, 47

3. How many Lok Sabha Constituencies is India divided into?

- (a) 547 (b) 543
(c) 552 (d) None of these

Ans. (b) 543

4. Which among the following political parties gave the slogan 'Save Democracy' during Lok Sabha elections in 1977?

- (a) TDP (b) Left front
(c) Congress Party (d) Janata Party

Ans. (d) Janata Party

5. Which of the following bodies conducts elections in India?

- (a) Election Commission of India
(b) Supreme Court of India
(c) Attorney-General of India
(d) Comptroller General of India

Ans. (a) Election Commission of India

6. In India, who among the following votes in large numbers during elections?

- (a) Rich and literate (b) Poor and illiterate
(c) Rich and privileged (d) All of these

Ans. (b) Poor and illiterate

7. In order to ensure more transparency in elections, the Election Commission of India introduced which of the following?

- (a) Polling booths (b) Ballot papers
(c) Indelible ink (d) EVMs

Ans. (d) EVMs

8. Which of the following is not a norm for a candidate to contest the Lok Sabha elections?

- (a) Security deposit
(b) Information to be made public
(c) Educational qualification
(d) None of these

Ans. (c) Educational qualification

9. The boundaries of a constituency in India are decided on the basis of

- (a) literacy.
(b) religion.
(c) caste.
(d) population.

Ans. (d) population.

10. Which state of India has the largest number of Vidhan Sabha and Lok Sabha seats?

- (a) Maharashtra
(b) Uttar Pradesh
(c) Tamil Nadu
(d) Rajasthan

Ans. (b) Uttar Pradesh

Life Skills

1. 'Election Commission of India is very powerful'.
Justify the statement with appropriate examples.

Ans. In India the elections are conducted by an independent and powerful constitutional body, the Election Commission of India. It functions independently in same way as the judiciary does. The President of India appoints the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and after appointment, the Chief Election Commissioner is not answerable to the President or the government. It is practically impossible for the government to remove the CEC even if the government does not like what the Commission does. Some of the important powers of the Election Commission of India are as follows:

- EC takes all the decisions on every aspect of conduct and controls the elections from the day of announcement of election schedule to the declaration of results.

- It implements the Code of Conduct strictly and if any candidate or political party violates it then the EC punishes them accordingly.
- The EC issues several orders to the government in order to prevent use and misuse of governmental machinery to enhance its chances to win elections, or to transfer some government officials.
- The government officials work under the control of the EC while on election duty and not the government.

2. What do you understand by secret ballot system? Why is it considered good for the electoral process?

Ans. Secret ballot system is used in the elections to the Parliament or Legislative Assemblies in which the votes polled by the voters is kept secret to the other voters. Secret ballot system helps the voters to cast their vote without being threatened. This system also ensures free and fair elections in the country.

4

Working of Institutions

Check Your Progress

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. The President of India is elected by
 - (a) the Prime minister and the councils of ministers.
 - (b) direct election by citizens.
 - (c) indirect election by electoral college.
 - (d) none of these.**Ans.** (c) indirect election by electoral college.
2. Who appoints Ministers in the Union Cabinet?
 - (a) The President of India on the advice of the Prime Minister
 - (b) The President
 - (c) The Prime Minister
 - (d) None of these**Ans.** (a) The President of India on the advice of the Prime Minister
3. 'Office Memorandum' means
 - (a) the memoirs of the leaders of the past.
 - (b) an important defence documents.
 - (c) an order issued by the Government of India.
 - (d) none of these.**Ans.** (c) an order issued by the Government of India.
4. What is the role of the Prime Minister in India?
 - (a) To act as the head of the judiciary
 - (b) To serve as the head of the government
 - (c) To lead the Parliament sessions
 - (d) To represent the President internationally**Ans.** (b) To serve as the head of the government
5. Who appoints the Prime Minister of India?
 - (a) The Parliament
 - (b) The President

- (c) The Supreme Court
- (d) The Council of Ministers

- Ans.** (b) The President
6. What is an Office Memorandum?
 - (a) A private communication between ministers
 - (b) A public notice issued by a government authority
 - (c) An internal memo among civil servants
 - (d) A policy decision of the government**Ans.** (d) A policy decision of the government
7. What percentage of government jobs was reserved for SEBCs in the 1990 order?
 - (a) 15 per cent
 - (b) 22.5 per cent
 - (c) 27 per cent
 - (d) 30 per cent**Ans.** (c) 27 per cent
8. Who was the head of the Second Backward Classes Commission?
 - (a) B R Ambedkar
 - (b) V P Singh
 - (c) B P Mandal
 - (d) Jawaharlal Nehru**Ans.** (c) B P Mandal
9. What is the role of the Supreme Court in India?
 - (a) To make laws
 - (b) To execute policies
 - (c) To settle disputes and interpret the Constitution
 - (d) To conduct elections**Ans.** (c) To settle disputes and interpret the Constitution
10. How many houses does the Indian Parliament have?
 - (a) One
 - (b) Two
 - (c) Three
 - (d) Four**Ans.** (b) Two

11. What is the main function of the legislature in India?

- (a) To implement laws (b) To interpret laws
(c) To make laws (d) To enforce laws

Ans. (c) To make laws

12. Who can dismiss the Prime Minister in India?

- (a) The President
(b) The Parliament
(c) The Supreme Court
(d) The Council of Ministers

Ans. (b) The Parliament

13. What is a reserved constituency?

- (a) A constituency reserved for only women candidates
(b) A constituency reserved for weaker sections
(c) A constituency reserved for senior citizens
(d) A constituency reserved for military personnel

Ans. (b) A constituency reserved for weaker sections

14. Arrange the following events in the order they occur in policy-making and choose the correct answer from the options given below:

- A. Decision by the Prime Minister and Cabinet
B. Approval by the Parliament
C. Drafting of the policy by civil servants
D. Implementation of the policy

Options:

- (a) ABCD (b) BACD
(c) CBAD (d) ACBD

Ans. (a) ABCD

Very Short Answer Type Questions

15. What was the Mandal Commission?

Ans. In 1979, the Government of India appointed the 2nd Backward Classes Commission which was headed by B P Mandal so it was widely called the Mandal Commission.

16. How is the Prime Minister of India selected?

Ans. The Prime Minister of India is appointed by the President. The President selects the leader of the majority party or coalition in the Lok Sabha. If no single party has a majority, the President appoints the person most likely to secure majority support.

17. What are Cabinet and Cabinet Secretariat?

Ans. Cabinet is the inner ring of the Council of Ministers. It is the body that manages the government's day-to-day operations and responds to sudden events. The Cabinet Secretariat serves as the administrative leader responsible for offering secretarial support to the Cabinet and its associated committees.

18. What do you understand by the term 'institutions'?

Ans. Some arrangements are made in modern democracies and these arrangements are called institutions. A democracy works smoothly when these institutions carry out the functions assigned to them.

19. What are the functions of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha?

Ans. The Lok Sabha initiates and passes money bills, represents the people, and holds the government accountable. The Rajya Sabha represents the states, reviews and suggests amendments to legislation, and shares legislative responsibilities with the Lok Sabha.

20. What is the role of civil servants in the Indian government?

Ans. Civil servants, as part of the permanent executive, implement government policies, manage public administration, and provide expertise and continuity in governance. They assist political leaders in decision-making and ensure effective execution of laws and programs.

21. Who has the power to interpret the Constitution of India and how?

Ans. The Supreme Court and the High Courts have the power to interpret the Constitution of the country. They can declare invalid any law of the legislature or the actions of the executive, whether at the Union level or at the state level, if they find such a law or action is against the Constitution.

22. Which institution is empowered to make changes to an existing law in India? List other powers of this institution also.

Ans. Parliaments all over the world can make new laws, change existing laws, or abolish existing laws and make new ones in their place. Parliaments control all the money that governments have. In most countries the public money can be spent only when Parliament sanctions it. Parliament is the highest forum of discussion and debate on public issues and national policy in any country.

Short Answer Type Questions

23. Describe the process of how a bill becomes a law in India.

Ans. A bill is introduced in either house of Parliament, debated, and voted upon. If passed by a majority, it moves to the other house for approval. Once both houses pass the bill, it is sent to the President for assent. Upon the President's approval, the bill becomes a law. This process ensures thorough scrutiny and democratic decision-making.

24. How do reserved constituencies help in promoting social justice in India?

Ans. Reserved constituencies promote social justice by ensuring political representation for historically marginalised communities, such as Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST). This system addresses historical inequalities, empowers these communities, and ensures their participation in the legislative process, contributing to a more inclusive and equitable society.

25. Discuss the relationship between the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers.

Ans. In India, the most important institution is the Prime Minister who is appointed by the President of India. The Prime Minister of India does not enjoy a fixed tenure and he remains in power so long as he remains the leader of the majority party or coalition. Council of Ministers is the official name for the body that includes all the Ministers that generally has 60 to 80 ministers. The different ranks of ministers in India are as follows:

- (i) Cabinet Ministers are usually top-level leaders who are in charge of the major ministries. The Cabinet Ministers take decisions in the name of the Council of Ministers, so Cabinet is the inner ring of the Council of Ministers which comprises about 20 ministers.
- (ii) Ministers of State with independent charge are In-charge of smaller Ministries. They can participate in the Cabinet meetings only when invited.
- (iii) Ministers of State are attached to and required to assist Cabinet Ministers.

26. 'Working with institutions is not easy'. Support your answer with appropriate reasons.

Ans. There are certain rules and regulations for the working of these institutions. Certain meetings, committees and routines are involved in institutions which often lead to delays and complications. Some people feel it is better that only one person take all decisions without any rules and regulations. Some delays and complications introduced by institutions are very constructive as they provide an opportunity to large number of people to be consulted in any decision. But institutions make it tough to take a good decision quickly and they also make it equally difficult to rush through a bad decision. This is the reason why democratic form of government insists on institutions.

