

## Chapter 2

# Constitutional Design and Working of Constitutional Institutions

- The constitution of a country is a set of written rules that are accepted by all people living together in a country. Constitution is the supreme law that determines the relationship among people living in a territory (called citizens) and also the relationship between the people and government. A constitution does the following things : -
  - (i) It generates a degree of trust and coordination that is necessary for different kind of people to live together.
  - (ii) It specifies how the government will be constituted, who will have the power to take which decisions.
  - (iii) It lays down limits on the powers of the government and tells us what are the rights of the citizens.
  - (iv) It expresses the aspirations of the people about creating a good society.
- **Making of the Indian Constitution**
  - (i) Indian Constitution was drawn up under very difficult circumstances. It was not an easy affair. The makers had anxieties about the present and the future of the country.
  - (ii) In 1928, Motilal Nehru and eight other Congress leaders drafted a constitution for India.
  - (iii) In 1931, the resolution at the Karachi session of the Indian National Congress dwelt on how independent India's Constitution should look like.
  - (iv) Both these documents were committed to the inclusion of Universal Adult Franchise, Right to Freedom and Equality and to Protecting the Rights of minorities in the constitution of independent India.
  - (v) The familiarity with political institutions of the colonial rule also helped develop an agreement over the institutional design, and led to the adoption of the Government of India Act of 1935.
  - (vi) Many of our leaders were inspired by the ideals of French Revolution, the practice of parliamentary democracy in Britain and the Bill of Rights in the US.
  - (vii) The Socialist Revolution in Russia had inspired many Indians to think of shaping a system based on social and economic equality. All these factors contributed to the making of our constitution.
- **The Constituent Assembly**
  - (i) The drafting of the document called the "Constitution" was done by an assembly of elected representatives called the Constituent Assembly.
  - (ii) Elections for the Constituent Assembly were held in July 1946. Its first meeting was held in December 1946. It had 299 members.
  - (iii) The Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1949 but it came into effect on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1950. To mark this day we celebrate January 26 as Republic Day every year.
- **Drafting Procedure of the Constitution**
  - (i) The Constituent Assembly worked in a systematic open and consensual manner. First, some basic principles were decided and agreed upon. Then a Drafting Committee, chaired by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, prepared a draft constitution for discussion. Several rounds of thorough discussion took place, clause by clause.
  - (ii) More than two thousand amendments were considered. The members deliberated for 114 days, spread over three years. Every document presented and every word spoken has been recorded and preserved. These are called 'Constituent Assembly Debates'.
  - (iii) When printed, these debates are 12 volumes that provide the rationale behind every provision of the Constitution, and are used to interpret the meaning of the Constitution.
- **Guiding Values of the Constitution**
  - (i) Although Mahatma Gandhi was not a member of the Constituent Assembly, yet there were many members who followed his vision.
  - (ii) Years ago, writing in his magazine "Young India" in 1931, he had spelt out that the Constitution should encourage the poorest to have an effective voice.
  - (iii) There shall be no high and low class of people, all communities shall live in perfect harmony.
  - (iv) Untouchability, intoxicating drinks and drugs shall be discarded.
  - (v) Women will enjoy the same rights as men.
- **Philosophy of the Constitution**
  - (i) The Constitution begins with a short statement of its basic values. This is called the "Preamble" to the Constitution. It is an inspiration from American model.
  - (ii) The Preamble contains the philosophy on which the entire Constitution has been built. It provides a standard to examine and evaluate any law and action of the government. It is the soul of the Indian Constitution.
  - (iii) Those who crafted the Indian Constitution felt that it has to be in accordance with people's aspirations and changes in society.
  - (iv) They did not see it as a sacred, static and unalterable law, so they made provisions to incorporate changes from time to time, called constitutional amendments.
  - (v) The Indian Constitution lays down a procedure for choosing powers to govern the country.
  - (vi) It defines who will have how much power to take which decisions.
  - (vii) It puts limits to what the government can do by providing some rights to the citizen that cannot be violated.

