

NCERT Solutions for Class 11 Political Science Chapter 1 Constitution: Why and How?

Class 11 Political Science Chapter 1 NCERT Textbook Questions Solved

Question 1.

Which of these is not a function of the constitution?

- (a) It gives a guarantee of the rights of the citizen.
- (b) It marks out different spheres of power for different branches of government.
- (c) It ensures that good people come to power. id) It gives expression to some shared values.

Answer:

- (c) It ensures that good people come to power.

Question 2.

Which of the following is a good reason to conclude that the authority of the constitution is higher than that of the parliament?

- (a) The constitution was framed before the parliament came into being.
- (b) The constitution makers were more eminent leaders than the members of the parliament.
- (c) The constitution specifies how parliament is to be formed and what are its powers.
- (d) The constitution cannot be amended by the parliament.

Answer:

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Answer- (c)

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Answer- (c)

3. State whether the following statements about a constitution are True or False.

- a. Constitutions are written documents about formation and power of the government. **(False)**

Explanation- Constitutions need not be always written. It can be Unwritten as well.

- b. Constitutions exist and are required only in democratic countries. **(False)**

Explanation- Constitutions also exists in pseudo democracies or military rule.

c. Constitution is a legal document that does not deal with

of people.

4. State whether the following inferences about the making of the Indian Constitution are Correct or Incorrect. Give reasons to support your answer.

a. The Constituent Assembly did not represent the Indian people since it was not elected by all citizens. (Incorrect)

Explanation- Indian constitution was never subject to any referendum but nevertheless carried enormous public authority, because it had the consensus and backing of leaders who were themselves popular. The people adopted it as their own by abiding by its provisions.

b. Constitution making did not involve any major decision since there was a general consensus among the leaders at that time about its basic framework. (False)

Explanation- There was legitimate differences of principle. And the differences were many. Almost every issue that lies at the foundation of modern state was discussed with great sophistication. Only one provision of the constitution was passed without virtually any debate was the introduction of universal adult franchise. Every other matter was seriously discussed and debated.

c. There was little originality in the Constitution, for much of it was borrowed from other countries. (False)

Explanation- The makers of our constitution did not hesitate to learn from experiments and experiences of other countries. It is a testament to their wide learning that they could lay their hands upon any intellectual argument, or historical example that was necessary for fulfilling the task at hand. Each provision of constitution was defended on grounds that it suited to Indian problems and aspirations.



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6. Why is it necessary for a country to have a clear demarcation of powers and responsibilities in the constitution? What would happen in the absence of such a demarcation?

Answer- Constitutions limit the power of government in many ways. The most common way of limiting the power of government is to specify certain fundamental rights that all of us possess as citizens and which no government can ever be allowed to violate. The exact content and interpretation of these rights varies from constitution to constitution. But most constitutions will protect a basic cluster of rights. Citizens will be protected from being arrested arbitrarily and for no reason. This is one basic limitation upon the power of government. Citizens will normally have the right to some basic liberties: to freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, freedom of association, freedom to conduct a trade or business etc. In practice, these rights can be limited during times of national emergency and the constitution specifies the circumstances under which these rights may be withdrawn. Without the limitations or demarcation of government power, the government might act arbitrarily. They may pass laws that are patently unfair. It might prohibit particular group to practice their religion or prohibit singing certain songs etc. That is why demarcation of powers and responsibilities is required.

7. Why is it necessary for a constitution to place limitations on the rulers? Can there be a constitution that gives no power at all to the citizens?

Answer- In every democratic country limitations are placed on



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5. Give two examples each to support the following conclusions about the Indian Constitution:

a. The Constitution was made by credible leaders who commanded peoples' respect.

Answer- The Indian constitution was never subject to a referendum as happened in other countries but it had the consensus and backing of leaders who were themselves popular. The constituent assembly consisted of eminent leaders of the masses and represented all shades of opinion and interests of society.

b. The Constitution has distributed power in such a way as to make it difficult to subvert it.

Answer- Well crafted constitutions fragment power in society intelligently so that no single group can subvert the constitution. The Indian constitution horizontally fragments power across different institutions like the legislature, executive and judiciary and even independent statutory bodies like the election commission. This ensures that even if one institution wants to subvert the constitution, others can check its transgressions. No organ enjoys the absolute powers over the other two organs.

c. The Constitution is the locus of people's hopes and aspirations.

Answer-

Indian constitution also provide an enabling framework for the government to do certain positive things, to express the aspirations and goals of society. The Indian constitution enables the government to take positive welfare measures some which are legally enforceable. The directive principles of state policy also enjoin government to fulfil certain aspirations of the people.



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