27. What do you understand by a Coalition government? What limitations has it imposed on the powers of the Prime Minister?

Ans. In India the most important institution is the Prime Minister who is appointed by the President of India. The President appoints the leader of the majority party or the coalition of parties as the Prime Minister. When no single party gets a majority, the President appoints the person most likely to secure a majority support. The Prime Minister of India does not enjoy a fixed tenure and he remains in power so long as he remains the leader of the majority party or coalition. The President of India appoints other ministers on the advice of the Prime Minister, who usually belong to the party or the coalition that has the majority in the Lok Sabha.

Long Answer Type Questions

28. Explain the necessity of the Parliament in a democracy.

Ans. In a democracy the elected representatives exercise the ultimate political authority on behalf of the people. In India the body of elected representatives is called Parliament and at the state level this is called Legislative Assembly. Such an assembly exists in every democratic country and it exercises the political authority in the following ways:

- (i) Parliament is the ultimate authority for framing laws in any country. The job of law making is so critical that these assemblies are called legislatures. Parliaments across the world makes new laws, modify existing laws, or eliminate existing laws and make new ones in their place.
- (ii) Parliaments across the world have some control over those who run the government. In India, this control is direct and full. The people who run the government machinery can take decisions only if they enjoy support of the Parliament.
- (iii) Parliaments control the money that governments have, as public money can be spent only with the sanction of the Parliament.
- (iv) Parliament is the highest forum of discussion and debate on public issues and national policy.

29. Analyse the impact of coalition politics on the functioning of the Indian government.

Ans. Coalition politics has a significant impact on the functioning of the Indian government. In coalition governments, multiple political parties come together to form a majority, leading to power-sharing and compromise. This can enhance representation and inclusivity, as diverse groups and regions are involved in governance. However, coalition politics can also lead to instability, as

differing party agendas and interests may result in conflicts and policy paralysis. Decision-making can become slow and cumbersome, and maintaining unity within the coalition can be challenging. Despite these drawbacks, coalition politics reflects India's pluralistic society and can lead to more balanced and representative governance, provided coalition partners cooperate effectively and prioritise national interests over party politics.

- 30.** How does the Constitution of India ensure that the judiciary is independent of the legislature and the executive?

Ans. In a democracy, an independent and powerful judiciary plays an important role. All the courts at different levels in a country are called the judiciary. The Indian judicial system consists of the Supreme Court of India, High Courts in the states, District Courts and the courts at local level. India has an integrated judiciary which means that the Supreme Court of India controls the judicial administration in the country. The decisions of the Supreme Court of India are binding on all other courts of the country.

Self-Assessment

Multiple-Choice Questions

- 1.** The Rajya Sabha can delay a Money Bill by
- 10 days.
 - 7 days.
 - 18 days.
 - 14 days.

Ans. (d) 14 days.

- 2.** In which year was the Second Backward Classes Commission appointed by the government?
- 1989
 - 1979
 - 1990
 - 1967

Ans. (b) 1979

- 3.** Who among the following resolved the dispute regarding the reservation of SEBC?
- The Supreme Court of India
 - The President of India
 - The Prime Minister of India
 - None of these

Ans. (a) The Supreme Court of India

- 4.** What does the term 'political executive' refer to?
- Permanent civil servants
 - Elected representatives
 - Judicial officers
 - Military officials

Ans. (b) Elected representatives

- 5.** What is the main responsibility of civil servants?
- To make policies
 - To implement policies
 - To pass laws
 - To adjudicate disputes

Ans. (b) To implement policies

- 6.** What is the role of the Rajya Sabha?
- To initiate money bills
 - To represent the states
 - To enforce laws
 - To conduct elections

Ans. (b) To represent the states

- 7.** Who takes the final decision in case of a dispute between two houses of Parliament?
- The Prime Minister
 - The President
 - The Speaker of Lok Sabha
 - A joint session of both houses

Ans. (d) A joint session of both houses

- 8.** What does 'judicial review' mean?
- Review of court judgements by the Parliament
 - Review of laws and executive actions by the judiciary
 - Review of judicial appointments by the President
 - Review of election results by the judiciary

Ans. (b) Review of laws and executive actions by the judiciary

- 9.** How often are general elections held in India?
- Every 3 years
 - Every 4 years
 - Every 5 years
 - Every 6 years

Ans. (c) Every 5 years

- 10.** Who can appoint judges of the Supreme Court in India?
- The Prime Minister
 - The Parliament
 - The President
 - The Chief Justice of India

Ans. (c) The President

- 11.** What does the term 'Cabinet' refer to?
- A group of senior ministers
 - A group of senior civil servants
 - A group of senior judges
 - A group of senior parliamentarians

Ans. (a) A group of senior ministers

- 12.** Which house of Parliament has more power in financial matters?
- Rajya Sabha
 - Lok Sabha

- (c) Both have equal power
- (d) None of these

Ans. (b) Lok Sabha

13. What is 'public interest litigation'?

- (a) Legal action taken by the government
- (b) Legal action taken by the public for general welfare
- (c) Legal action taken by private companies
- (d) Legal action taken by the judiciary

Ans. (b) Legal action taken by the public for general welfare

14. Arrange the following steps in the process of a bill becoming a law and choose the correct answer from the options given below.

- A. Approval by both houses of Parliament
- B. Debate and discussion in Parliament
- C. Introduction of the bill in Parliament
- D. Assent by the President

Options:

- (a) ABCD (b) BACD
- (c) CBAD (d) ACBD

Ans. (c) CBAD

15. Arrange the following stages in the election of the Prime Minister in chronological order and choose the correct answer from the given options.

- A. General elections
- B. Appointment by the President
- C. Selection of the leader of the majority party
- D. Swearing-in ceremony

Options:

- (a) ACBD (b) BACD
- (c) CBAD (d) DCAB

Ans. (a) ACBD

Assertion-Reason Type Questions

For question numbers 16 to 24, two statements are given as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option.

Options:

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is true but R is false.
- (d) A is false but R is true.

16. Assertion (A): The Government of India had appointed the Second Backward Classes Commission in 1979. It was headed by B P Mandal.

Reason (R): The Commission gave its Report in 1980 and made many recommendations.

One of these was that 37 per cent of government jobs be reserved for the socially and educationally backward classes.

Ans. (c) A is true but R is false.

17. Assertion (A): In all democracies, an assembly of elected representatives exercises supreme political authority on behalf of the people.

Reason (R): In India such a national assembly of elected representatives is called Parliament.

Ans. (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

18. Assertion (A): Once the Lok Sabha passes the budget of the government or any other money related law, the Rajya Sabha cannot reject it.

Reason (R): The Rajya Sabha can only delay it by 16 days or suggest changes in it.

Ans. (c) A is true but R is false.

19. Assertion (A): Council of Ministers is the official name for the body that includes all the Ministers.

Reason (R): It usually has 60 to 80 Ministers of different ranks.

Ans. (b) Both A and R are true and R is not the correct explanation of A.

20. Assertion (A): The Prime Minister of India has significant power in decision-making.

Reason (R): The Prime Minister is the leader of the majority party in Lok Sabha.

Ans. (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

21. Assertion (A): The Supreme Court of India can declare a law unconstitutional.

Reason (R): The Supreme Court of India can conduct judicial review.

Ans. (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

22. Assertion (A): The President of India has significant executive powers.

Reason (R): The President is the head of the state in India.

Ans. (b) A is false but R is true.

23. Assertion (A): The Lok Sabha can be dissolved by the President.

Reason (R): The Rajya Sabha is a permanent house and cannot be dissolved.

Ans. (b) Both A and R are true and R is not the correct explanation of A.

24. Assertion (A): Civil servants play a crucial role in implementing government policies.

Reason (R): Civil servants are permanent executives in the government.

Ans. (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Match the Following

25. Match the following items given in Column A with those in Column B. Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

Column A (Implemented by the government)	Column B (Year)
A. Second Backward Classes Commission	1. 1979
B. Mandal Commission Report	2. 1980
C. Office Memorandum	3. 1990
D. National Commission of Minority Educational Institutions Bill	4. 2004

Codes:

A	B	C	D
(a) 1	2	3	4
(b) 2	1	4	3
(c) 4	1	3	2
(d) 1	3	2	4

Ans. (a) 1 2 3 4

26. Match the following institutions given in Column A with their roles in Column B. Choose the correct answer from the given options:

Column A (Institutions)	Column B (Roles)
A. Lok Sabha	1. Reviews laws and policies
B. Rajya Sabha	2. Initiates money bills
C. Supreme Court	3. Represents the states
D. Prime Minister	4. Head of government

Codes:

A	B	C	D
(a) 1	2	3	4
(b) 2	3	1	4
(c) 4	2	3	1
(d) 3	1	2	4

Ans. (b) 2 3 1 4

27. Match the following terms given in Column A with their descriptions in Column B. Choose the correct answer from the options given:

Column A (Terms)	Column B (Descriptions)
A. Office Memorandum	1. Review of laws by judiciary
B. Judicial Review	2. Alliance of multiple political parties

C. Public Interest Litigation	3. Government policy decision document
D. Coalition Government	4. Legal action for public welfare

Codes:

A	B	C	D
(a) 3	1	4	2
(b) 2	1	3	4
(c) 4	2	3	1
(d) 3	1	2	4

Ans. (a) 3 1 4 2

Find the Incorrect Option

28. (a) In its election manifesto, the Indian National Congress promised that if voted to power, it would implement the Mandal Commission report.
 (b) Parliament is the final authority for making laws in any country.
 (c) In our country, Parliament consists of two Houses. The two Houses are known as the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) and the House of the People (Lok Sabha).
 (d) Lok Sabha exercises more powers in money matters.

