

12 Framing the Constitution

Fastrack Revision

► Introduction

The Constitution of India was enforced on 26th January 1950. It is the longest Constitution of the world. This day is called as 'date of commencement'. On the 26th November 1949 the Constitution received the signature of the President of the Constituent Assembly and was declared as passed. The Assembly had 11 sessions which continued for 165 days.

- There were various committees and sub-committees which drafted the Constitution.
- These committees included the Union Constitution Committee, the Union Powers Committee, Committee on Fundamental Rights etc.
- The Drafting Committee worked under the Chairmanship of Dr Ambedkar.

► Events before Making of Constitution

- Before making of the Constitution the country witnessed many events.
- These incidents became most popular among the people and all these incidents witnessed the Hindu-Muslim Unity throughout the nation.
- These three incidents were thus :
 - (a) Quit India Struggle of 1942,
 - (b) Subhash Chandra Bose and his great struggle to free India, and
 - (c) Uprising of the Royal Indian Navy in Bombay.
- The Congress Party found itself unable to bring religious harmony between Hindus and Muslims.
- Calcutta witnessed the mass killing in August 1946 and violence spread across North and East India.
- Hindus and Sikhs in Pakistan were in great difficulty. They were left of threat of death or migrate to India.
- Muslims moved to East and West Pakistan from India.

► Making of Constituent Assembly

The members of Constituent Assembly were elected by the members of Provincial Legislatures. The Assembly also had the representatives of the Princely States.

- Muslim League did not cooperate and boycotted the Constituent Assembly.
- The League demanded separate region for Muslims as Pakistan.
- Nearly eighty-two per cent member of the Assembly were members of the Congress.
- Public opinion took important aspect to create sense of collective participation.

- There were different opinions on different issues.

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The Constituent Assembly was constituted of 300 members. Among these six members played prominent role.



- These six members were:
 - (i) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
 - (ii) Jawaharlal Nehru
 - (iii) Rajendra Prasad
 - (iv) B.R. Ambedkar
 - (v) K.M. Munshi, and
 - (vi) Alladi Krishnaswamy Iyer
- Two lawyers K.M. Munshi and Alladi Krishnaswamy Iyer helped in drafting the Constitution.
- Two civil servants B.N. Rau and S.N. Mukherjee assisted the members.
- **Vision of the Constitution**

On 13th December 1946, Jawaharlal Nehru, introduced the 'Objective Resolution in the Constituent Assembly. The outlines of this objective were thus:

 - (i) It proclaimed India to be an Independent, Sovereign and Republic country.
 - (ii) It guaranteed India's citizens justice, equality and freedom.
 - (iii) It assured adequate safeguards for minorities, backward and tribal areas, depressed and other backwards classes.
- Nehru said that our Constitution should adopt liberal ideas of democracy and mix socialist idea of economic justice.
- **The Will of the People**
 - A Communist member, Somnath Lahiri, viewed that the deliberations of the Constituent Assembly were done under influence of British imperialism. He believed that when Assembly was formed, the British were still in India (In the period of 1946-47).
 - Nehru admitted that the Assembly has been constituted under British framework. The Assembly derived its strength which was the will of the people.
- **Ideal of Constituent Assembly**
 - Assembly was being considered a source of expressing the aspirations of those who had participated in the freedom struggle.
 - The social reformers in the 19th century were pleading for social justice.
 - Since the 19th century the ideals of democracy had become closely associated with social struggles in India. The campaign by Swami Vivekananda to reform Hinduism, was an effort to make religions more just.

► Defining Rights

- The important issue before the Constituent Assembly was defining the rights. No one had idea for defining the rights of individuals citizens.
- On 27th August 1947, B. Pocker Bahadur from Madras made a speech for continuing separate electorates. He argued that they could not be erased out of existence.

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 *Nationalist leaders severely opposed the idea of separate electorates. They were haunted by the possibility of riots, violence and civil war.*

- Sardar Patel and Govind Ballabh Pant felt that the resolution was harmful not only for the nation but also for minorities and it would permanently isolate the minorities.
- Even among the Muslims, not all supported the demand for separate electorates. Begum Alzaz Rasul felt separate electorates were self-destructive as they isolated the minorities from majority.
- According to N.G. Ranga, a socialist, the real minorities were the poor and the downtrodden. He also counted the tribals among minorities.
- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar during national movement, demanded separate electorates for the depressed castes and Mahatma Gandhi opposed it.
- J. Nagappa pointed out that numerically the depressed castes were not a minority and they formed 20 per cent to 25 per cent of the population.
- After the partition and violence, Ambedkar gave up the demand for separate electorates.
- Finally, the Constituent Assembly recommended that Hindu temples were opened to all castes, while seats in legislature and jobs in government offices were reserved for lower castes.

► Distribution of State Power

Jawaharlal Nehru demanded for a strong centre. The draft constitution provided three lists of subjects for the distribution of power between centre and state units. These lists are included in our constitution thus :

- **Union List** : Subject of this list are controlled by the Central government. Under Article 356 the Centre had power to take over a state administration on the recommendation of the Governor.
- **State List** : Subjects enumerated in this list are under the control of state governments.
- **Concurrent List** : Subjects under this category are controlled by both the centre and the states. The highest authority of the subjects under this category is given to the Centre.

► Favourism of Strong Centre

B.R. Ambedkar was in favour of strong Centre. He wanted 'a strong and united Centre stronger than the Centre under the Government of India Act of 1935. The supporters of this view had the opinion that strong Centre could stop communal outburst.

Gopalaswami Ayyangar expressed his opinion that the Centre should be made as strong as possible.

► Language Issue

Language of the nation was the main issue and was debated in the Constituent Assembly over many months.

- Since 1930s the Congress party had accepted Hindustani as national language. It was the blend of Hindi and Urdu.
- Gandhiji also was of the view to make Hindustani the language of the nation.
- With growing feeling of communal conflicts more Sanskrit words were used in Hindi language.
- Urdu language began to use more Persian words.
- A Congress member from United Provinces R.V. Dhulekar appealed to make Hindi as the language of the nation.
- A formula was recommended to resolve the deadlock between those who advocated Hindi as national language and those who opposed it.
- The decision taken by the Committee was that Hindi in the Devanagari script would be the official language. English would be continued for all official purpose for the first fifteen years. Each province was allowed to chose one of the regional language for official work within the province.

► Outstanding Features of our Constitution

The Constitution of India is remarkable for many outstanding features which distinguish it from other Constitution of the world.

- The Constitution of India has a distinction of being the most lengthy and detailed constitutional document the world has so far produced.
- The Constitution has adopted the parliamentary system of government.
- Directive principles of state policy have been incorporate from the Constitution of Eire (*i.e.* Ireland).
- Provisions relating to emergencies are included in the Constitution.
- A whole one part, relating to the scheduled castes and Tribes and other backward classes are included.
- While the Constitution of U.S. deals only with the federal government and leaves the states to draw up their own Constitutions, the Indian Constitution provides the Constitution of both the Union and the units with the same fullness and precision.
- It also contains Directive Principles. They are fundamental in the governance of the country.
- Our Constitution has provided with independent judiciary, which has the power of 'judicial review'. This is a prominent feature of our Constitution.
- Our Constitution aims at securing not merely political or legal equality, but social equality as well.
- The adoption of universal adult suffrage, without any qualification either of sex, property, taxation or the like, is a bold experiment in India.

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 *No less an outstanding feature of our Constitution is the union of some 567 Indian states with the rest of India.*



Practice Exercise



Multiple Choice Questions

Q 1. Which one of the following languages was favored by Gandhiji as the national language?

(CBSE SQP 2022-2023)

- a. Hindi b. Urdu c. Hindustani d. English

Q 2. Whose constitutional status remained ambiguous at the time of Independence?

- a. Minorities b. Depressed classes
c. Princely states d. Tribals

Q 3. Who introduced the crucial 'Objective Resolution in Constituent Assembly'?

- a. B.R. Ambedkar b. Jawaharlal Nehru
c. Vallabhbhai Patel d. K.M. Munshi

Q 4. Who joined the Union Cabinet as Law Minister after Independence and also served as Chairman of the Drafting Committee?

- a. Alladi Krishnaswamy Iyer
b. Rajendra Prasad
c. Jawaharlal Nehru
d. B.R. Ambedkar

Q 5. Who told that the deliberations of Constituent Assembly were under clear influence of British imperialism?

