

FRAMING THE CONSITUTION

Multiple Choice Type Questions

1. Indian Constitution comes into force on
 - (a) 26 Jan 1946
 - (b) 15 Aug 1947
 - (c) 26 Jan 1950
 - (d) 15 Aug 1950
2. When was the rough sketch of the constitution passed by the constituent Assembly?
 - (a) 26 Dec. 1948
 - (b) 26 Jan. 1950
 - (c) 26 Nov. 1949
 - (d) 26 Dec. 1946
3. How many sessions of the constituent Assembly were held?
 - (a) 8
 - (b) 9
 - (c) 10
 - (d) 11
4. Who was the President of Constituent Assembly?
 - (a) Jawahar Lai Nehru
 - (b) B.R. Ambedkar
 - (c) Dr. Rajender Prasad
 - (d) Sardar Patel
5. Mahatma Gandhi wanted to make _____ language as the national language.
 - (a) Hindustani
 - (b) Hindi
 - (c) Tamil
 - (d) Urdu

Answer

1. (c) 2. (c) 3. (d) 4. (c) 5. (a)

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. The partition of India was a holocaust. Justify your answer by giving five examples.

Answer: The partition of India was not only a political event but also a holocaust. It can be substantiated with the following examples:

- Lakhs of people were killed. A large number of women were either raped or abducted.
- Millions of people had become refugees in alien lands.
- A large number of people were rendered homeless.
- Most of the people had lost their movable assets and immovable property.
- Many people were separated from their relatives or friends.
- There were killings, rape, arson, and loot. In other words, the partition of India in 1947 was a holocaust. It meant destruction or slaughter on a mass- scale.

2. Do you agree that the partition of the country was the contribution of separate electorates?

Answer: The partition of India in 1947 was a culmination of communal politics. In 1909, the colonial government in India had created separate electorates for Muslims. The separate electorates meant that Muslims were entitled to elect their own representatives from the designated constituencies. It led to sectarian politics and communal clashes. Some politicians raised sectarian slogans to woo the voters.

Because of those separate electorates, the religious identities got a functional use. At times, they also got hardened. In other words, the creation of separate electorates increased opposition and hostility between different communities. They had an unhealthy impact on Indian politics which resulted in the partition of India in 1947.

3. What were the reasons for the establishment of the Muslim League in India? What was the contribution of the British Policy of 'Divide and Rule' in the establishment of the Muslim League?

Answer: The Muslim League was established in India because of the following reasons:

1. The Muslims belonging to high classes had so far not forgotten that they had ruled India for many years. They had lost all their rights during the British rule. They established the Muslim League to attain an influential position in the society.
2. A Mohammadan Anglo-Oriental College was set up at Aligarh. It had an English principal. He used to instigate the Muslim students against the Hindus.
3. Another reason for the establishment of the Muslim League was the British policy of Divide and Rule. The white men always told the Muslims that Congress was a Hindu party. So it cannot think about the welfare of the Muslims. The white men succeeded in their policy because the Muslims had made up their minds to create their own political party.

4. Under what circumstances, India attained independence?

Answer: India fought a long-drawn war to attain its freedom. After the Second World War, the British Government was so weakened that it was impossible for her to control all the colonies. So in 1946, the British Government declared that it wanted to end its rule in India. It sent a Cabinet Mission to India for this purpose. This Mission proposed to call the Constituent Assembly and constitute an Interim Government.

As soon as the Interim Government was set up, the Muslim League raised its demand for Pakistan. So there were communal riots at many places like Bengal, Bihar, and Bombay. Under these circumstances, Lord Mountbatten placed his proposal for the division or partition of the country. All accepted this proposal. At last, India was partitioned on 15 August 1947. Since then, India is an independent country.

5. Why did the Cabinet Mission visit India? What were its recommendations? Analyze the provisions of the Cabinet Mission of 1946. (C.B.S.E. 2015 (D))

Answer: A three-member Cabinet Mission visited India in March 1946. Its purpose was to examine the demand of the Muslim League for the creation of Pakistan. It also wanted to suggest a suitable political framework for independent modern India. It toured the whole country for three months. At last, it made the following recommendations:

1. It suggested a loose three-tier confederation for India.
2. It also suggested a weak central government having control only on foreign affairs, defense, and communications.