Ans. (a) In its election manifesto, the Indian National Congress promised that if voted to power, it would implement the Mandal Commission report.

Correct and Rewrite the Following Statement

29. Council of Ministers is the official name for the body that includes all the Ministers. It usually has 40 to 50 Ministers of different ranks.
 Ans. Council of Ministers is the official name for the body that includes all the Ministers. It usually has 60 to 80 Ministers of different ranks.

Fill in the Blanks

30. Parliamentary democracy in most countries is often known as the **Cabinet** form of government.
 31. **Parliament** is the final authority for making laws in any country.
 32. The powers and the independence of the Indian judiciary allow it to act as the guardian of the **Fundamental Rights**.

Very Short Answer Type Questions

33. What is public interest litigation (PIL)?
 Ans. Public interest litigation (PIL) allows individuals or groups to file lawsuits on behalf of the public for issues affecting the broader community. It enables the judiciary to address public grievances,

protect human rights, and ensure government accountability in matters of public interest.

34. What is the significance of judicial review?

Ans. Judicial review allows the judiciary to assess and invalidate laws and executive actions that violate the Constitution. It ensures the supremacy of the Constitution, protects citizens' rights, and maintains the checks and balances within the government framework.

35. How does the judiciary maintain its independence in India?

Ans. The judiciary in India maintains its independence through the secure tenure of judges, the process of judicial appointments, and the power to review and invalidate unconstitutional laws. Judges are appointed by the President on the advice of the Chief Justice and senior judges.

36. Why are reserved constituencies important in India?

Ans. Reserved constituencies ensure political representation for marginalised communities such as Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST). This promotes inclusivity, addresses historical injustices, and ensures that these communities have a voice in legislative processes.

37. Compare the two houses of the Parliament for their powers in money matters.

Ans. Lok Sabha exercises more powers in money matters. Once the Lok Sabha passes the budget of the government or any other money related law, the Rajya Sabha cannot reject it. The Rajya Sabha can only delay it by 14 days or suggest changes in it. The Lok Sabha may or may not accept these changes.

38. What is the term of office of the Prime Minister of India? Mention any two functions of Prime Minister.

Ans. The Prime Minister does not have a fixed tenure. He continues in power so long as he remains the leader of the majority party or coalition. Prime Minister chairs Cabinet meetings. He coordinates the work of different Departments. His decisions are final in case disagreements arise between Departments. He distributes and redistributes work to the ministers.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Office Memorandum'? What was it when issued in 1990?

Ans. An Office Memorandum is a formal communication released by a designated authority that outlines the policies or decisions of the government. On August 13, 1990, the Government of India released an office memorandum that allocated 27 per cent of vacancies in civil positions and services for the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC).

40. Why was the Mandal Commission set-up by the Government of India? Give one reason, why it became a debatable issue.

Ans. The Government of India appointed the Second Backward Classes Commission in 1979 headed by B P Mandal. It was asked to determine the criteria to identify the socially and educationally backward classes in India and recommend steps to be taken for their advancement. The Commission made many recommendations, one of these was that 27 per cent of government jobs be reserved for the socially and educationally backward classes.

Short Answer Type Questions

41. Discuss the powers of the Supreme Court of India.

Ans.

- The Supreme Court of India is empowered to take up any dispute:
 - ✦ between citizens of the country.
 - ✦ between citizens and government.
 - ✦ between two or more State Governments.
 - ✦ between the Union Government and State Governments.
- The Supreme Court of India is the highest court of appeal in both the civil and criminal cases. It can hear appeals against the decisions of the High Courts.
- The Supreme Court of India has been vested with the power to interpret the Constitution in case of any doubt or dispute.

42. What is the role of the Election Commission of India?

Ans. The Election Commission of India is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering election processes in India. Its primary role includes ensuring free and fair elections, preparing electoral rolls, monitoring campaign finance, enforcing the Model Code of Conduct, and addressing electoral disputes. The commission oversees elections for the Parliament, State Legislatures, and the offices of the President and Vice-President. It also educates voters and promotes democratic participation to maintain the integrity of the electoral process.

43. What are the powers and functions of the Prime Minister of India?

Ans. The Prime Minister of India is the head of government and plays a vital role in policy-making and administration. Their powers include heading the Council of Ministers, leading the executive branch, and advising the President. They oversee foreign and domestic policies, represent the country internationally, and play a key role in economic planning. The Prime Minister

also appoints key officials, oversees defense policies, and addresses the Parliament to outline government agendas and progress.

44. Write a short note on the Integrated Judicial System in India.

Ans. In a democracy, an independent and powerful judiciary plays an important role. All the courts at different levels in a country are called the judiciary. The Indian judicial system consists of the Supreme Court of India, High Courts in the states, District Courts and the courts at local level. India has an integrated judiciary which means that the Supreme Court of India controls the judicial administration in the country. The decisions of the Supreme Court of India are binding on all other courts of the country.

45. What do you understand by the terms 'Public Interest Litigation' and 'Judicial Review'?

Ans. The Indian judiciary acts as the guardian of the Fundamental Rights by virtue of its powers and independence. The Courts have also given several judgements and directives in order to protect public interest and human rights. Anyone is entitled to approach the courts if public interest is hurt by the actions of government. This is called public interest litigation. The Supreme Court and the High Courts are empowered to declare invalid any law if they find such a law is against the spirit of Constitution, which means they can determine the Constitutional validity of any legislation. This is known as the judicial review.

46. 'The Constitution does not say very much about the powers of the Prime Minister.' Justify the statement.

Ans. Though the constitution of India does not say much about the powers of the Prime Minister, he enjoys wide ranging powers. He chairs Cabinet meetings. He coordinates the work of different Departments. His decisions are final in case disagreements arise between Departments. He exercises general supervision of different ministries. All ministers work under his leadership. The Prime Minister distributes and redistributes work to the ministers. He also has the power to dismiss ministers. When the Prime Minister quits, the entire ministry quits.

Paragraph Based Questions

47. Read the sources given below and answer the questions that follow:

Source A – The President

While the Prime Minister is the head of the government, the President is the head of the State. In our political system the head of the State exercises only nominal powers. The President of

India is like the Queen of Britain whose functions are to a large extent ceremonial.

- (a) Why the President of India is like the Queen of Britain?

Source B – Powers of the Prime Minister

The Constitution does not say very much about the powers of the Prime Minister or the ministers or their relationship with each other. But as head of the government, the Prime Minister has wide ranging powers. He chairs Cabinet meetings. He coordinates the work of different Departments.

- (b) Who is considered as the most powerful within the Cabinet?

Source C – The Presidential System

In many countries of the world, the President is both the head of the state and the head of the government. The President of the United States of America is the most well known example of this kind of President. The US President is directly elected by the people. He personally chooses and appoints all Ministers. The law making is still done by the legislature (called the Congress in the US), but the president can veto any law.

- (c) Write any two points on the special provisions related to the President of US.

- Ans.** (a) The President of India is like the Queen of Britain because they both have the nominal powers. All the major decisions are taken by the Prime Minister and his cabinet.
(b) The Prime Minister is the most powerful within the Cabinet.
(c) The special provisions related to the President of US are as follows:
- The President of the United States of America is both the head of the state and the head of the government.
 - He is directly elected by the people.

Case Based Questions

48. Working with institutions is not easy. Institutions involve rules and regulations. This can bind the hands of leaders. Institutions involve meetings, committees and routines. This often leads to delays and complications. Therefore, dealing with institutions can be frustrating. One might feel that it is much better to have one person take all decisions without any rules, procedures and meetings. But that is not the spirit of democracy. Some of the delays and complications introduced by institutions are very useful. They provide an opportunity for a wider set of people to be consulted in any decision. Institutions make it difficult to have a good decision taken very

quickly. But they also make it equally difficult to rush through a bad decision. That is why democratic governments insist on institutions.

48.1 What is the spirit of democracy?

Ans. Power-sharing embodies the essence of democracy. A democratic governance system necessitates the distribution of power among those impacted by its implementation, as well as those who must endure its consequences.

48.2 Why is it not easy to work with institutions?

Ans. Institutions involve rules and regulations. This can bind the hands of leaders. Institutions involve meetings, committees and routines. This often leads to delays and complications. Therefore, dealing with institutions can be frustrating.

48.3 Why is it important to have institutions in a democracy?

Ans. Some of the delays and complications introduced by institutions are very useful. They provide an opportunity for a wider set of people to be consulted in any decision. Institutions make it difficult to have a good decision taken very quickly. But they also make it equally difficult to rush through a bad decision. That is why democratic governments insist on institutions.

49. In all democracies, an assembly of elected representatives exercises supreme political authority on behalf of the people. In India such a national assembly of elected representatives is called Parliament. At the state level this is called Legislature or Legislative Assembly. The name may vary in different countries, but such an assembly exists in every democracy. It exercises political authority on behalf of the people in many ways. First, Parliament is the final authority for making laws in any country. This task of law making or legislation is so crucial that these assemblies are called legislatures. Parliaments all over the world can make new laws, change existing laws, or abolish existing laws and make new ones in their place. Second, Parliaments all over the world exercise some control over those who run the government. In some countries like India, this control is direct and full. Those who run the government can take decisions only so long as they enjoy support of Parliament. Third, Parliaments control all the money that governments have. In most countries the public money can be spent only when Parliament sanctions it. Fourth, Parliament is the highest forum of discussion and debate on public issues and national policy in any country. Parliament can seek information about any matter.

