

Constitutional Design

Source Based Questions

Source 1

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

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.

Q1. Which system was imposed by the White Europeans on South Africa?

- a. System of terrible treatment
- b. System of apartheid
- c. Treason
- d. White domination

Ans. (b)

Q2. What was the basis on which the system of apartheid divide people?

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| a. Caste | b. Religion |
| c. Skin colour | d. Race |

Ans. (c)

Q3. Name the country in which a large number of Whites settle and become the local rulers.

- a. South Africa
- b. North Africa
- c. England
- d. Poland

Ans. (a)

Q4. Which of the following races of South Africa did not have voting rights?

- a. Whites
- b. Non-whites
- c. Natives
- d. Inferiors

Ans. (b)

Q5. Which of the following was not an effort made by the people of South Africa to struggle against the apartheid system?

- a. The Blacks, Coloured and Indians launched protest marches and strikes.
- b. African National Congress (ANC) led the struggle against the policy of segregation.
- c. Many sensitive Whites joined the ANC and played a leading role in this movement.
- d. Many workers' unions and women joined the movement.

Ans. (d)

Q6. When did the policy of apartheid come to an end?

- a. 26th April, 1931
- b. 26th April, 1994
- c. 24th May, 1950
- d. 24th May, 1994

Ans. (b)

Source 2

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

Like South Africa, India's Constitution was also drawn up under very difficult circumstances. The making of the Constitution for a huge and diverse country like India was not an easy affair. At that time the people of India were emerging from the status of subjects to that of citizens. 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. 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. The makers of the Constitution had anxieties about the present and the future of the country.

Q1. On what basis India was partitioned during the making of the Constitution?

- a. Racial discrimination
- b. Religious differences
- c. On the basis of caste and creed
- d. None of the above

Ans. (b)

Q2. Identify the difficulty faced during the making of Indian Constitution.

- a. The making of the Constitution was not an easy task.
- b. The people of India were emerging from the status of subjects to that of citizens.
- c. The country was born through partition.
- d. All of the above

Ans. (d)

Q3. Why is Indian Constitution both rigid and flexible?

- a. The procedure of amendment is neither easy nor difficult.
- b. The Constitution has provided a federal structure for India.
- c. A special majority of the Union Parliament is required to demand the Constitution.
- d. All of the above

Ans. (d)

Q4. What was the decision left by British to the princely states?

- a. Whether they want to merge with India.
- b. Whether they want to merge with Pakistan.
- c. Whether they want to remain independent.
- d. Either of the above

Ans. (d)

Q5. Why was the making of Constitution necessary?

- a. It generates a degree of trust and coordination.
- b. It specifies how the government will be constituted.
- c. It lays down limits to the powers of the government.
- d. All of the above

Ans. (d)

Q6. There are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read them and choose the correct option:

Assertion (A): Partition of the country was a traumatic experience for the people of both India and Pakistan.

Reason (R): More than a million of people were killed in violence between the communities.

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

Ans. (a)

Source 3

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow:

A Constitution is not merely a statement of values and philosophy. As we noted above, a Constitution is mainly about embodying these values into institutional arrangements. Much of the document called Constitution of India is about these arrangements. It 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. They did not see it as a sacred, static and unalterable law. So, they made provisions to incorporate changes from time to time. These changes are called Constitutional amendments.

The Constitution describes the institutional arrangements in a very legal language. If you read the Constitution for the first time, it can be quite difficult to understand. Yet the basic institutional design is not very difficult to understand.

Q1. What are constitutional amendments?

Ans. The makers of the Constitution made a provision for making amendments to the Constitution from time to time. These changes are called constitutional amendments.

Q2. Mention the two major aspects in the working of institutional design.

Ans. The two major aspects in the working of institutional design are:

- (i) It lays down the procedure for choosing persons to govern the country, i.e., about elections.

(ii) It defines who will have much power to take the decision, i.e., distribution of power among the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary.

Q3. In what way institutional design puts limits to what the government can do?

Ans. Institutional design puts limits to what the government can do by providing some rights to the citizen that cannot be violated and are called fundamental rights.