- a. Somnath Lahiri b. B.R. Ambedkar
c. Muhammad Ali Jinnah d. Mahatma Gandhi

Q 6. Why was the task of defining rights was difficult in the Constituent Assembly?

- a. Different groups have different demands regarding rights
b. British do not want to include it in constitutional frame work
c. Gandhiji opposed the Idea of special rights for some sections
d. Rights of people in Princely states was ambiguous

Q 7. Who represented 'Tribals' in the Constituent Assembly?

- a. Jaipal Singh b. Budhu Bhagat
c. B.R. Ambedkar d. N.G. Ranga

Q 8. How many lists of subject were provided by Draft Constitution?

- a. Two b. Three c. Four d. One

Q 9. Consider the following statements regarding making of Constituent Assembly.

- I. The members were elected through direct election.
II. Muslim League choose to boycott the Constituent Assembly.
III. The Assembly also had representatives of the Princely states.

Which of the statement(s) is/are correct?

a. I and II

b. II and III

c. I and III

d. I, II and III

Q 10. Consider the following statement regarding Objective Resolution.

- I. It proclaimed India as Independent Sovereign Republic.
II. It guaranteed its citizens justice, equality and freedom.
III. Assured adequate safeguards for some section of society.
IV. Assured nationalisation of all major industries.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

Codes:

a. I, II and III

b. II and III

c. II, III and IV

d. I, II, III and IV

Q 11. Consider the following statements regarding the rights of depressed castes.

- I. B.R. Ambedkar not demanded separate electorate for the depressed castes during the national movement.
II. Gandhiji supported Ambedkar view on separate electorate for depressed castes.
III. J. Nagappa mentioned that depressed castes are suffering due to lack of numerical strength .

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

Codes:

a. Only I

b. I and III

c. II and III

d. I, II and III

Q 12. Consider the following statements regarding recommendation of Constituent Assembly with respect to depressed castes.

- I. Untouchability should be abolished.
II. Hindu temples to be opened to all castes.
III. Reservation for lower castes in legislature and government offices.
IV. Reservation only for economically weaker section of depressed castes.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

Codes:

a. I and II

b. II and III

c. I, II and III

d. I, II, III and IV

Q 13. Arrange the following in chronological order and select the correct answer from the option below.

- (i) Constituent Assembly begins its session.
(ii) Congress forms interim government.
(iii) Pakistans Independence
(iv) Constitution was signed.

Codes:

a. (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv)

b. (ii), (i), (iii) and (iv)

c. (ii), (i), (iv) and (iii)

d. (iv), (iii), (ii) and (i)

- Q 14. Why was the task of defining minority rights in the Constituent Assembly difficult? Choose the correct option from the following: (CBSE 2023)
- Different groups had different demands regarding rights.
 - British did not want to include it in the Constitutional framework.
 - Gandhiji opposed the idea of special rights for some sections.
 - Rights of people in princely states were ambiguous.
- Q 15. The group that initially refused to join the Constituent Assembly as it was a British creation, was that of:
- Socialists
 - Tribals
 - Depressed classes
 - Muslim League
- Q 16. The Constituent Assembly member who pleaded for continuing separate electorates, after independence was:
- Begum Alzaz Rasul
 - R.V. Dhulekar
 - Govind Ballabh Pant
 - B. Pocker Bahadur
- Q 17. The Congress had accepted that Hindustani ought to be the national language by the:
- 1920s
 - 1930s
 - 1940s
 - 1950s
- Q 18. The Prime Minister of the Interim Government in India was:
- Dr. Rajendra Prasad
 - Pt. J.L. Nehru
 - Sardar Vallabh bhai Patel
 - Dr. S. Radhakrishnan
- Q 19. Under which scheme the Constituent Assembly was formed?
- Drafting Committee
 - Cabinet Mission Scheme
 - Objectives Resolution
 - All India States People's Conference
- Q 20. The members of the Constituent Assembly were chosen on the basis of the provincial elections of
- 1942
 - 1944
 - 1946
 - 1948
- Q 21. How many sessions of the Constituent Assembly were held?
- 8
 - 9
 - 10
 - 11
- Q 22. Who among the following was the President of the Constituent Assembly? (CBSE SQP 2022-2023)
- J.L. Nehru
 - B.R. Ambedkar
 - Dr. Rajendra Prasad
 - Sardar Patel
- Q 23. Mahatma Gandhi wanted to make language as the national language.
- Hindi
 - Tamil
 - Urdu
 - Hindustani
- Q 24. Which two civil servants gave vital assistance in preparing the constitution?
- B.N. Rau and S.N. Mukherjee
 - Somnath Lahiri and G.B. Pant
 - T.A. Ramalingam Chettiar and R.V. Dhulekar
 - Mrs. G. Durgabai and K. Santhanam

- Q 25. Who proposed that the National Flag of India be a 'horizontal tricolor of saffron, white and dark green in equal proportion', with a wheel in navy blue at the centre?
- Dr B.R. Ambedkar
 - Jawaharlal Nehru
 - R.V. Dhulekar
 - Vallabh bhai Patel

- Q 26. Consider the given statements regarding Constituent Assembly and select the correct option from the following: (CBSE 2023)

- Motilal Nehru moved resolution of National flag in the Constituent Assembly.
- G.B. Pant was the Legal Advisor.
- Sardar Patel was the Constitutional Advisor.
- K.M. Munshi was called as Frontier Gandhi.



Assertion & Reason Type Questions

Directions (Q.Nos. 27-33): In the following questions given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

- Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- (A) is false, but (R) is true.

- Q 27. Assertion (A): The discussions within the Constituent Assembly were also influenced by the opinions expressed by the public.

Reason (R): Congress swept the general seats in the provincial elections and the Muslim League captured most of the reserved Muslim seats.

COMMON ERROR

Many students do not read both statements carefully.



TIP

The relation between Assertion and Reason should be analysed in order to get the correct answer.

- Q 28. Assertion (A): On the advice of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Ambedkar was asked at Independence to join the Union Cabinet as law minister.

Reason (R): Dr. Ambedkar refused to take the responsibility of guiding the Draft Constitution through the Assembly.

- Q 29. Assertion (A): Mahatma Gandhi thought Hindustani would be the ideal language of communication between diverse communities.

Reason (R): It could unify Hindus and Muslims and the people of the North and the South.

(CBSE 2020)

Q 30. Assertion (A): Durgabai informed the House that the opposition in the south against Hindi was very strong.

Reason (R): On the call of Mahatma Gandhi, she carried on Hindi propaganda in the south.

Q 31. Assertion (A): The executive was made entirely responsible to the Provincial Legislature in 1935.

Reason (R): Government of India Act of 1935 was passed.

Q 32. Assertion (A): By 1949, most Muslim members of the Constituent Assembly were against the idea of separate electorate.

Reason (R): They were of the view that Muslims must take active part in the democratic process to have a decisive voice in the political system.

Q 33. Assertion (A): The Congress by the 1930s had accepted Hindustani to be the National Language.

Reason (R): Hindi got developed from Hindustani language only.



Fill in the Blank Type Questions

Q 34. The constitutional advisor to the Government of India during making of Constitution was

- a. B.N. Rau b. G.B. Pant
c. Motilal Nehru d. Sardar Patel

Q 35. The person who highlighted the suffering of depressed classes in Maharashtra was

- a. Jawaharlal Nehru b. B.R. Ambedkar
c. B.N. Rau d. Jyotiba Phule

Q 36. The mandated for a complex system of fiscal federalism.

- a. Law b. Government
c. Constitution d. Indian Policy

Q 37., a Congress member strongly favoured the use of Hindi language as the language of Constitution.

- a. B.N. Rau b. R.V. Dhulekar
c. G.B. Pant d. B.R. Ambedkar

Q 38. Article 25-28 refer to

- a. Freedom of Religion
b. Freedom of Women
c. Freedom of Government
d. Freedom of Education

Q 39. The Constitution was signed in after 3 years of debate.

- a. August 1947 b. December 1949
c. December 1947 d. August 1949



Correct and Rewrite Type Questions

Q 40. The Indian Constitution, which came into effect on 26th November 1945, has the dubious distinction of being the longest in the world.

Q 41. The members of the Constituent Assembly were elected on the basis of Universal Franchise.