49.1 Who do democracies allow to exercise supreme political authority on behalf of the people?

Ans. An assembly of elected representatives is called Parliament, which exercises supreme political authority on behalf of the people.

49.2 What can a Parliament do in a country like India?

Ans. The Parliament possesses the capability to enact laws applicable to the entire nation or specific regions within it. The Parliament is empowered to legislate on matters outlined in the Union List, Concurrent List, and the residual powers.

49.3 Explain any one function of Parliament.

Ans. The Parliament oversees all financial matters, encompassing the budget, expenditures, and tax imposition strategies. Additionally, it allocates funds to the government for a fiscal year, with any unutilised amounts being returned to the Consolidated Fund of India.

50. In our country, Parliament consists of two Houses. The two Houses are known as the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) and the House of the People (Lok Sabha). The President of India is a part of Parliament, although she is not a member of either House. That is why all laws made in the Houses come into force only after they receive the assent of the President. It might appear that the Rajya Sabha is more powerful, for sometimes it is called the 'Upper Chamber' and the Lok Sabha the 'Lower Chamber'. But this does not mean that Rajya Sabha is more powerful than Lok Sabha. This is just an old style of speaking and not the language used in our Constitution. Our Constitution does give the Rajya Sabha some special powers over the states. But on most matters, the Lok Sabha exercises supreme power. Any ordinary law needs to be passed by both the Houses. But if there is a difference between the two Houses, the final decision is taken in a joint session in which members of both the Houses sit together. Because of the larger number of members, the view of the Lok Sabha is likely to prevail in such a meeting. Lok Sabha exercises more powers in money matters. Once the Lok Sabha passes the budget of the government or any other money related law, the Rajya Sabha cannot reject it. The Rajya Sabha can only delay it by 14 days or suggest changes in it. The Lok Sabha may or may not accept these changes.

50.1 Write a note on the composition of Parliament in India.

Ans. Parliament of India consist of two Houses. The two Houses are known as the Council of States

(Rajya Sabha or the Upper House) and the House of the People (Lok Sabha or the Lower House). The President of India is a part of Parliament, although she is not a member of either House.

50.2 Compare any one power enjoyed by the Rajya Sabha and by the Lok Sabha.

Ans. Some people think that the Rajya Sabha is more powerful as it is called the 'Upper Chamber' and the Lok Sabha the 'Lower Chamber'. But this does not mean that Rajya Sabha is more powerful. Our Constitution does give the Rajya Sabha some special powers over the states. But on most matters, the Lok Sabha exercises supreme power. Any ordinary law needs to be passed by both the Houses. But if there is a difference between the two Houses, the final decision is taken in a joint session in which members of both the Houses sit together. Because of the larger number of members, the view of the Lok Sabha is likely to prevail in such a meeting.

50.3 What kind of impact can the Upper Chamber have on the Union Budget?

Ans. Lok Sabha exercises more powers in money matters. Once the Lok Sabha passes the budget of the government or any other money related law, the Rajya Sabha cannot reject it. The Rajya Sabha can only delay it by 14 days or suggest changes in it. The Lok Sabha may or may not accept these changes.

51. An independent and powerful judiciary is crucial for democracies. The judiciary includes all courts at different levels, with India's judiciary comprising the Supreme Court, High Courts, District Courts, and local courts. India has an integrated judiciary, meaning the Supreme Court oversees judicial administration, and its decisions bind all other courts. It handles disputes between citizens, citizens and government, state governments, and union and state governments. As the highest court of appeal in civil and criminal cases, it can hear appeals from High Court decisions.

Judicial independence ensures freedom from legislative or executive control. Judges operate without government or ruling party influence. In India, Supreme Court and High Court judges are appointed by the President based on the Prime Minister's advice and the Chief Justice's consultation. Senior Supreme Court judges select new judges, minimising political interference. The judiciary interprets the Constitution and can invalidate unconstitutional laws or executive actions through judicial review. It safeguards Fundamental Rights, addresses public interest litigation, and checks governmental misuse of power, earning public trust.

51.1 What constitutes India's judiciary?

Ans. India's judiciary consists of the Supreme Court, High Courts, District Courts, and local courts. It is integrated, meaning the Supreme Court oversees judicial administration, and its decisions bind all other courts.

51.2 How are judges appointed in India's judiciary?

Ans. In India, Supreme Court and High Court judges are appointed by the President based on the Prime Minister's advice and the Chief Justice's consultation. Senior Supreme Court judges select new judges, minimising political interference.

51.3 Why is an independent judiciary important in democracies?

Ans. An independent judiciary is crucial for democracies as it ensures freedom from legislative or executive control, allowing judges to operate without government or ruling party influence. This independence helps safeguard Fundamental Rights, addresses public interest litigation, and checks governmental misuse of power.

Long Answer Type Questions

52. Describe the different types of ministers in the Council of Ministers in India.

Ans. The different ranks of ministers in India are as follows:

- Cabinet Ministers are usually top-level leaders who are in charge of the major ministries. The Cabinet Ministers take decisions in the name of the Council of Ministers, so Cabinet is the inner ring of the Council of Ministers which comprises about 20 ministers.
- Ministers of State with independent charge are In-charge of smaller Ministries. They can participate in the Cabinet meetings only when invited.
- Ministers of State are attached to and required to assist Cabinet Ministers.

53. Describe the process and significance of public interest litigation (PIL) in India.

Ans. Public interest litigation (PIL) allows individuals or groups to file lawsuits on behalf of the public for issues affecting the broader community, even if they are not directly affected. This legal mechanism democratises access to justice, enabling marginalised and disadvantaged sections to seek redress for their grievances. PIL has played a significant role in protecting human rights, ensuring environmental conservation, and holding the government accountable for its actions. It empowers the judiciary to address public welfare issues and intervene in cases

of administrative negligence or malpractices. By providing a platform for social justice, PIL promotes transparency, accountability, and the rule of law, reinforcing the democratic framework of India.

54. Highlight the role and significance of the Parliament in the Indian democratic system.

Ans. The Parliament is the supreme legislative body in the Indian democratic system, consisting of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. It enacts laws, approves the budget, and holds the government accountable through debates, discussions, and questioning. The Lok Sabha represents the people, while the Rajya Sabha represents the states. Parliament ensures that diverse views are considered in policy-making and provides a platform for public grievances to be addressed. It plays a critical role in checking and balancing the executive branch, ensuring that the government acts within constitutional limits. By representing the will of the people and safeguarding their interests, Parliament strengthens the democratic fabric of the nation.

55. Explain the process through which a government order is passed with an appropriate example.

Ans. The Government of India issued an Order on 13th August 1990 which was called an Office Memorandum bearing a number O. M. No. 36012/31/90-Est (SCT), dated 13.8.1990. This Order was signed by the Joint Secretary, an officer in the Department of Personnel and Training in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. The government issues hundreds of orders on daily basis related to different matters. However, this order was very different from others as it was a source of controversy for several years. Through this Order a major policy decision was taken according to which 27 per cent of the vacancies in civil posts and services under the Government of India were reserved for the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC). Till then the benefit of job reservation was available only to SCs and STs. But through this Order a new category called SEBC was introduced. This Order stated that people who belonged to backward classes were eligible for this quota of 27 per cent jobs and others were not entitled to compete for these jobs.

Let's Compete

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. Identify the Prime Minister of India who implemented the recommendations of the Mandal Commission.

- (a) Atal Bihari Vajpayee (b) Dr I K Gujral
(c) V P Singh (d) Rajiv Gandhi

Ans. (c) V P Singh

2. Who among the following is responsible for implementing any decisions taken by the government?

- (a) Supreme Court of India
(b) Civil Servants
(c) Governors
(d) Lok Sabha

Ans. (b) Civil Servants

3. Besides, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, who among the following is a part of the Parliament of India?

- (a) Prime Minister of India
(b) Chief Ministers of all the states
(c) The President of India
(d) None of these

Ans. (c) The President of India

4. Which of the following is also known as the 'Upper Chamber'?

- (a) Rajya Sabha (b) Lok Sabha
(c) Legislative Assembly (d) Cabinet

Ans. (a) Rajya Sabha

5. Who among the following holds the most important and powerful position in the government of India?

- (a) Attorney General of India
(b) The Vice President of India
(c) The Prime Minister of India
(d) The President of India

Ans. (c) The Prime Minister of India

6. The Chief Justice of India is appointed by

- (a) all the judges of the Supreme Court.
(b) the judges of all the High Courts.
(c) the Home Minister.
(d) the President.

Ans. (d) the President.

7. Which of the following has the power to interpret the Constitution of India?

- (a) The Supreme Court of India
(b) The President of India
(c) The Lok Sabha
(d) None of these

Ans. (a) The Supreme Court of India

8. Any person can be appointed as Minister in the Council of Ministers, provided he gets elected to one of the Houses of the Parliament within the duration of

- (a) 30 days. (b) 6 months.
(c) 3 months. (d) 45 days.

Ans. (b) 6 months.

9. Who among the following is not a part of the Council of Ministers?
- (a) Cabinet ministers
 - (b) Ministers of State with independent charge
 - (c) The President
 - (d) The Prime Minister

Ans. (c) The President

10. In a democratic country, the political and other institutions are necessary for
- (a) defence.
 - (b) governance.
 - (c) economy.
 - (d) all of these.

Ans. (b) governance.

Life Skills

1. 'Our Constitution does give the Rajya Sabha some special powers over the states, but it is the Lok Sabha which exercises supreme power'. Explain the statement.

Ans.