3. It retained provincial assemblies but categorized them into three groups for the elections to Constituent Assembly. Group-A was for the Hindu-majority provinces, Group-B had Muslim-majority provinces of the north-west and Group-C also had Muslim-majority provinces of the north-east including Assam.
4. All groups of provinces would also have regional units. They would also be empowered to set up intermediate-level executives and legislatures of their own

LONG ANSWER QUESTION

1. The years immediately preceding the making of the Constitution had been exceptionally tumultuous. Give examples in support of this statement.

Answer: 1. before the independence of India on 15 August 1947, the political and social conditions in the country were tumultuous. No doubt the people had great hope for free, peaceful and prosperous India but they also felt depressed and disappointed due to many incidents such as communal riots that followed our independence and in which more than two lakh people were killed.

2. Indian independence accompanied the partition of the country. The country was divided into two parts namely India and Pakistan.
 3. The people still remembered the Quit India Movement of 1942. It was perhaps the most widely popular movement against the alien rule.
 4. The people were still reminiscent of Azad Hind Fauj constituted by Subash Chandra Bose with foreign aid, the purpose of which, of course, was to win freedom.
 5. During the late 1940s, there were mass protests of workers and peasants in different parts of the country.
 6. There was a lack of social harmony as the Congress and the Muslim League repeatedly failed to arrive at any reconciliation.
 7. There were persistent riots in northern and eastern India. There were many killings in Calcutta in August 1946.
2. Discuss the role of six most important members of the Constituent Assembly. Throw light on their contribution.

Answer: There were nearly three hundred members in the Constituent Assembly. But the most dominant voices in the House were a few. They included Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabh Bhai Patel, Rajender Prasad, B.R. Ambedkar, K.M. Munshi and Alladi Krishnaswamy Aiyar. All of them played a significant role in the meetings and deliberations of the Constituent Assembly.

Jawaharlal Nehru: He presented the Objectives Resolution in the Constituent Assembly on 13 December 1946. It not only outlined the ideals of the Constitution but also provided a framework within which the constitution was to be framed. He also moved a resolution which proposed that the National flag of India should be a horizontal tri-colour of saffron, white and dark green in equal proportion, with an Ashok Chakra in navy blue at the centre.

Sardar Patel: He did not remain at the fore-front and worked mostly behind the scenes. He played an important role in the drafting of various reports. His role was very crucial as he worked mostly to reconcile opposing and contradictory points of view put forward by different members of the House.

Rajinder Prasad: As he was the President of the Constituent Assembly, his role naturally ought to be very important and impressive. He steered the discussions and deliberations in such a way that constructive

decisions easily cropped up. He ensured that all the members of the Assembly got a chance to speak and express their views freely.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar: He was a lawyer and an economist. He was in fact a non-Congress member. He was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution and the law minister in the Union Cabinet. He scrutinised and compiled the reports submitted by various committees of the Constituent Assembly. He prepared a Draft Constitution and presented it before the Constituent Assembly for perusal, discussion and approval. His role was quite significant.

K.M. Munshi: He was a lawyer from Gujarat who helped a lot in the drafting of the Constitution.

Alladi Krishnaswamy Aiyar: He was a lawyer from Madras. He, like K.M. Munshi, gave crucial input in the writing of the Constitution.

3. Examine any four major issues that went into the making of the Indian Constitution.

Answer: The making of the Indian Constitution was greatly influenced by many subjects or issues. These issues were such without which the establishment of real democracy was not possible. Out of these important issues, the main was as follows:

1. **Political equality and socio-economic justice** The right to Universal Adult Franchise was the symbol of political equality. However, this political equality was incomplete without social and economic justice. So, it was essential to abolish social and economic discrimination.
- 2 **Issues concerning the Dalits and the untouchables.** It was essential to give special patronage for the upliftment of the Dalits and the Untouchables. The same was needed for the scheduled tribes.
3. **Centralised federation:** A federal government with a strong centre was set up to maintain the unity and integrity of the nation. This federation was a symbol of unity amidst diversity.
4. **Separate electorate:** The Dalits and minority communities were demanding separate electorate so that they may be able to get their representatives elected in the legislature. But it could endanger one's loyalty towards the state. t So this view was rejected and to remove this apprehension or misgiving, seats were reserved for the Dalits. The reservation of seats for the Dalits in the Legislature was a solution to the demand for a separate electorate.