Q 42. Approx 75 per cent of the members of the Constituent Assembly were also members of the Congress.

Q 43. On 13th December, 1946 N.G.Ranga introduced the "Objectives Resolution" in the Constituent Assembly.

Q 44. Countering the demand for separate electorates, B Pocker Bahadur from Madras declared that it was not only harmful for the nation but also for the minorities.



Match the Following Type Questions

Q 45. Match the following:

Column I	Column II
A. Quit India Movement	1. 1942
B. Royal India Navy Mutiny	2. 1946
C. Government of India Act	3. 1935
D. Constitution came into effect	4. 1950

Codes:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| A B C D | A B C D |
| a. 1 2 3 4 | b. 2 1 4 3 |
| c. 3 4 2 1 | d. 4 3 2 1 |

Q 46. Match the following:

Column I	Column II
A. Moved Objective Resolution	1. B.N. Rau
B. Chairman of Drafting Committee	2. Jawaharlal Nehru
C. Constitutional Advisor to Assembly	3. Rajendra Prasad
D. President of Constitutional Assembly	4. B.R. Ambedkar

Codes:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| A B C D | A B C D |
| a. 1 2 3 4 | b. 2 4 1 3 |
| c. 3 4 2 1 | d. 4 3 1 2 |

Q 47. Match the following:

Column I	Column II
A. Freedom of religion	1. Article 29,30
B. Cultural and educational rights	2. Article 25-28
C. Rights to equality	3. Article 23-24
D. Right against exploitation	4. Article 14, 16, 18

Codes:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| A B C D | A B C D |
| a. 2 1 4 3 | b. 1 2 3 4 |
| c. 2 3 1 4 | d. 1 3 2 4 |

Q 48. Match the following:

Column I	Column II
A. T.A. Ramalingam Chettiar	1. United Provinces
B. R.V. Dhulekar	2. Madras
C. Shri Shankarrao Deo	3. Central Province
D. K.J. Khanderkar	4. Bombay

Codes:

A B C D	A B C D
a. 2 1 4 3	b. 1 2 3 4
c. 2 1 3 4	d. 4 1 2 3

Q 49. Match the following:

Column I	Column II
A. Union List	1. Subjects under State govt's control
B. State List	2. Subjects under Central govt's control
C. Concurrent List	3. System of financial relations between the country's federal government system and other units of government
d. Fiscal Federalism	4. Subjects under control of both centre and state

Codes:

A B C D	A B C D
a. 2 1 4 3	b. 1 2 4 3
c. 2 1 3 4	d. 1 3 4 2

Q 50. Match the following:

Column I (Leaders)	Column II (Role in the Constituent Assembly)
A. Jawaharlal Nehru	1. President of the Constituent Assembly
B. B.R. Ambedkar	2. Constitutional Advisor
C. Rajendra Prasad	3. Chairman of the Drafting Committee
D. B.N. Rau	4. Worked on the 'Objective Resolution'

Codes:

(CBSE 2023)

A B C D	A B C D
a. 3 2 1 4	b. 3 4 1 2
c. 4 3 1 2	d. 2 3 4 1

Answers

1. (c) 2. (c) 3. (b) 4. (d) 5. (a)
6. (a) 7. (a) 8. (b) 9. (b) 10. (a)
11. (a) 12. (c) 13. (b) 14. (a) 15. (a)
16. (d) 17. (b) 18. (b) 19. (b) 20. (c)

21. (d) 22. (c) 23. (d) 24. (a) 25. (b)
26. (b) 27. (b) 28. (c) 29. (a) 30. (b)
31. (a) 32. (a) 33. (d) 34. (a) 35. (d)
36. (c) 37. (b) 38. (a) 39. (b)

40. The Indian Constitution, which came into effect on 26th January 1950, has the dubious distinction of being the longest in the world.
41. The members of the Constituent Assembly were not elected on the basis of Universal Franchise.
42. Approx 82 per cent of the members of the Constituent Assembly were also members of the Congress.
43. On 13th December, 1946, Jawaharlal Nehru introduced the "Objectives Resolution" in the Constituent Assembly.
44. Countering the demand for separate electorates, Govind Ballabh Pant declared that it was not only harmful for the nation but also for the minorities.
45. (a) 46. (b) 47. (a) 48. (a) 49. (a) 50. (c)



Source Based Type Questions

Source 1

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

The years immediately preceding the making of the Constitution had been exceptionally tumultuous: a time of great hope, but also of abject disappointment. On 15th August, 1947 India had been made free, but it had also been divided. Fresh in popular memory were the Quit India struggle of 1942 — perhaps the most widespread popular movement against the British Raj as well as the bid by Subhas Chandra Bose to win freedom through armed struggle with foreign aid. An even more recent upsurge had also evoked much popular sympathy this was the rising of the ratings of the Royal Indian Navy in Bombay and other cities in the spring of 1946. Through the late 1940s there were periodic, if scattered, mass protests of workers and peasants in different parts of the country.

Q 1. Why the years immediately preceding the making of Constitution had been described as exceptionally tumultuous?

- a. Events such as Quit India Movement, Indian National Army and Royal Indian Navy mutiny raised the hope of Independence.
b. India also faced Hindu-Muslim riots on large scale due to the partition.
c. Both a. and b.
d. None of the above

Q 2. What was the striking feature of this popular upsurges?

- a. It was successful in subjugating the British army.
- b. It showed great Hindu-Muslim Unity which was in contrast to the political situation corrupted by the devise politics of Muslim League.
- c. It saw huge participation of people from rural and backward areas.
- d. It saw emergence of new political representatives.

Q 3. Choose the correct option:

Assertion (A): At Independence, India was not merely large and diverse, but also deeply divided.
Reason (R): There was large scale polarisation among religious communities.

Codes:

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

Q 4. Consider the following statements:

(i) The Constitution of India came into effect on 26th January 1950.

(ii) It is the longest written Constitution in the world.

Choose the correct option:

- a. Only (i) is correct
- b. Both (i) and (ii) are correct
- c. Only (ii) is correct
- d. None of the above

Answers

1. (c) 2. (b) 3. (a) 4. (b)

Source 2

Study the following picture carefully and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option.



Q 1. Who are the two persons shown in the picture?

- a. Rajendra Prasad and Jawaharlal Nehru
- b. Rajendra Prasad and B.R. Ambedkar
- c. Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Vallabh bhai Patel
- d. Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi

Q 2. What is the event?

- a. Formation of the Constituent Assembly
- b. Independence of India
- c. Handing over of the Constitution
- d. Promulgation of the Indian Constitution

Q 3. When was the Indian Constitution promulgated?

- a. August 15, 1947
- b. November 26, 1949
- c. December 31, 1949
- d. January 26, 1950

Q 4. Which was the original language in which the Constitution was formulated?

- a. Hindi
- b. English
- c. Punjabi
- d. Urdu

Answers

1. (b) 2. (c) 3. (d) 4. (b)

Source 3

Read the following source carefully and answer the questions that follow:

"The British element is gone, but they have left the mischief behind" Sardar Vallabh bhai Patel said: It is no use saying that we ask for separate electorates because it is good for us. We have heard it long enough. We have heard it for years and as a result of this agitation we are now a separate nation ... Can you show me one free country where there are separate electorates? If so, I shall be prepared to accept it. But in this unfortunate country, if this separate electorate is going to be persisted in, even after the division of the country, it is not worth living in. Therefore, I say, it is not for my good alone, it is for your own good that I say it, forget the past. One day, we may be united ... The British element is gone, but they have left the mischief behind. We do not want to perpetuate that mischief. (Hear, hear). When the British introduced this element, they had not expected that they will have to go so soon. They wanted it for their easy administration. That is all right. But they have left the legacy behind. Are we to get out of it or not? (CBSE SQP 2023-24)

Q 1. 'They have left a legacy behind' who is referred as? They in this statement.

Ans. The British

Q 2. What do you infer from the statement 'they have left the legacy behind'?

Ans. The British did not want Indians to be united, they applied divide and rule policy, for their easy administration and they created a division which had affected the life of the people/entire nation and hence the need to get out of it was insisted.

Q 3. Identify the ultimate message stressed by Sardar Vallabh bhai Patel.

Ans. He was urging the people of our country not to adopt the legacy left behind by the British called 'separation'/ divide and rule policy.