- Any ordinary law is required to be passed by both the Houses of Parliament. But in case there is a difference between the two Houses, the final decision is taken in a joint session of both the Houses. Due to numerical strength, the view of the Lok Sabha prevails in a joint session.
- Lok Sabha exercises more powers in money or financial matters. Once the budget is passed in the Lok Sabha or any other money related legislation, the Rajya Sabha cannot reject it. The Rajya Sabha can only delay it by 14 days or make some recommendations. The Lok Sabha may or may not accept these changes.

- The Lok Sabha controls the Council of Ministers. If the majority of the Lok Sabha members say they have 'no confidence' in the Council of Ministers, all ministers including the Prime Minister, have to quit. The Rajya Sabha does not enjoy such a power.

2. 'The centre of power in India revolves around the Prime Minister'. Justify the statement with appropriate examples.

Ans. As a head of the government, the Prime Minister of India has wide powers. He chairs the Cabinet meetings, coordinates the work of different Departments. His decision is final in case of any disagreement arise between the Departments. All ministers work under his leadership. The Prime Minister allots different portfolios to the ministers and also has the power to dismiss ministers. If the Prime Minister quits then entire ministry quits. They sail and swim together. The powers of the Prime Minister have increased so much that the parliamentary democracies are sometimes referred to as the Prime Ministerial form of government. The Prime Minister controls the Cabinet and Parliament through the party. In India we have observed a tendency towards the concentration of powers in the hands of the Prime Minister. J L Nehru exercised enormous authority because of his charismatic personality. Similarly, Indira Gandhi was also a very powerful leader. The extent of power enjoyed by the Prime Minister depends on the personality of the person.

5

Democratic Rights

Check Your Progress

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. The term 'writ' means
 - (a) written laws.
 - (b) a formal document containing an order of the court to the government.
 - (c) a right provided by the Constitution.
 - (d) none of these.**Ans.** (c) a right provided by the Constitution.
2. The term '*begar*' means
 - (a) encouraging workers to work at normal wages.
 - (b) practice of forcing workers to work without any wages.
 - (c) a person who is begging.
 - (d) none of these.**Ans.** (b) practice of forcing workers to work without any wages.
3. What is the position of the Indian Constitution, regarding 'practice of untouchability'?
 - (a) Its practice in any form is punishable by law.
 - (b) Since it is an age-old custom, it should be respected.
 - (c) It stands abolished.
 - (d) Both (a) and (c).**Ans.** (d) Both (a) and (c).
4. What is the primary element that makes a government democratic?
 - (a) Elections
 - (b) Institutions
 - (c) Enjoyment of rights
 - (d) Economic policies**Ans.** (c) Enjoyment of rights
5. Where is Guantanamo Bay located?
 - (a) Near Cuba
 - (b) Near Mexico
 - (c) Near Canada
 - (d) Near Puerto Rico**Ans.** (c) Near Cuba

6. Who was the president of Yugoslavia involved in ethnic massacre in Kosovo?
 - (a) Tony Blair
 - (b) Milosevic
 - (c) Jamil El-Banna
 - (d) George Bush**Ans.** (b) Milosevic
7. What type of government does Saudi Arabia have?
 - (a) Democratic
 - (b) Republic
 - (c) Hereditary monarchy
 - (d) Communist**Ans.** (c) Hereditary monarchy
8. Which international organisation reported on the conditions in Guantanamo Bay?
 - (a) United Nations
 - (b) Amnesty International
 - (c) World Health Organisation
 - (d) Red Cross**Ans.** (b) Amnesty International
9. What does the Constitution of India prohibit under Right to Equality?
 - (a) Freedom of speech
 - (b) Discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth
 - (c) Forming associations
 - (d) Practicing any profession**Ans.** (b) Discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth
10. Which right includes the freedom of speech and expression?
 - (a) Right to Equality
 - (b) Right to Freedom
 - (c) Right to Constitutional Remedies
 - (d) Right to Education**Ans.** (b) Right to Freedom
11. What is the maximum period a person can be detained without being produced before a magistrate?

- (a) 12 hours (b) 24 hours
(c) 36 hours (d) 48 hours

Ans. (b) 24 hours

12. Which of the following is a Fundamental Right in India?

- (a) Right to Work (b) Right to Property
(c) Right to Education (d) Right to Privacy

Ans. (c) Right to Education

13. What type of labour does the Indian Constitution prohibit?

- (a) Child labour in hazardous industries
(b) Adult labour in factories
(c) Agricultural labour
(d) Domestic labour

Ans. (a) Child labour in hazardous industries

14. Arrange the following events in chronological order and choose the correct answer from the options given below.

- A. The establishment of the National Human Rights Commission
B. The enactment of the Right to Education Act
C. The declaration of untouchability as a punishable offense
D. P Sainath wrote a series of newsreports in *The Hindu* describing untouchability and caste discrimination

Options:

- (a) ABCD
(b) CADB
(c) CBAD
(d) BCAD

Ans. (b) CADB

Very Short Answer Type Questions

15. What is 'Amnesty International'?

Ans. An international organisation of volunteers who campaign for human rights. This organisation brings out independent reports on the violation of human rights all over the world.

16. What is the importance of the Right to Education in India?

Ans. The Right to Education ensures free and compulsory education for children up to the age of 14. It aims to promote literacy, reduce child labour, and provide equal educational opportunities, thereby contributing to the overall development of the country.

17. Which group was in majority and minority in Yugoslavia?

Ans. Serbs were in majority and ethnic Albanians were in minority.

18. How does the Right to Equality protect citizens in India?

Ans. The Right to Equality ensures that all citizens are treated equally before the law and prohibits discrimination based on religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth. It guarantees equal access to public places and equal opportunity in employment.

19. What measures does the Indian Constitution take to prevent exploitation?

Ans. The Constitution prohibits trafficking, forced labour, and child labour in hazardous industries. It aims to protect vulnerable sections of society from exploitation and ensures their rights to dignity and fair treatment.

20. Which right ensures to every citizen of India the right to live anywhere within the territory of India?

Ans. Right to Freedom under Article 19 of the Indian Constitution ensures every citizen of India to live anywhere within the territory of India.

21. What restrictions can the government impose on the Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression?

Ans. The government can impose reasonable restrictions on the Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression in the interests of sovereignty, security, public order, decency, morality, contempt of court, defamation, and incitement to an offence.

22. Moving freely throughout the territory of India, is an implication of which fundamental right provided by our Constitution?

Ans. Right to Freedom under Article 19 of the Indian Constitution ensures moving freely throughout the territory of India.

Short Answer Type Questions

23. Describe the features of a Secular State.

Ans. The concept of secularism is based on the idea that the government is concerned only with relations among its citizens, and not with the relation between human beings and God. A secular state is one that does not establish any one religion as official religion. The state has to be neutral and impartial in dealing with all religions. Every citizen enjoys the right to profess, practice and propagate the religion of his or her choice and also every religious group or sect is free to manage its religious affairs. However, a right to propagate one's religion does not mean that a person is authorised to compel another person to convert into his religion by using force, fraud, inducement. But a person is free to change religion according to his or her own will. Freedom to practice religion does not mean that a person

is free to do whatever he or she wants to do on the name of religion.

24. Write a short note on the Fundamental Rights.

Ans. There are certain rights which are basic to our life so they are given a special status and called the Fundamental Rights. The Preamble to our Constitution talks about securing for all its citizens Equality, Liberty and Justice and the provisions of Fundamental Rights put this promise into effect. So they are one of the basic features of India's Constitution. Our Constitution provides a set of six fundamental rights to the citizens of India namely, Right to Freedom, Right against exploitation, Right to freedom of religion, Cultural and Educational rights.

25. Discuss the concept of secularism as practised in India.

Ans. Indian secularism entails a principled and equal distance from all religions, ensuring that the state does not favour or discriminate against any religion. It guarantees freedom of religion, allowing individuals to profess, practice, and propagate their faith, while ensuring that religious practices do not infringe on others' rights or public order.

26. What is the role of the judiciary in protecting Fundamental Rights in India?

Ans. The judiciary, through the Supreme Court and High Courts, protects Fundamental Rights by hearing cases of rights violations, issuing directions and writs, and providing remedies to aggrieved citizens. It acts as a guardian of the Constitution, ensuring that laws and government actions do not infringe on citizens' rights.

27. Discuss any four features of the Right to Equality as a Fundamental Right provided under the Constitution of India.

Ans. The Constitution of India states that the government shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws which means that the laws applicable in the same manner to all, regardless of status. According to this principle no person is above the law which means there is no distinction between a political leader, government official and an ordinary citizen. According to the provisions of the Constitution of India the government shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth. All citizens enjoy equality of opportunity in matters related to the employment or appointment to any position in the government. The Constitution of India also prohibits the practice of untouchability in any form.

Long Answer Type Questions

28. Explain the Cultural and Educational Rights under the Indian Constitution.

Ans. According to the Constitution of India the language, culture and religion of minorities needs special protection because under the impact of the language, religion and culture of the majority they may get neglected or undermined. Due to this reason our Constitution specifies the cultural and educational rights of the minorities:

- (i). Any section of citizens with a distinct language or culture has a right to conserve it.
- (ii) Admission to any educational institution maintained by the government or receiving government aid cannot be denied to any citizen on the ground of religion or language.
- (iii) All minorities have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.

29. Explain the reasons for calling some rights as Fundamental Rights.

Ans. Rights are required for the existence of a democracy. In a democratic form of government every citizen enjoys the right to vote and the right to be elected to government. In democratic elections, it is essential that citizens have the right to express their opinion, form political parties and participate in political activities.

Rights are also helpful in protecting the minorities from the oppression of majority and also ensure that the majority cannot do anything according to their wish and will. Rights also act as guarantees which can be used when things go wrong. Things go wrong when some citizens wish to seize the rights of fellow citizens and it happens when those in majority try to dominate those in minority. It is the responsibility of the government to protect the citizens' rights in such a situation. But occasionally the elected government may not protect or even attack the rights of the citizens. Due to this reason some rights need to be placed above the government authority, so that the government cannot violate them. In most democracies across the world, the basic rights of the citizens are written down in the constitution.

