Long Answer Questions

Q. 1. Briefly describe the three lists of subjects under the constitution of India.

Ans. The Constitution sought to balance the power between the centre and states by providing three lists of subjects:

- (i) Union list: It includes the subjects such as taxes, defence and foreign affairs which would be the exclusive responsibility of the Centre.
- (ii) State list: It has the subjects such as education and health, which would be taken care of principally by the states.
- (iii) Concurrent list: It has the subjects as forests and agriculture in which the centre and the states would have joint responsibility.

Q. 2. Briefly describe India's foreign policy and Non-Aligned Movement.

Ans. Foreign Policy

- (i) Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, who was also the foreign minister of newly independent India, developed free India's foreign policy.
- (ii) Non-alignment formed the bedrock of the new foreign policy.
- (iii) Nehru wished to extend India's support to those countries which were under the control of colonialism and imperialism. He wanted to promote peace and harmony in the world.

Non-Alignment Movement

- (i) Non-Alignment Movement urged countries not to join USA or USSR. Yugoslavia, Egypt, Indonesia, Ghana and India were the part of nonaligned movement.
- (ii) They remained neutral or isolated by staying away from the two alliances (USA and USSR).
- (iii) They tried to prevent war by often taking a humanitarian and moral stand against war.
- (iv) By the 1970s, a large number of countries had joined the non-aligned movement.
- Q. 3. What special privileges were offered to disadvantaged and poor sections of India by the constitution.
- **Ans. (i)** First of all, 'slur and a blot' on the 'fair name of India', untouchability was abolished. Hindu temples were thrown open to all citizens of India.

- (ii) After a long debate, the constituent assembly recommended that a certain percentage of seats in legislatures as well as jobs in government be reserved for the members of the lowest castes.
- (iii) Along with the former Untouchables, the adivasis or Scheduled Tribes were also granted reservation in seats and jobs. Like the Scheduled Castes, these Indians too had been deprived and discriminated against.