Source 4

Read the following source carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Govind Ballabh Pant argued that in order to become loyal citizens, people had to stop focusing only on the community and the self. For the success of democracy, one must train himself in the art of self-discipline. In democracies, one should care less for himself and more for others. There cannot be any divided loyalty. All loyalties must exclusively be centred round the State. If in a democracy, you create rival loyalties, or you create a system in which any individual or group, instead of suppressing his extravagance, cares sought for larger or other interests, then democracy is doomed.

Q 1. Why did Govind Ballabh Pant lay more stress on the art of self-discipline?

Ans. Govind Ballabh Pant suggested that to make democracy successful, one should be self-disciplined. Individual should care less for personal gain and focus more on collective benefit or for other's gain in democracy.

Q 2. What was considered important for the success of democracy?

Ans. For success of democracy, loyalty should not be divided. it must be centred round the state and citizens should care less for themselves and more for fellow citizens.

Q 3. "In democracies, one should care less for himself and more for others." Give your views on this philosophy. (CBSE 2015)

Ans. This philosophy of democracy suggests that one should be considerate towards other. Nothing should be done for personal gain which can harm the interest of other person or large section of people. This philosophy promotes the feeling of people centric benefits instead of individual centric.

Source 5

Read the following source carefully and answer the questions that follow:

We say that it is our firm and solemn resolve to have an independent sovereign republic. India is bound to be sovereign, it is bound to be independent and it is bound to be a republic....Now, some friends have raised the question "Why have you not put in the word 'democratic' here.?" Well, I told them that it is conceivable of course, that a republic may not be democratic but the whole of our past is witness to this fact that we stand for democratic institutions. Obviously, we are aiming at democracy and nothing less than a democracy. What form of democracy, what shape it might take is another matter.

The democracies of the present day, many of them in Europe and elsewhere, have played a great part in the world's progress. Yet it may be doubtful if those democracies may not have to change their shape somewhat before long if they have to remain completely democratic. We are not going just to copy, I hope, a certain democratic procedure or an institution of a so-called democratic country.

We may improve upon it. In any event whatever system of government we may establish here must fit in with the temper of our people and be acceptable to them. We stand for democracy. It will be for this House to determine what shape to be given to that democracy, the fullest democracy, I hope the House will notice that in this resolution, although we have not used the word 'democratic' because we thought it is obvious that the word 'republic contains that word and we have done something much more than using the word.

We have given the content of democracy in this resolution and not only the content of democracy but the context, also, if I may say so of economic democracy in this resolution. Others might take objection to this Resolution on the grounds that we have not said that it should be a Socialist State. Well, I stand for Socialism and, I hope, India will stand for Socialism and that India will go towards the Constitution of a Socialist State and I do believe that the whole world will have to go that way.

Q 1. Explain why Nehru did not mention the word democratic in the resolution?

Ans. The explanation given by Jawaharlal Nehru for not using the term 'democratic' in the objective resolution is as follows:

(i) It was thought by the makers of the Constitution that the word 'republic already contains the word 'democratic'.

(ii) They did not want to use unnecessary and redundant words.

Q 2. Mention the three basic features of the Constitution given in the above passage.

Ans. Three basic features of the Constitution given in above passage are independent, sovereign and republic.

Q 3. On what kind of socialism did Nehru give stress to?

Ans. Nehru was supporter of socialism and he said that India would stand for socialism, where every citizen would be provided equal opportunities for growth and development. There would be economic democracy and economic justice.

Source 6

Read the following source carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Welcoming the Objectives Resolution introduced by Jawaharlal Nehru, N.G. Ranga said Sir, there is a lot of talk about minorities. Who are the real minorities? Not the Hindus in the so-called Pakistan provinces, not the Sikhs, not even the Muslims.

No, the real minorities are the masses of this country. These people are so depressed and oppressed and suppressed till now that they are not able to take advantage of the ordinary civil rights. What is the position? You go to the tribal areas. According to law, their own traditional law, their tribal law, their lands, cannot be alienated.

Yet our merchants go there and in the so-called free market they are able to snatch their lands. Thus, even though the law goes against this snatching away of their lands, still the merchants are able to turn the tribal people into veritable slaves by various kinds of bonds and make them hereditary bond-slaves. Let us go to the ordinary villagers.

There goes the money lender with his money and he is able to get the villagers in his pocket. There is the landlord himself, the zamindar and the *malguzar* and there are the various other people who are able to exploit these poor villagers. There is no elementary education even among these people.

These are the real minorities that need protection and assurances of protection. In order to give them the necessary protection, we will need much more than this resolution...

Q 1. How is the notion of minority defined by N.G. Ranga?

OR

Who are the real minorities according to Shri N.G. Ranga and why?

Ans. According to Shri N.G. Ranga, the real minorities were the poor and downtrodden, especially the tribals because these people are so depressed, oppressed and suppressed till now that they are not able to take advantage of the ordinary civil rights.

Q 2. Do you agree with Ranga? If not, mention who are real minorities according to you and why?

Ans. I agree with Ranga that masses of this country are real minorities because these people have been depressed, suppressed and oppressed from a very long time.

Q 3. Describe the living condition of the tribals.

Ans. According to Professor N.G. Ranga, the living conditions of the tribals can be described as follows:

(i) The tribals were being alienated despite the tribal law according to which they cannot be alienated from their lands.

(ii) When the merchants go to the lands of tribals, they snatch their lands.

(iii) The merchants were able to turn the tribal people into veritable slaves by various kinds of bonds and make them hereditary bond slaves.



Very Short Answer Type Questions

Q 1. When did the Indian Constitution come into effect?

Ans. The Indian Constitution came into effect on 26th January 1950.

Q 2. Why was drafting the Constitution a tedious task?

Ans. At the time of independence, India was not only large and diverse, but divided. Hence, under such circumstances, an elaborate and carefully drafted Constitution was necessary for the unity and progress of the country.

Q 3. How were the members of the Constituent Assembly chosen?

Ans. The members of the Constituent Assembly were chosen on the basis of the provincial elections of 1946.

Q 4. How many members were there in the Constituent Assembly?

Ans. The Assembly had 300 members.

Q 5. Who was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution?

Ans. B.R. Ambedkar was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution.

Q 6. When did Jawaharlal Nehru introduce the 'Objectives Resolution in the Constituent Assembly?

Ans. On 13th December 1946, Nehru introduced the 'Objectives Resolution' within Constituent Assembly.

Q 7. Why was the 'Objectives Resolution' significant?

Ans. It was significant as it defined ideals of the Constitution of free India.

Q 8. Which social evil were largely opposed during free India?

Ans. Child marriage.

Q 9. What remark did Sardar Vallabh bhai Patel make about separate electorates?

Ans. Sardar Patel declared that the separate electorates will act as a poison that will enter the politics of our country.

Q 10. Which was one of the most debated topics in the Constituent Assembly?

Ans. In the Constituent Assembly, one of the most debated topics was the respective rights of the Central Government and the States.

Q 11. Name the three lists prepared for division of powers among the Centre and the State?

Ans. Union list, State list and Concurrent list.

Q 12. What is the significance of Article 356 of the Indian Constitution?

Ans. Article 356 gave the powers to central government to take over a state administration on the recommendation of the Governor.

Q 13. In how many sessions, the Constitution was drafted?

Ans. The Indian Constitution was framed between December 1946 and December 1949. The assembly had 11 sessions which continued for 165 days.

Q 14. Name one prominent issue before the Constituent Assembly in the making of the Constitution.

Ans. The prominent issue before the Constituent Assembly in the making of the Constitution was of princely states.

Q 15. Why did Muslim League decided to boycott the Constituent Assembly?

Ans. The Muslim League choose to boycott the Assembly to press its demand for Pakistan with a separate Constitution.

Q 16. Why the socialists were in confusion to join the Assembly?

Ans. The socialists were in confusion to join the Assembly as they believed the Assembly to be the creation of the British.

Q 17. Who were the representatives of Congress among the six important members of the assembly?

Ans. Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabh bhai Patel and Rajendra Prasad were the representatives of Congress.

Q 18. Who proposed the National Flag of India?

Ans. Jawaharlal Nehru proposed the National Flag of India to be horizontal tricolour of saffron, white and dark green in equal proportion with a wheel in navy blue at the centre.

Q 19. What was the function of the President of the Assembly?