30. Evaluate the effectiveness of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in India.

Ans. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) plays a significant role in promoting and protecting human rights in India. It investigates complaints, conducts inquiries, and makes recommendations to the government. Its independence and authority to summon officials,

inspect places of detention, and intervene in court cases strengthen its effectiveness. The NHRC has raised awareness about human rights issues and contributed to policy changes. However, its effectiveness is sometimes limited by lack of enforcement powers, dependency on government cooperation, and resource constraints. While it can recommend actions, implementation depends on the government. Strengthening the NHRC's legal and operational framework, increasing public awareness, and ensuring prompt government response can enhance its impact in safeguarding human rights.

31. Explain the importance of the Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression in a democracy.

Ans. The Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression is vital in a democracy as it enables citizens to voice their opinions, critique the government, and participate in public discourse. It fosters transparency, accountability, and responsiveness in governance by allowing free flow of information and diverse viewpoints. This right supports the development of informed public opinion, essential for making collective decisions. It also empowers individuals to advocate for their rights, challenge injustices, and promote social change. However, this freedom must be exercised responsibly, respecting others' rights and public order. Reasonable restrictions ensure that it does not incite violence, hatred, or defamation, balancing individual liberty with societal interests.

———— Self-Assessment ————

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. Who among the following is the custodian of Fundamental Rights in India?

- (a) The Supreme Court of India
- (b) The Supreme Court and the High Courts
- (c) The President of India
- (d) The Prime Minister

Ans. (b) The Supreme Court and the High Courts

2. Who was Milosevic?

- (a) An Albanian leader
- (b) Supporter of ethnic Albanians
- (c) Elected Serb leader
- (d) None of these

Ans. (c) Elected Serb leader

3. Under the Indian Constitution, how many types of right to freedom are there under the cluster?

- (a) Six
- (b) Seven
- (c) Five
- (d) Eleven

Ans. (a) Six

4. What is the term for selling and buying of human beings for immoral purposes?

- (a) Trafficking
- (b) Begar
- (c) Bonded labour
- (d) Exploitation

Ans. (a) Trafficking

5. Which organisation can a citizen approach for the protection of public interest?

- (a) Supreme Court
- (b) National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)
- (c) State Human Rights Commission
- (d) All of these

Ans. (d) All of these

6. Which Fundamental Right is known as the 'heart and soul' of the Indian Constitution?

- (a) Right to Freedom
- (b) Right to Equality
- (c) Right to Constitutional Remedies
- (d) Right to Education

Ans. (c) Right to Constitutional Remedies

7. Who appoints the members of the National Human Rights Commission in India?

- (a) Prime Minister
- (b) President
- (c) Chief Justice of India
- (d) Parliament

Ans. (b) President

8. What does the term 'untouchability' refer to in the Indian context?

- (a) Refusal to touch certain castes
- (b) Social discrimination based on birth
- (c) Both (a) and (b)
- (d) None of these

Ans. (c) Both (a) and (b)

9. Which Fundamental Right ensures that no person is deprived of their life or personal liberty?

- (a) Right to Equality
- (b) Right to Freedom
- (c) Right to Constitutional Remedies
- (d) Right to Privacy

Ans. (b) Right to Freedom

10. What does the Right to Freedom of Religion include?

- (a) Right to propagate religion
- (b) Right to practice any profession
- (c) Right to vote
- (d) Right to property

Ans. (a) Right to propagate religion

11. Who can file a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in India?

- (a) Only the affected individual
- (b) Any citizen or group of citizens
- (c) Only government officials
- (d) Only NGOs

Ans. (b) Any citizen or group of citizens

12. What does the Right to Education Act ensure?

- (a) Free and compulsory education for children up to age 14
- (b) Free education for all ages
- (c) Compulsory college education
- (d) Free education for girls only

Ans. (a) Free and compulsory education for children up to age 14

13. Which right is not mentioned as a Fundamental Right in the Indian Constitution?

- (a) Right to Freedom
- (b) Right to Equality
- (c) Right to Privacy
- (d) Right against Exploitation

Ans. (c) Right to Privacy

14. Arrange the following cases in chronological order and choose the correct answer from the options given below.

- A. Ethnic massacre in Kosovo
- B. Imprisonment in Guantanamo Bay
- C. The splitting of the former nation known as Yugoslavia
- D. Attack on New York on September 2001

Options:

- (a) ACDB
- (b) CABD
- (c) CBAD
- (d) DBCA

Ans. (b) CABD

Assertion-Reason Type Questions

For question numbers 15 to 22, two statements are given as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option.

Options:

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is true but R is false.
- (d) A is false but R is true.

15. **Assertion (A):** About 600 people were secretly picked up by the US forces from all over the world and put in a prison in Guantanamo Bay, an area near Canada.

Reason (R): The American government said that they were enemies of the US and linked to the attack on New York on 11 September 2001.

Ans. (d) A is false but R is true.

16. **Assertion (A):** The fundamental rights in the Constitution are important because they are enforceable.

Reason (R): We have a right to seek the enforcement of the above mentioned rights.

Ans. (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

17. **Assertion (A):** Amnesty International is an international organisation of volunteers who campaign for human rights.

Reason (R): This organisation brings out independent reports on the violation of human rights all over the world.

Ans. (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

18. **Assertion (A):** The Constitution says that no person can be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.

Reason (R): It means that no person can be killed unless the court has ordered a death sentence.

Ans. (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

19. **Assertion (A):** The Right to Equality is fundamental to democracy.

Reason (R): It ensures that laws apply in the same manner to all citizens.

Ans. (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

20. **Assertion (A):** The Constitution of India guarantees cultural and educational rights to minorities.

Reason (R): These rights help in conserving the language and culture of the minorities.

Ans. (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

21. **Assertion (A):** The practice of untouchability is still prevalent in some parts of India.

Reason (R): The Constitution does not prohibit untouchability.

Ans. (c) A is true but R is false.

22. Assertion (A): The Right to Constitutional Remedies allows citizens to approach the Supreme Court directly.

Reason (R): This right is not considered a Fundamental Right in the Indian Constitution.

Ans. (c) A is true but R is false.

Match the Following

23. Match the Rights given in Column A with their corresponding descriptions in Column B. Choose the correct answer from the given options.

Column A (Rights)	Column B (Descriptions)
A. Right to Equality	1. Prohibition of child labour
B. Right to Freedom	2. Freedom of speech and expression
C. Right against Exploitation	3. No discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth
D. Right to Freedom of Religion	4. Right to profess, practice and propagate the religion

Codes:

A	B	C	D
(a) 3	2	1	4
(b) 3	4	2	1
(c) 1	2	3	4
(d) 1	3	2	4

Ans. (a) 3 2 1 4

24. Match the Fundamental Rights given in Column A with their articles in Column B. Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

Column A (Fundamental Rights)	Column B (Articles)
A. Right of Life	1. Article 14
B. Right to Freedom	2. Article 19
C. Right to Equality	3. Article 21
D. Right to Constitutional Remedies	4. Article 32

Codes:

A	B	C	D
(a) 3	4	2	1
(b) 3	2	1	4
(c) 1	2	3	4
(d) 4	3	2	1

Ans. (b) 3 2 1 4

Study the Picture and Answer the Question



25. Which one of the following option best signifies this image?

- Power of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to issue directives to various institutions and government in case of violation of human rights.
- Power of Central Bureau of Investigation to question the government.
- Power of Central Government to question the acts of any state government for the violation of human rights.
- Power of government to question the police authorities in case of custodial deaths.

Ans. (a) Power of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to issue directives to various institutions and government in case of violation of human rights.

Find the Incorrect Option

- Right to Constitutional Remedies is a legal right and not a fundamental right.
- All minorities have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
- A person who is arrested and detained shall be produced before the nearest magistrate within a period of 24 hours of arrest.
- Freedom of speech and expression is one of the essential features of any democracy.

Ans. (a) Right to Constitutional Remedies is a legal right and not a fundamental right.

Correct and Rewrite the Following Statement

27. In 2009, P Sainath wrote a series of news reports in *The Hindu* describing untouchability and caste discrimination that was still being practiced against Dalits or persons belonging to Scheduled Castes.

Ans. In 1999, P. Sainath wrote a series of news reports in *The Hindu* describing untouchability and caste

discrimination that was still being practiced against Dalits or persons belonging to Scheduled Castes.

Fill in the Blanks

28. The prison in Guantanamo Bay is controlled by **American Navy**.
29. The massacre of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo took place in the year **1999**.
30. An arrested or detained person should be produced before the nearest magistrate within a period of **24 hours**.

Very Short Answer Type Questions

31. What is the nature of government in Saudi Arabia?

Ans. Saudi Arabia is ruled by a hereditary king and the people play no role in electing or changing the rulers.

32. Why do the citizens of Saudi Arabia have no religious rights?

Ans. There is no freedom of religion in Saudi Arabia, it is mandatory for every citizen to be a Muslim. However, the Non-Muslim residents are not allowed to follow their religion in public.

33. What is the reason for imposing reasonable restrictions on the right to freedom?

Ans. Right to freedom is not an unconstrained licence to do what one wants. The government is authorised to impose certain rational restrictions on our freedoms in the interest of the society.

34. What was the nature of government in Yugoslavia which massacred minorities?

Ans. Large-scale massacre was carried out by the army, working under the directions of a leader elected democratically.

