

CHAPTER -2 CONSTITUTIONAL DESIGN

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Chapter 2

CONSTITUTIONAL DESIGN

Q1. Why is India called ‘a Republic’?

Ans. India is called a republic because the head of the state is an elected person and not a hereditary position.

Q2. What is meant by the term ‘Preamble’?

Ans. The Preamble is an introduction to the Constitution which contains the ideals and basic principles of the Indian Constitution. It contains the philosophy on which the entire Constitution has been built.

Q3. “Indian Constitution adopted many institutional details and procedures from different countries.” Justify by giving examples.

Ans.

- India adopted the principle of liberty, freedom and justice from the French Constitution.
- India adopted Bill of Rights from the United States of America.
- The practice of Parliamentary democracy has been adopted from Great Britain.
- The socialist revolution in Russia had inspired many Indians to think of shaping a system based on social and economic equality.

Q4. How was Constituent Assembly formed?

Ans.

- The drafting of the document called the constitution was done by an assembly elected representatives called Constituent Assembly.
- Elections to Constituent Assembly were held in July 1946. Its first meeting was held in December 1946.
- The Constituent Assembly was also divided into the Constituent Assembly of India and Pakistan after the Partition.

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- The Constituent Assembly that wrote the Indian Constitution constituted as many as 299 members.

Q5. What are ‘Constituent Assembly Debates’?

Ans.

- Every document presented and every word spoken in the Constituent Assembly has been recorded and preserved. These are called ‘Constituent Assembly Debates’.
- When printed, these debates are 12 bulky volumes.
- These debates provide the rationale behind every provision of the Constitution.
- These are used to interpret the meaning of the Constitution

Q6. Highlight any five difficult circumstances under which the constitution was drawn up.

Ans.

1. The making of the constitution for a huge and diverse country like India was not an easy affair.
2. At that time the people of India were emerging from the status of subjects to that of citizens.
3. The country was born through a partition on the basis of religious differences. This was a traumatic experience for the people of India and Pakistan.
4. The Britishers had left the princely states to decide their own future.
5. The future of the country did not look as secure as it does today

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Q.7 What do you understand by secularism? Why India is called a secular country?

Ans.

- India is a country of many religions and it respects all religions.
- No religion is given the status of state religion
- Equal respect is given to all beliefs, faiths and practices.
- Citizens have complete freedom to follow any religion.

Q. 8 What are Constitutional Amendments? State its significance in a democratic country like India.

Ans.

- Constitutional Amendments are changes in the constitution made by the Supreme Legislative body in a country.
- The constitution of India is a very long and detailed document. Therefore it needs to be amended quite regularly to keep it updated.
- Those who crafted the Indian Constitution felt that it has to be in accordance with people's aspirations and changes in society.