Ans. The function of the President was to guide the discussion along constructive lines and to make sure that all members had a chance to speak.

Q 20. Who was S.N. Mukherjee?

Ans. S.N. Mukherjee was a civil servant and the Chief Draughtsman who had the ability to put complex proposals in clear legal language.

Q 21. What was the demand of B. Pocker Bahadur?

Ans. B.Pocker Bahadur from Madras demanded to continue with the separate electorates. He argued that minorities exist in all lands. They could not be washed away and could not be erased out of existence.

Q 22. Why did most of the Muslim leaders oppose the idea of separate electorates?

Ans. The idea of separate electorates was not supported by all Muslims. Begum Alzaz Rasul felt that separate electorates were self-destructive as they isolated the minorities from the majority.

Q 23. Who can frame laws on subjects of concurrent list?

Ans. State and Centre both can make laws on the subjects of concurrent list, but the highest authority has been given to the Centre.

Q 24. Mention one recommendation of the language committee of the Constituent Assembly.

Ans. The decision taken by the committee was that Hindi in the Devanagari script to be the official language of India.

Q 25. What did T.A. Ramalingam Chettiar suggest about the language?

Ans. T.A. Ramalingam Chettiar from Madras suggested that everything need to be done with caution. The cause of Hindi should not be pushed too aggressively.

Q 26. For how much time English was to be continued for all official purposes as per recommendation of Language Committee.

Ans. As per decision of Language Committee, English was to continue for all official purposes for the first fifteen years.

Q 27. Why is 'Objective Resolution' of Nehru considered as momentous resolution? Give one reason.

Ans. Objective Resolution was considered as momentous resolution because, it outlined the defining ideals of Constitution of Independent India and provided framework within which Constitution making was to be proceeded.

Q 28. Why the demand of separate electorate was opposed?

Ans. The demand of separate electorates was regarded as a measure by the British to divide and rule the people. Thus, the demand of separate electorates was opposed.

Q 29. Mention one argument given by Balakrishna Sharma for greater power to the Centre.

Ans. For greater power to the centre, Balakrishna Sharma argued that strong Centre could plan for well being of the country and it can mobilise the available economic resources of the country.

Q 30. How much percentage of the Constituent Assembly were members of the Congress?

Ans. 82 per cent.

Q 31. Name two persons who served with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in the Drafting Committee.

Ans. K.M. Munshi from Gujarat and Alladi Krishnaswamy Iyer from Madras.

Q 32. Who prepared a series of background papers based on a close study of the political systems obtaining in other countries.

Ans. B.N. Rau (the Constitutional Advisor to the Government of India).

Q 33. Who saw the dark hand of British imperialism hanging over the deliberations of the Constituent Assembly?

Ans. Somnath Lahiri.

Q 34. Who urged that the term minorities be interpreted in economic terms?

Ans. N.G. Ranga, a socialist who had been a leader of the peasant movement urged that the term minorities be interpreted in economic terms.

Q 35. Who spoke eloquently on the need to protect the tribes?

Ans. Jaipal Singh.

Q 36. Who pointed out numerically the Depressed Castes were not a minority and their suffering was due to systematic marginalisation?

Ans. Nagappa.

Q 37. Who defended the rights of the states more eloquently?

Ans. K. Santhanam from Madras.

Q 38. Who declared that the "Centre must be made as strong as possible?"

Ans. Gopalaswami Ayyangar.

Q 39. Which articles contain cultural and educational rights?

Ans. Article 29, 30.

Identify the Image Type Questions

Q 1. Identify the person who is seen on left in the following image.



Ans. Edwin Montague (formulator of the Montague Chelmsford reform).

Q 2. Identify the person who is circled in the given image:



Ans. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Q 3. Identify the person who is circled in the following image:



Ans. Rajendra Prasad.

Short Answer Type Questions

Q 1. Describe the role of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in the Constituent Assembly of India.

(CBSE SQP 2022 Term-2)

Ans. The role of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in the Constituent Assembly of India are:

- (i) He asked for equal rights.
- (ii) He wanted "a strong and united centre."
- (iii) He pleaded for the abolition of untouchability.

Q 2. Explain the ideas of R.V. Dhulekar on the issue of National language in the Constituent Assembly.

(CBSE SQP 2022 Term-2)

Ans. R.V. Dhulekar, a congressman, made a plea to make Hindi as the language of Constitution-making. He wanted Hindi to be declared not only as an official language but also as a national language.

Q 3. Why did Jaipal Singh plead for the protection of tribes in the Constituent Assembly? Explain any three reasons.

Ans. Though tribes were not a numerical minority, but they needed protection. Jaipal Singh pleaded for the protection of tribes in the Constituent Assembly because:

- (i) Tribes had been:
 - (a) Dispossessed of the land they had settled.
 - (b) Deprived of their forests and pastures and;
 - (c) Forced to move in search of new homes.
- (ii) The rest of the society had turned away from them and spurned them. There was an Emotional and Physical distance that separated the tribes from the rest of the society.
Reason: The society considered the tribes as primitive and backward.
- (iii) They had no representation in the legislature.

So, Jaipal Singh felt that reservation of seats in the legislature was essential to allow tribals to represent themselves.

Q 4. Explain the ideals introduced by Jawaharlal Nehru in the 'Objectives Resolution' that were kept in mind while framing the Constitution of India?

Ans. The 'Objectives Resolution' outlined the defining Ideals of the Constitution of Independent India which are:

- (i) It proclaimed India to be an 'Independent Sovereign Republic'.
- (ii) It guaranteed its citizens, justice, equality and freedom.
- (iii) It assured that adequate safeguards shall be provided for minorities, backward and tribal areas and Depressed and other Backward Classes.

Q 5. How was term 'minority' defined by different groups?

Ans. The term 'minority' was defined in the following ways:

- (i) N.G. Ranga, a socialist, wanted to interpret the term minorities in economic terms. According to him, the real minorities were the poor and the downtrodden.
- (ii) Ranga believed that for a poor there was no meaning of the fundamental rights to live, to have full employment or that they could have their meetings, their conferences, their associations and various other civil liberties. There was a need to create conditions where these rights could be effectively enjoyed.
- (iii) Jaipal Singh, representative of tribal said the tribals are not numerically minority but they need special protection.

Q 6. How Objective Resolution played a key role in drafting of the Constitution?

Ans. Objective Resolution played a key role in drafting of the Constitution in the following ways:

- (i) On 13th December, 1946, Jawaharlal Nehru introduced the 'Objectives Resolution' in the Constituent Assembly. The resolution defined the Ideals of the Constitution of Independent India. It provided the framework within which the work of Constitution making was to proceed.
- (ii) The outlines of the Objective Resolution were:
 - (a) Proclaimed India to be an Independent, Sovereign and Republic country.
 - (b) Guaranteed its citizens justice, equality and freedom.
 - (c) Assured adequate safeguards for minorities, backward and tribal areas, depressed and other backward classes.

Q 7. What were the demands of low caste people and linguistic minorities at the time of making of the Indian Constitution?

Ans. Their demands were:

- (i) The low-caste people demanded an end to ill-treatment by the upper-caste people.
- (ii) They also demanded reservation of separate seats, on the basis of their population, in legislatures, government departments and local bodies.

- (iii) The linguistic minorities demanded freedom of speech in their respective mother-tongue. They also demanded redistribution of provinces on linguistic basis.

Q 8. Name any six leaders who played an important role in the Constituent Assembly.

Ans. The names of leaders are:

- (i) Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru
- (ii) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- (iii) Dr. Rajendra Prasad
- (iv) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
- (v) K.M. Munshi
- (vi) Alladi Krishnaswami Iyer

Q 9. Briefly explain the three lists of the Constitution.

Ans. The three lists of the Constitution are:

Union List:

- (i) Subject falling under this list are to be the privilege of the Central Government.
- (ii) The Union government also had control of minerals and key industries.
- (iii) Article 356 gave the centre the powers to take over a state administration on the recommendation of the Governor.

State List:

- (i) Subjects under this list are to be controlled by the State Governments.
- (ii) Estate duties were assigned wholly to the states.

Concurrent List:

Subjects covered under this list are controlled by both the Centre and the states, but the highest authority has been given to the Centre.