35. What is the role of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in India?

Ans. The NHRC investigates complaints of human rights violations, promotes human rights awareness, and advises the government on related issues. It ensures the protection and promotion of human rights through independent and credible inquiry.

36. How does the Indian Constitution address the issue of untouchability?

Ans. The Indian Constitution abolishes untouchability and forbids its practice in any form. It directs the government to take measures to end this social evil and ensure equal treatment and access to public places for all citizens.

37. What are the key features of the Right to Freedom in the Indian Constitution?

Ans. The Right to Freedom includes freedom of speech and expression, assembly, association, movement, residence, and the right to practice any profession.

These freedoms are essential for personal liberty and the democratic functioning of the country.

38. Why is the Right to Freedom of Religion important in a secular state like India?

Ans. The Right to Freedom of Religion allows individuals to profess, practice, and propagate their religion, ensuring religious diversity and tolerance. It prevents the state from favouring any religion and upholds the secular character of the nation.

Short Answer Type Questions

39. Discuss the provisions of Fundamental Right against Exploitation.

Ans. The Constitution makers wrote down certain provisions in order to prevent exploitation of the weaker sections of the society. Our Constitution mentions three definite evils and declares these illegal.

(i) Firstly, the Constitution of India prohibits 'traffic in human beings' which means selling and buying of human beings, usually women, for immoral purposes.

(ii) Secondly, the Constitution of India prohibits forced labour in any form. Forced labour is a practice where the worker is forced to deliver service to the 'master' free of charge or at a nominal remuneration.

(iii) Finally, the Constitution of India prohibits child labour. A child below the age of fourteen cannot be employed by anyone to work in any factory or mine or in any other hazardous work, such as railways and ports.

40. Briefly describe the types of freedoms provided under the 'Right to Freedom'.

Ans. The term freedom means absence of constraints in any form. Practically, it means absence of interference in our personal affairs by others. Others are not authorised to dictate us what we should do. So, the Constitution of India guarantees certain rights to all its citizens:

(i) Freedom of speech and expression

(ii) Assembly in a peaceful manner

(iii) Form associations and unions

(iv) Move freely throughout the territory of India

(v) Right to reside in any part of India, and

(vi) Practice any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business.

41. Mention the Constitutional provisions for the protection of women and children in India.

Ans. Some of the important Constitutional provisions for the protection of women and children in India are as follows:

- Right to equality provides for no discrimination on the basis of sex, so it provides for equal opportunity to the women.
 - Right against exploitation provides for prevention of human trafficking, particularly women for an immoral purpose. This right also prohibits ban on child labour particularly in some specific industries where children below fourteen years of age cannot be employed.
 - The 73rd and 74th Amendments Acts provided for participation of women in the local self government institutions by reserving one-third seats for them.
 - Right to education provides for free and compulsory education for children up to the age of fourteen years.
- 42.** 'Rights are necessary for the very sustenance of a democracy.' Justify the statement.
- Ans.** It is true to say that, Rights are necessary for the very sustenance of a democracy, because without enjoying the basic rights it is not possible for the human beings to survive in this material world. Another important aspect for a real democracy is that, if there is a right then a remedy should be there in case of their violation. The rights should be enforceable by the court of law so that no one dares to curtail other person's right. For example, right to vote in the elections to elect their representatives is the basic right for a successful democracy. In case an eligible voter is not allowed to cast his/her vote then he is entitled to take a legal action against the person who did not allowed him to cast the vote.
- 43.** What is the significance of the Right to Equality in the Indian Constitution?
- Ans.** The Right to Equality enshrined in the Indian Constitution holds great importance as it guarantees that every citizen is afforded equal treatment under the law, irrespective of their social status. It explicitly prohibits discrimination on the grounds of caste, religion, gender, race, or place of birth. Furthermore, it ensures that all citizens have equal access to opportunities, including education and employment.
- 44.** What is the significance of the Right to Constitutional Remedies in the Indian Constitution?
- Ans.** The Right to Constitutional Remedies is a Fundamental Right established in the Constitution of India. Article 32 of the Indian Constitution outlines comprehensive provisions regarding this right, acting as a safeguard against violations of fundamental rights within the country. By offering a legal framework for the enforcement of the

fundamental rights of affected citizens, this right ensures that these rights are effectively realised.

Paragraph Based Questions

- 45.** Read the sources given below and answer the questions that follow:

Source A – Ethnic Massacre in Kosovo

Just consider this story from Kosovo. This was a province of Yugoslavia before its split. In this province the population was overwhelmingly ethnic Albanian. But in the entire country, Serbs were in majority. A narrow minded Serb nationalist Milosevic (pronounced Miloshevich) had won the election. His government was very hostile to the Kosovo Albanians. He wanted the Serbs to dominate the country. Many Serb leaders thought that Ethnic minorities like Albanians should either leave the country or accept the dominance of the Serbs.

- (a) What was the attitude of Serbs towards the Kosovo Albanians?

Source B – Prison in Guantanamo Bay

About 600 people were secretly picked up by the US forces from all over the world and put in a prison in Guantanamo Bay, an area near Cuba controlled by American Navy. Anas's father, Jamil El-Banna, was among them. The American government said that they were enemies of the US and linked to the attack on New York on 11 September 2001. In most cases the governments of their countries were not asked or even informed about their imprisonment.

- (b) Why did the American forces secretly picked up hundreds of people from across the world?

Source C – Why do we Need Rights in a Democracy?

Rights also perform a very special role in a democracy. Rights protect minorities from the oppression of majority. They ensure that the majority cannot do whatever they like. Rights are guarantees which can be used when things go wrong. Things may go wrong when some citizens may wish to take away the rights of others. This usually happens when those in majority want to dominate those in minority.

- (c) Why are rights considered necessary for a democracy?

- Ans.** (a) A narrow minded Serb nationalist Milosevic won the election and his government was very hostile to the Kosovo Albanians. He advocated that Serbs should dominate the nation. Many Serb leaders were of the view that Ethnic

minorities like Albanians should either leave the country or accept the dominance of the Serbs.

- (b) The US forces picked around 600 people secretly from all over the world and imprisoned them in a prison in Guantanamo Bay. According to the American government they were enemies of the US and they were linked to the attack on New York on 11 September 2001.
- (c) Rights are necessary for a successful democracy as it helps in protecting the minorities from the oppression of majority. Rights further ensure that the majority is not allowed to do whatever they wish.

Case Based Questions

46. Rights are claims of a person over other fellow beings, over the society and over the government. All of us want to live happily, without fear and without being subjected to degraded treatment. For this we expect others to behave in such a way that does not harm us or hurt us. Equally, our actions should not also harm or hurt others. So a right is possible when you make a claim that is equally possible for others. You cannot have a right that harms or hurts others. You cannot have a right to play a game in such a way that it breaks the neighbour's window. The Serbs in Yugoslavia could not have claimed the whole country for themselves. The claims we make should be reasonable. They should be such that can be made available to others in an equal measure. Thus, a right comes with an obligation to respect other rights. Just because we claim something it does not become our right. It has to be recognised by the society we live in. Rights acquire meaning only in society. Every society makes certain rules to regulate our conduct. They tell us what is right and what is wrong. What is recognised by the society as rightful becomes the basis of rights. That is why the notion of rights changes from time to time and society to society. Two hundred years ago anyone who said that women should have right to vote would have sounded strange. Today not granting them vote in Saudi Arabia appears strange.

46.1 Write any two facts about rights.

Ans. Rights are claims of a person over other fellow beings, over the society and over the government. You cannot have a right that harms or hurts others.

46.2 Why are rules necessary?

Ans. Every society makes certain rules to regulate our conduct. They tell us what is right and what

is wrong. What is recognised by the society as rightful becomes the basis of rights.

46.3 Why is there a need for new rights with the passage of time?

Ans. New rights have been periodically added to ensure that residents have access to a wide array of facilities, which over time evolve into essential needs under changing circumstances.

47. About 600 people were secretly picked up by the US forces from all over the world and put in a prison in Guantanamo Bay, an area near Cuba controlled by American Navy. Anas's father, Jamil El-Banna, was among them. The American government said that they were enemies of the US and linked to the attack on New York on 11 September 2001. In most cases, the governments of their countries were not asked or even informed about their imprisonment. Like other prisoners, El-Banna's family got to know that he was in that prison only through the media. Families of prisoners, media or even UN representatives were not allowed to meet them. The US army arrested them, interrogated them and decided whether to keep them there or not. There was no trial before any magistrate in the US. Nor could these prisoners approach courts in their own country. Amnesty International, an international human rights organisation, collected information on the condition of the prisoners in Guantanamo Bay and reported that the prisoners were being tortured in ways that violated the US laws. They were being denied the treatment that even prisoners of war must get as per international treaties. Many prisoners had tried protesting against these conditions by going on a hunger strike. Prisoners were not released even after they were officially declared not guilty. An independent inquiry by the UN supported these findings. The UN Secretary General said the prison in Guantanamo Bay should be closed down. The US government refused to accept these pleas.

47.1 Where is Guantanamo Bay located?

Ans. Guantanamo Bay is an area near Cuba controlled by American Navy.

47.2 What do you know about Amnesty International?

Ans. Amnesty International is a non-governmental organisation dedicated to advocating for human rights globally.

47.3 Analyse the violation of prisoners' rights at Guantanamo Bay.

Ans. Prisoners were denied the treatment that even prisoners of war must get as per international treaties. Many prisoners had tried protesting against these conditions by going on a hunger

strike. Prisoners were not released even after they were officially declared not guilty.

- 48.** The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) investigates cases of human rights violations, including abetment or negligence by government officers in controlling such violations. It also takes steps to promote human rights throughout the country. The Commission presents its findings and recommendations to the government or intervenes in court on behalf of the victims. It possesses extensive powers to conduct inquiries, similar to a court. It can summon witnesses, question government officials, demand official documents, visit prisons for inspections, or send teams for on-the-spot inquiries.

Numerous cases of human rights violations across various fields are brought to public attention in India. Human rights organisations and the media often criticise government agencies for not diligently pursuing these cases or apprehending the culprits. The National Human Rights Commission intervenes on behalf of the victims. Established by law in 1993, the NHRC is an independent commission, much like the judiciary. It is appointed by the President and includes retired judges, officers, and eminent citizens. However, unlike courts, it does not have the burden of deciding legal cases, allowing it to focus on helping victims secure their human rights. These rights include those granted by the Constitution and those mentioned in UN-sponsored international treaties that India has signed. While the NHRC cannot punish the guilty, as that is the responsibility of the courts, it is dedicated to making independent and credible inquiries.

- 48.1** What steps does the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) take to investigate and address human rights violations in India?

Ans. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) investigates human rights violations, including abetment or negligence by government officers. It presents findings to the government, intervenes in court for victims, and possesses powers like summoning witnesses, questioning officials, demanding documents, and conducting inspections.

- 48.2** How can Indian citizens report human rights violations to the NHRC?

Ans. Indian citizens can report human rights violations to the NHRC by writing to National Human Rights Commission based in New Delhi. There are no fees or formal procedures required to file a complaint.

- 48.3** What is the role of the NHRC in relation to government agencies and the judiciary?

Ans. The NHRC is an independent commission. Unlike courts, it does not decide legal cases but focuses on helping victims secure human rights. It conducts credible inquiries and intervenes on behalf of victims, highlighting its independence and dedication.

- 49.** The Constitution says that the government shall not deny to any person in India equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws. It means that the laws apply in the same manner to all, regardless of a person's status. This is called the rule of law. Rule of law is the foundation of any democracy. It means that no person is above the law. There cannot be any distinction between a political leader, government official and an ordinary citizen. Every citizen, from the Prime Minister to a small farmer in a remote village, is subjected to the same laws. No person can legally claim any special treatment or privilege just because he or she happens to be an important person. For example, a few years ago a former Prime Minister of the country faced a court case on charges of cheating. The court finally declared that he was not guilty. But as long as the case continued, he had to go to the court, give evidence and file papers, just like any other citizen.

- 49.1** What do you understand by the term rule of law?

Ans. According to the Constitution of India, the government shall not deny to any person in India equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws. It means that the laws are applicable in the same manner to all, regardless of their status. This is called the rule of law.

- 49.2** 'Rule of law is the foundation of any democracy'. Justify the statement.

Ans. It is true to say that 'Rule of law is the foundation of any democracy', because it means that no one is above the law. No one is allowed to make any kind of distinction between a political leader, government official and an ordinary citizen. Every citizen, from the Prime Minister to a labourer working in a factory or agricultural field, is subjected to the same laws. No person can legally claim any special treatment or privilege just because he or she happens to be an important person.

- 49.3** Do you think that the constitutional rights are different for Prime Minister of India? Justify your answer.

Ans. Every citizen, from the Prime Minister to a small farmer in a remote village, is subjected to

the same laws. The Constitution says that the government shall not deny to any person in India equality before the law. It means that the laws apply in the same manner to all, regardless of a person's status. This is called the rule of law. It means that no person is above the law. There cannot be any distinction between a political leader, government official and an ordinary citizen.

Long Answer Type Questions

50. Analyse the impact of the Right to Education on Indian society.

Ans. The Right to Education has had a profound impact on Indian society by ensuring free and compulsory education for children up to 14 years. It has significantly increased school enrolment, reduced dropout rates, and improved literacy levels, especially among marginalised communities. Access to education empowers individuals, providing them with knowledge and skills for better socio-economic opportunities. It promotes gender equality by encouraging girls' education and challenges traditional gender roles. The right to education also fosters social inclusion, bridging gaps between different socio-economic groups. However, challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, teacher shortages, and quality of education remain. Addressing these issues through sustained investment and reforms is crucial for maximising the benefits of this fundamental right.

51. Discuss the challenges in implementing the Right to Equality in India.

Ans. Implementing the Right to Equality in India faces several challenges, including social and economic disparities, caste-based discrimination, gender inequality, and regional imbalances. Despite legal provisions, deep-rooted prejudices and traditional practices often hinder true equality. Access to quality education, healthcare, and employment opportunities remains unequal, particularly for marginalised communities. The practice of untouchability, though constitutionally abolished, still persists in some areas. Additionally, economic inequality exacerbates social discrimination, limiting the effectiveness of legal protections. Ensuring equal treatment requires not only legal measures but also social reforms, public awareness, and proactive government policies to address structural inequalities and promote inclusive development.

52. Explain the restrictions that can be imposed on the freedoms granted by the Constitution of India.

Ans. The term freedom means absence of constraints in any form. Practically, it means absence of

interference in our personal affairs by others. Your right to freedom should not cause public nuisance or disorder. A person is free to do everything which does not cause any harm to others. Right to freedom is not an unconstrained licence to do what one wants. The government is authorised to impose certain rational restrictions on our freedoms in the interest of the society.

Freedom of speech and expression is an essential feature of any democracy as it helps in the development of our ideas and personality. People should have the freedom to publicise their views through a pamphlet, magazine or newspaper. However, no one should be allowed to use this freedom to instigate violence against others neither no one should use this freedom to incite people to rebel against government further no one should be allowed to use it to defame others by making false statements which may cause damage to a person's reputation.

Citizens should have the freedom to hold meetings, processions, rallies and demonstrations against the policies of the government. The people who participate in these activities should not carry any kind weapons with them.

53. 'The new interpretations of fundamental rights has led to an expansion of the fundamental rights'. Explain the statement with appropriate examples.

Ans. The scope of rights has expanded a lot with the passage of time. Fundamental Rights are the source of all rights which are given by our Constitution. The courts have pronounced some judgements to expand the scope of rights. Some specific rights like right to freedom of press, right to information, and right to education are derived from the Fundamental Rights. For example, now school education has become a fundamental right for Indian citizens. It is the responsibility of the governments to provide free and compulsory education to all children up to the age of fourteen years. The Right to Information Act was passed by the Parliament in the year 2005 in order to give the right to information to the citizens. This Act was also framed under the Fundamental Right to freedom of thought and expression. According to the provisions of this act, we have a right to seek information from government. According to one of the recent judgements of the Supreme Court of India, the meaning of right of life was expanded to include the right to food. Apart from the Fundamental Rights, the Constitution also provides many more rights. For example, the right to property is a constitutional right. Right to vote in elections is an important constitutional right.

Let's Compete

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. Which of the following parts of Fundamental Rights have the provision of 'non-discrimination'?

(a) Right to Equality
(b) Right against Exploitation
(c) Right to Freedom
(d) None of these

Ans. (a) Right to Equality

2. Which among the following is not a part of the right against exploitation?

(a) Child labour (b) *Begar*
(c) Human trafficking (d) Dowry

Ans. (d) Dowry

3. The law in India, prohibits employing children in which of these industries?

(a) *Beedi* making (b) Firecrackers
(c) Printing and dyeing (d) All of these

Ans. (d) All of these

4. Which among the following is not a Fundamental Right?

(a) Right to Equality (b) Right to Vote
(c) Right to Religion (d) Right to Education

Ans. (b) Right to Vote

5. Which of the following issues 'writs' in case of violation of Fundamental Rights?

(a) Chief Justice of India
(b) The Supreme Court of India
(c) The Parliament
(d) The President of India

Ans. (b) The Supreme Court of India

6. Where is Guantanamo Bay prison located?

(a) In China (b) Near Iraq
(c) Near Cuba (d) In Syria

Ans. (c) Near Cuba

7. Which among the following bodies reported the torture of prisoners in Guantanamo Bay prison?

(a) Amnesty International
(b) International Court of Justice
(c) The Supreme Court of USA
(d) All of these

Ans. (a) Amnesty International

8. Which Fundamental Right in the Indian Constitution is called the 'heart and soul' of our Constitution?

(a) Right to Religion
(b) Right to Freedom
(c) Right to Constitutional Remedies
(d) None of these

Ans. (c) Right to Constitutional Remedies

9. The Cultural and Educational Rights in the Indian Constitution safeguard the interests of

(a) men. (b) women.
(c) children. (d) minorities.

Ans. (d) minorities.

10. In which year was the National Human Rights Commission set up by the law?

(a) 1999 (b) 1993
(c) 1997 (d) 1989

Ans. (b) 1993

Life Skills

1. 'Right to Freedom is a cluster of different freedoms'. Justify the statement.

Ans. The term freedom means absence of constraints in any form. Practically, it means absence of interference in our personal affairs by others. Others are not authorised to dictate us what we should do. So, the Constitution of India guarantees certain rights to all its citizens:

- (i) Freedom of speech and expression
- (ii) Assembly in a peaceful manner
- (iii) Form associations and unions
- (iv) Move freely throughout the territory of India
- (v) Right to reside in any part of India, and
- (vi) Practice any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business.

2. 'The right to Constitutional remedy is the heart and soul of the Indian Constitution'. Explain.

Ans. The Fundamental Rights in the Constitution of India can be secured through the Right to Constitutional Remedies which is itself is a Fundamental Right. This right makes other rights effective. There is a possibility that sometimes our rights may be violated by the fellow citizens, private bodies or by the government. In case of violation of any of our rights the citizens can seek remedy through courts. In case of violation of a Fundamental Right, the citizens can directly approach the Supreme Court or the High Court of a state. Due to this reason, Dr B R Ambedkar called the Right to Constitutional Remedies, 'the heart and soul' of our Constitution.