Q 10. Describe the different arguments made in favour of the protection of depressed classes in the Constituent Assembly. (CBSE 2017)

Ans. Different arguments were made in favour of the protection of depressed classes in the Constituent Assembly some of them are cited as under:

Arguments by J. Nagappa from Madras:

- (i) J. Nagappa pointed out that numerically the Depressed Castes were not a minority. They formed 20 to 25% of the total population.
- (ii) He cited Systematic Marginalisation as the reason of their suffering as opposed to their numerical insignificance.
- (iii) He argued in favour of the protection of the depressed classes as he felt that they had:
 - (a) no access to education.
 - (b) no share in administration.

Arguments by K.J. Khanderkar of the Central Province:

He believed that protection of depressed classes is necessary as: They have been suppressed for thousands of years that has not allowed their minds, bodies or hearts to march forward.

Arguments by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar:

(i) During the National movement, Ambedkar had demanded separate electorates for the Depressed Castes, but Mahatma Gandhi opposed it.

(ii) After the partition violence, Ambedkar too no longer argued for separate electorates.

Final Re-recommendation of the Constituent Assembly on the Matter:

The Constituent Assembly finally recommended that:

- (i) Untouchability be abolished.
- (ii) Hindu Temples be thrown open to all Castes.
- (iii) Seats in legislatures and jobs in government offices be reserved for the lowest Castes.

Q 11. What was Govind Ballabh Pant's argument against separate electorates?

Ans. Govind Ballabh Pant's argument against separate electorates:

- (i) He Believed that it was not only harmful for the nation but also for the minorities.
- (ii) He though agreed to the fact that though the majority community had an obligation to try and understand the problems of the minorities and empathise with their aspirations. Yet, he opposed the idea of separate electorates.

He believed that it was a suicidal demand that would:

- (i) permanently isolate the minorities,
- (ii) make them vulnerable and
- (iii) deprive them of any effective say within the government.

Q 12. Why did N.G. Ranga urge to interpret minorities in the economic terms in the Constituent Assembly. Explain.

Ans. N.G Ranga, a socialist, wanted to interpret the term minorities in economic terms due to the following reasons:

- (i) According to him, the real minorities were the poor and the down-trodden.
- (ii) He believed that for a poor there was no meaning of the fundamental right to live, to have full employment or that they could have their meetings, their conferences, their associations and various other civil liberties.
- (iii) There was a need to create conditions where these rights could be effectively enjoyed for this they needed protection.
- (iv) He admitted that the common masses were not able to come up to the Constituent Assembly, thus it was their duty to speak for them.

Q 13. What were the provisions of Fiscal Federalism?

Ans. The Constitution mandated for a complex system of fiscal federation. It is explained below:

Fiscal Federalism

I	II	III	IV
In case of some taxes like custom duties and company taxes ↓ The Centre retained all the proceeds.	In cases such as income tax and excise duties ↓ Proceeds to be shared between the Centre and the states.	In cases such as estate duties ↓ Centre assigned them wholly to the states.	In cases of taxes such as land and property taxes, sales tax and tax on bottled liquor ↓ States can levy and collect the taxes on their own.

Q 14. 'The discussions within the Constituent Assembly were also influenced by the opinions expressed by the public'. Examine the statement.

Ans. The public opinions had a considerable effect on the discussions of the Constituent Assembly that were:

- (i) There was public debate on all the resolutions.
- (ii) Suggestions from the public created a sense of collective participation. Many linguistic minorities demanded protection of their mother tongue. Religious minorities asked for special safeguards.
- (iii) The newspapers reported the arguments presented by different members on any issue. Criticisms and counter criticism in the press shaped the nature of the consensus that was ultimately reached on specific issues.
- (iv) The low-caste groups or dalits demanded an end to ill-treatments by upper-caste people and reservation of separate seats on the basis of their population in legislatures.

Q 15. 'A communist member Somnath Lahiri saw the dark hand of British imperialism hanging over the deliberations of the Constituent Assembly', Examine the statement and give your overviews in supports of your answer.

Ans. The statement implies that Somnath Lahiri saw the influence of the British Imperialism over the deliberations of the Constituent Assembly. As a result, he urged the members to completely free themselves from the influences of Imperial rule. During the winter of 1946-47, when the Assembly was constituted, the British were still in India. An interim administration headed by Jawaharlal Nehru was in place, but it could only operate under the directions of the Viceroy and the British Government in London.

Lahiri asked his colleagues to realise that the Constituent Assembly was made by British and was working according to the British plans and their wish. However, the establishment of Constituent Assembly and subsequent formulation is different in various aspects.

- (i) Firstly, the assembly was truly Indian unlike previous committees or institutions.
- (ii) Secondly, the vision it outlined was not of a colonised country but of the Constitution of an Independent Sovereign Republic of India.
- (iii) Thirdly, the Assembly derived its strength from the people and not from any party or group.
Hence, the statement of Somnath Lahiri was not completely correct.

Q 16. How was the centre made more powerful and strong by the Constituent Assembly?

Ans. Members of Constituent Assembly like J.L. Nehru, B.R. Ambedkar advocated for a strong centre. The division of powers is in favour of the centre and highly inequitable from the federal angle. The centre was made more strong as:

- (i) Firstly, the Union List contains more subjects than the State List.
- (ii) Secondly, the more important subjects have been included in the Union List e.g. Centre enjoys control over many important mineral and key industries.
- (iii) Thirdly, the Centre has overriding authority over the concurrent list.
- (iv) Fourthly, the residuary powers have also been left with the Centre.
- (v) Fifthly, Article 356 empowered the Centre to take over a state administration on the recommendation of the Governor.
- (vi) Finally, the position of the Centre was also strong in fiscal affairs. It kept all the proceeds from customs duties and company taxes. However, it shared with states income from Income Tax and excise duties.

Q 17. Why did Mahatma Gandhi think that Hindustani should be the national language?

Ans. Views of Mahatma Gandhi on national language of the country:

- (i) Mahatma Gandhi felt that everyone should speak in a language that common people could easily understand.
- (ii) By the 1930's the Congress had accepted that Hindustani ought to be the national language.
- (iii) Hindustani—a blend of Hindi and Urdu—was a popular language of a large section of the people of India and it was a composite language enriched by the interaction of diverse cultures.
Over the years, it had incorporated words and terms from many different sources and was therefore understood by people from various regions.
- (iv) Mahatma Gandhi thought that this multicultural language:
 - (a) Would be the ideal language of communication between diverse communities.
 - (b) Could unite Hindus and Muslims and people of the North and the South.

- (v) Though, over the period of time, Hindustani as a language had been gradually changing and has become associated with the politics of religious identities, Mahatma Gandhi, however, retained his faith in the composite character of Hindustani.

Q 18. India is a secular, democratic, republic. Explain.

Ans. The Constitution established secular, democratic, republican system in India.

Meaning of Secular State:

- (i) The term 'secular' was added by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1976.
- (ii) The Indian Constitution embodies the positive concept of secularism i.e., all religions in our country (irrespective of their strength) have the same status and support from the state.

Meaning of Democratic State:

- (i) A democratic polity, as stipulated in the preamble is based on the doctrine of popular sovereignty, that is, possession of supreme power by the people.
- (ii) In a democratic state, all citizens enjoy equal rights.
- (iii) The administration is run by the representatives elected by the people during periodical elections.

Meaning of Republic:

- (i) The term 'Republic' in our preamble indicates that India has an elected head called 'The President' who is elected indirectly for a fixed period of five years.
- (ii) A Republic means two more things:
 - (a) First, vesting of political sovereignty in the people and not in a single individual like a king.
 - (b) Second, the absence of any privileged class and hence all the public offices being opened to every citizen without any discrimination.

Q 19. In the Constituent Assembly, Congress itself was a broad front. Elucidate.

Ans. About 82 per cent of members of the Constituent Assembly were from the Indian National Congress. These members had diverse views such as:

- (i) The Congress had many members who lacked identical views. It had atheists who did not believe in the existence of God. It also had secular members who gave equal respect to all religions. There were also many members who were technically Congressmen but spiritually associated with Hindu Mahasabha and R.S.S.
- (ii) Viewed economically, a few members of the Constituent Assembly were socialists in their economic philosophy. Contrary to it, there were also members who supported landlords and Zamindars.
- (iii) The Congress also had many independent members. These members were drawn from different castes and religious groups.

- (iv) There were also many members who represented the women.
 - (v) There were also members who were experts in the law.
- Thus, Congress seemed like a broad front. All its members held a wide range of views and had the diversity of opinions.

Q 20. Why the Constitution was regarded a source of expressing the aspirations of freedom fighters?

Ans. The Constitution of India was regarded a source of expressing the aspirations of freedom fighters because:

- (i) The nationalist movement was against an oppressive and illegitimate government. In this regard, Constitution established legitimate government which was chosen by people. For this, everyone was granted right to vote.
- (ii) The ideals of democracy, equality and justice etc. were given preference in the Constitution.
- (iii) Constitution enshrined all the principle value for which freedom fighters sacrificed their life.
- (iv) Fundamental rights were also included in the Constitution so that everyone can live with dignity which was not provided during British rule.
- (v) Lot of provisions were added to provide economic and social justice to the vulnerable sections of the society.



Long Answer Type Questions

Q 1. What were the arguments in favour of greater power to the provinces?

Ans. The arguments in favour of greater power to the provinces are cited as under:

Arguments by K. Santhanam from Madras.

- (i) He felt that if Centre was overburdened with responsibilities, it could not function effectively. To make centre more strong and effective, it must be relived of some of its functions and they must be transferred to the states.
- (ii) He felt that the proposed allocation of powers to the states would cripple them. The fiscal provisions would impoverish the provinces since most taxes, except land revenue, had been made the preserve of the Centre. It would be very difficult for the states to undertake any project of development without finances.
- (iii) He predicted a dark future if the proposed distribution of powers was adopted without further scrutiny. He said that all the provinces would rise in "revolt against the Centre" in a few years.
- (iv) He believed that a re-allocation of powers was necessary not only to strengthen the states but also the Centre.

Many others thought on the same lines as K. Santhanam. They fought hard for fewer items to be put on the Concurrent and Union lists.

A member from Orissa warned that "the Centre is likely to break" since powers had been excessively centralised under the Constitution.

Argument by A.R. Mudaliar.

He said that demanding it doesn't mean that person has less national spirit or patriotism.

Q 2. What historical forces shaped the vision of the Constitution?

Ans. The historical forces that shaped the vision of the Constitution are:

- (i) Certain basic values were accepted by all National Leaders as a result of the Nehru Report and the Fundamental Rights Resolution passed by the Karachi session of the Indian National Congress. These included universal adult franchise, right to freedom and equality and protection of minority rights.
- (ii) As a result of the 1937 elections, the Congress and other political parties were able to form governments in the provinces. This experience with legislative and political institutions helped in developing an agreement over institutional design.
- (iii) The Indian Constitution thus adopted many institutional details and procedures from colonial laws like the Government of India Act of 1935.
- (iv) The founding fathers were also inspired by the ideals of the French Revolution, the working of parliamentary democracy in Britain and the Bill of Rights in the USA. The 1917 Russian Revolution inspired our leaders to establish a government based on social and economic equality.
- (v) While addressing the meeting of the Constituent Assembly on 13 December 1946, Jawaharlal Nehru spoke about the ideals of the new Indian Constitution. He discussed everything in a broad historical perspective. He referred to the historic efforts made in the past to achieve the goals of justice, liberty, equality, fraternity and fundamental rights.

Q 3. Why did some of our leaders advocate a strong centre during the debate in the Constituent Assembly on the proposed federal structure of the Indian state? Explain. (CBSE 2020)

Ans. Some of our leaders advocated a strong centre during the debate in the Constituent Assembly on the proposed federal structure of the Indian state. The views of these leaders and their arguments are given below:

(i) Jawaharlal Nehru's views on strong centre.

He believed that it would be injurious to the interests of the country to provide for a weak central authority which would be incapable of ensuring peace, of

coordinating vital matters of common concern and of speaking effectively for the whole country in the international sphere.

(ii) B R Ambedkar's views on strong centre.

He declared that he wanted a strong and united Centre much stronger than the Centre that had been created under the Government of India Act, 1935.

Reminding the members of the riots and violence that was ripping the nation apart, many members had repeatedly stated that the powers of the Centre had to be greatly strengthened to enable it to stop the communal frenzy.

(iii) Gopalaswami Ayyangar's views on strong centre.

He declared that the Centre should be made as strong as possible.

(iv) Balakrishna Sharma's views on strong centre.

He favoured a strong centre because only a strong centre could plan for the well-being of the country, mobilise the available economic resources, establish a proper administration and defend the country against foreign aggression.

Conclusion: Before partition, there were political pressures for a decentralised structure (such as pressure by Muslim League asking the Centre not to interfere in provinces where Muslim League came into power). But the violence of the times gave a further push to centralisation. Which was seen as necessary both to forestall chaos and to plan for the country's economic development. The Constitution thus showed a distinct bias towards the rights of the Union of India over those of its Constituent states.

Q 4. The years immediately preceding the making of the Constitution had been exceptionally tumultuous. Give reasons in support of this statement.

Ans. The years immediately preceding the making of the Constitution had been exceptionally tumultuous, a time of great hope but also of object disappointment.

Some of the immediate events before the making of the Constitution are:

- (i) On 15 August 1947, India had been made free, but it had also been divided.
- (ii) Quit India Movement of 1942—the most widespread popular movement against the British Raj.
- (iii) Bid by Subhas Chandra Bose to win freedom through armed struggle with foreign aid.
- (iv) Rising of the ratings of the Royal Indian Navy in Bombay and other cities in the spring of 1946.
- (v) In the late 1940s, there were periodic, if scattered, mass protests of workers and peasants in different parts of the country.

(vi) The Great Calcutta killings of August 1946 began a year of almost continuous rioting across northern and eastern India.

(vii) Lack of social harmony as the Congress and the Muslim League repeatedly failed to arrive at any reconciliation.

Q 5. How did the Constituent Assembly seek to resolve the language controversy?

Ans. (i) There were differences in the views between the members of Constituent Assembly over making Hindi as national language.

(ii) R. V. Dhulekar, a Congressman from the United Province Aggressively supported Hindi as national language which was not liked by many others.

(iii) Many members wanted that Hindustani should be declared as national language of the country.

(iv) The members who were from South India were apprehensive of this view. They felt that Hindi language is being imposed on them. They also perceived that Hindi would be a threat to their provincial languages.

(v) Shankarrao Deo from Bombay, T.A. Ramalingam Chettiar and Mrs. G. Durgabai of Madras protests against the move.

Language Issue Resolution: To resolve the deadlock, a Language Committee was formed to give its recommendation to the Assembly.

Final Decision:

(i) The decision taken by the Committee was that Hindi in the Devanagari script is to be the official language but the transition to Hindi would be gradual.

(ii) English was to be continued for all official purposes for the first fifteen years.

(iii) Each province may choose one of the regional languages for official work within the province.

Q 6. What were the important features of the Constitution?

Ans. The important features of the Constitution are:

Longest Written Constitution:

(i) The Constitution of India is the longest of all the written Constitutions of the world.

(ii) It is very comprehensive, elaborate and detailed document.

Drawn From Various Sources:

The Constitution of India has borrowed most of its provisions from the Constitutions of various other countries as well as from the Government of India Act of 1935.

Federal System with Unitary Bias:

- (i) The Indian Constitution has been described as "federal in form but unitary in spirit."
- (ii) It contains all the usual features of a federation viz two governments, division of powers, written constitution, supremacy of constitution, bicameralism etc.

However, it also contains a large number of unitary or non-federal features viz a strong centre, all India services, emergency provisions etc.

Fundamental Rights:

- (i) Part III of the Indian Constitution guarantees six fundamental rights to all the citizens.
- (ii) These rights promote the idea of political democracy.

Secular State:

- (i) The Constitution of India stands for a secular state.
- (ii) It does not uphold any particular religion as the official religion of the Indian State.

Universal Adult Franchise:

- (i) The Indian Constitution adopts universal adult franchise as a basis of elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies.
- (ii) Every citizen who is not less than 18 years of age has a right to vote without any discrimination of caste, race, religion, sex etc.

Single Citizenship: Though the Indian Constitution is federal and envisages a dual polity (centre and states), it provides for only a single citizenship, that is the Indian citizenship.

Q 7. "Within the Constituent Assembly of India, the language issue was intensely debated." Examine the views put forward by members of the Assembly on the issue. (CBSE 2016)

OR

Explain why certain Numbers of the Constituent Assembly were opposing Hindustani as the national language.

Ans. The language issue was intensely debated in the Constituent Assembly of India. The views put forward by members of the Assembly are cited as under:

Views of R.V. Dhulekar From United Provinces:

- (i) R.V. Dhulekar, a Congressman from the United Provinces, made an aggressive plea that Hindi used as the language of Constitution making.
- (ii) On 12 September 1947, his speech on the language of the nation sparked off a huge storm.
- (iii) He wanted Hindi to be declared as the National Language and not an official language. He attacked those who protested that Hindi was being forced on the nation and mocked at those who said, in the name of Mahatma Gandhi, that Hindustani rather than Hindi ought to be the national language.

Views of Shrimati G. Durgabai From Madras:

- (i) She informed the House that the opposition in the South against Hindi was very strong.
- (ii) She had accepted 'Hindustani' as the language of the people, but now that language was being changed, words from Urdu and other regional languages were being taken out. Any move that eroded the inclusive and composite character of Hindustani, she felt, was bound to create anxieties and fears amongst different language groups.
- (iii) She said that the controversy regarding language made the non-Hindi speaking people to think that other powerful languages of India would be neglected and it was an obstacle for the composite culture of the nation.

Views of Shri Shankarrao Deo from Bombay:

He accepted Hindustani as the language of the Nation but he warned that he supported Hindi only if the House does not do anything which might raise any suspicion and strengthen his fears.

Views of T.A. Ramalingam Chettiar from Madras:

- (i) He believed that whatever was done had to be done with caution; the cause of Hindi would not be helped if it was pushed too aggressively.
- (ii) He believed that if we want to live together and form a united nation, there should be mutual adjustment and no question of foreign things on people.

Q 8. What problems did India face at the time of Independence? Briefly explain any of the two problems.

Ans. India faced many problems at the time of Independence. Two of them are explained below:

Culmination of Violence in the Massacres and Problem of Refugees.

- (i) Though, on Independence Day, 15 August, 1947, there was outburst of joy and hope on one hand and unforgettable misery and pain for those who lived through that time on the other hand.
- (ii) Millions of refugees were on the move. Muslims into East and West Pakistan, Hindus and Sikhs into West Bengal and the eastern half of the Punjab.
- (iii) Many perished before they reached their destination.

Problem of Princely States:

- (i) During the period of the Raj, approximately one-third of the area of the subcontinent was under the control of Nawabs and Maharajas who owed allegiance to the British crown, but were otherwise left mostly free to rule or misrule their territory as they wished.
- (ii) When the British left India, the constitutional status of these Nawabs and Maharajas remained ambiguous.
- (iii) Few of these Maharajas were dreaming of independent power in divided India.

Q 9. How did the Constituent Assembly of India protect the powers of the Central Government? Explain.

(CBSE 2016)

- Ans. (i) The need of a strong Centre was one of the heated debates in the Constituent Assembly.
- (ii) J.L. Nehru argued for a strong centre along with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.
- (iii) Constituent Assembly realised the importance of having a strong centre. It protected the powers of the Centre in the following ways:
- (a) The Drafting Committee provided three lists of subjects—Union, State and Concurrent lists. While subjects of key importance such as defence, home and finance were placed under the Union List, subjects such as agriculture and irrigation were placed under the State List. Both Union and State governments had the right to make laws in the Concurrent List. However, the union government was more powerful while making laws on the subjects included in the Concurrent List.
 - (b) The Union government was given control over mineral and key industries.
 - (c) Article 356 gave the Union government absolute power over the state government as it could then take over the administration of the state during an emergency.
 - (d) The Central government had all powers while levying taxes such as customs duties and company taxes. The Union government shared income tax and excise duties with the state governments.

Thus, the Constituent Assembly of India protected the powers of the Central government.

Q 10. 'Partition of India had made nationalists fervently opposed to the idea of separate electorates.' Examine the statement.

OR

'Different groups expressed their desires in different ways and made different demands.' Support the statement with reference to the problem of separate electorates.

- Ans. When Constituent Assembly was constituted many minority leaders demanded for continuing separate electorates in the country on 27 August 1947, B Pocker Bahadur from Madras made a speech for continuing separate electorates where he mentioned that separate for Muslims would ensure their electorates meaningful views be heard in the governance of the country. After viewing the partition, the nationalist fervently opposed the idea of separate electorate as they perceived it as poison and upto a large extent it is responsible for the partition of the country. Nationalist leaders were haunted by the fear of continued civil war, riots and violence. Views of nationalist leaders are discussed below:
- (i) **Sardar Patel:** He declared that separate electorates was a poison that has entered in the political system of

the country. Due to it, one community turned against the another and divided the nation. Hence, there was no place of separate electorate in independent India.

- (ii) **Govind Ballabh Pant:** He believed that it was not only harmful for the nation but also for the minorities. He asserted that it was a suicidal demand. It would permanently isolate the minorities, make them vulnerable and deprive them of effective role in the government. In order to build political unity and forge a nation, every individual had to be moulded into a citizen of the state and each group had to be assimilated within the nation. Moreover, he believed that in order to become loyal citizens, people had to stop focusing on the community and the self. Members of all communities had to act as equal members of one state.
- (iii) **RV Dhulekar:** He believed that in the name of safeguard to minorities, British introduced the idea of separate electorate to fulfill their political objective. As per him, there was no requirement of separate electorate in the independent India as governments would function on the basis of the Constitution. There were several provisions for the safeguards of the minorities, hence, separate electorate was not required.
- (iv) **BR Ambedkar:** He was in the favour of separate electorate for the dalits but before independence he gave up his demand. He also opposed members of assembly who were demanding for the separate electorates.

Some nationalist Muslim leaders like Begum Alzaz Rasul felt that separate electorates were self-destructive since they isolate the minorities from the majority. Other Muslim leaders also asserted that separate electorates were against the interest of the minorities. All the minorities need to take active part in democratic process.

Q 11. Examine any four major issues that went into making of the Indian Constitution.

- Ans. 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 the important issue were as follows:
- (i) **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.
- (ii) **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. 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.

- (iii) **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.
- (iv) **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.



Chapter Test

Multiple Choice Questions

- Q 1. The group that initially refused to join the Constituent Assembly, as it was a British Creation was that of:
- a. Socialists b. Tribals
c. Depressed classes d. Muslim league
- Q 2. The Congress had accepted that Hindustani ought to be the national language by the
- a. 1920s b. 1930s c. 1940s d. 1950s

Assertion and Reason Type Question

- Q 3. In the question given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

Assertion (A): Our Constitution offered special privileges for the poorest and most disadvantaged Indian.

Reason (R): The practice of untouchability was remained in our Constitution.

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

Fill in the Blank Type Questions

- Q 4. The constitutional advisor to the Government of India during making of Constitution was
- a. B.N. Rav b. G.B. Pant
c. Motilal Nehru d. Sardar Patel
- Q 5. The mandated for a complex system of fiscal federalism.
- a. Law b. Government
c. Constitution d. Indian Policy

Correct and Rewrite Type Question

- Q 6. The members of the Constituent Assembly were elected on the basis of Universal Franchise.

Source Based Question

- Q 7. Study the following picture carefully and answer the question that below by choosing the most appropriate option.



- (i) Who is the person addressing the gathering?
- a. Mahatma Gandhi
b. B.R. Ambedkar
c. Dr. Rajendra Prasad
d. Jawaharlal Nehru
- (ii) What is the occasion shown in the picture?
- a. First Round Table Conference
b. Second Round Table Conference
c. Independence of India
d. Partition of Bangladesh from Pakistan
- (iii) What is the name given to this famous speech?
- a. My Experiments with Truth
b. Tryst with Destiny
c. Discovery of India
d. Letters from Father to Daughter
- (iv) At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and:
- a. death b. happiness
c. freedom d. liberty

Very Short Answer Type Questions

- Q 8. What are the recommendations of the Constituent Assembly of India regarding the protection of depressed castes.
- Q 9. Who thought Hindustani should be the national language?

Short Answer Type Questions

- Q 10. Explain the views of Mahatma Gandhi on the question of national language of the country?
- Q 11. What were the limitation of the Constitutional reforms during the colonial period?

Long Answer Type Question

- Q 12. What were the immediate events before the making of the Constitution?