- **Key words in the Preamble**

- WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA - The Constitution has been drawn up and enacted by the people through their representatives and not handed down to them by a king or any outside powers.
- SOVEREIGN - People have the supreme right to make decisions on internal as well as external matters. No external power can dictate the government of India.
- SOCIALIST- Wealth is generated socially and should be shared equally by the society. Government should regulate the ownership of land and industry to reduce socio-economic inequalities.
- SECULAR - Citizens have the complete freedom to follow any religion. But there is no official religion. Government treats all religious beliefs and practices with equal respect.
- DEMOCRATIC - A form of government where people enjoy equal political rights, elect their rulers and hold them accountable.
- REPUBLIC - The head of the state is an elected person and not someone next in hierarchy.
- JUSTICE - Citizens cannot be discriminated on the grounds of caste, religion and gender. Social inequalities have to be reduced. Government should work for the welfare of all, especially of the disadvantaged groups.
- LIBERTY - There are no unreasonable restrictions on the citizens in what they think, how they wish to express their thoughts and why they wish to follow up their thoughts in action.
- EQUALITY - All are equal before the law. The traditional social inequalities have to be ended. The government should ensure equal opportunity for all.
- FRATERNITY - All of us should behave as the members of the same family.

- **Makers of the Indian Constitution**

- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (1875 - 1950) born : Gujarat. Minister of Home, Information and Broadcasting in the Interim Government. Lawyer and leader of Bardoli Peasant Satyagraha. Played a decisive role in the integration of the Indian princely states. Later - Deputy Prime Minister.
- Abul Kalam Azad (1888 - 1958) born : Saudi Arabia. Educationist, author and theologian; Arabic scholar. Congress leader, active in the National Movement. Opposed Muslim separatist politics. Later - Education Minister in the first Union Cabinet.
- T. T. Krishnamachari (1899 - 1974) born : Tamil Nadu. Member of the Drafting Committee. Entrepreneur and Congress leader. Later Finance Minister in the Union Cabinet.
- Rajendra Prasad (1884 - 1963) born : Bihar. Chairman of the Constituent Assembly. Lawyer, known for his role in the Champaran Satyagraha. Three times Congress President. Later - the first President of India.
- Jaipal Singh (1903 - 1970) born : Jharkhand. A sportsman and educationist. Captain of the first National Hockey team. Founder President of Adivasi MahaSabha. Later - founder of the Jharkhand Party.

- H. C. Mookherjee (1887 - 1956) born : Bengal. Vice Chairman of the Constituent Assembly. Reputed author and educationist. Congress leader. Member of All India Christian Council and Bengal Legislative Assembly. Later governor of West Bengal.
- G. Durgabai Deshmukh (1909 - 1981) born : Andhra Pradesh. Advocate and Public activist for women's emancipation. Founder of Andhra Mahila Sabha. Congress leader. Later founder Chairperson of Central Social Welfare Board.
- Baldev Singh (1901 - 1961) born : Haryana. A successful entrepreneur and leader of the Panthic Akali Party in the Punjab Assembly. A nominee of the Congress in the Constituent Assembly. Later - Defence Minister in the Union Cabinet.
- Kanaiyalal Maneklal Munshi (1887 - 1971) born : Gujarat. Advocate, historian and linguist. Congress leader and Gandhian. Later - Minister in the Union Cabinet. Founder of the Swatantra Party.
- Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar (1891 - 1956) born : Maharashtra. Chairman of the Drafting Committee. Social revolutionary, thinker and agitator against caste divisions and caste based inequalities. Later : Law Minister in the first cabinet of independent India. Founder of the Republican Party of India.
- Shyama Prasad Mukherjee (1901 - 1953) born : West Bengal. Minister of Industry and Supply in the Interim Government. Educationist and lawyer. Active in Hindu Mahasabha. Later - Founder President of Bharatiya Jana Sangh.
- Jawaharlal Nehru (1889 - 1964) born - Uttar Pradesh. Prime Minister of the Interim government. Lawyer and Congress leader. Advocate of Socialism, democracy and anti-imperialism. Later - First Prime Minister of India.
- Sarojini Naidu (1879 - 1949) born : Andhra Pradesh. Poet, writer and political activist. Amongst the foremost women leaders in the Congress. Later - Governor of Uttar Pradesh.
- Somnath Lahiri (1901 - 1984) born : West Bengal. Writer and editor. Leader of the Communist Party of India. Later - Member of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly.

- **Democratic Constitution in South Africa.**

- Apartheid was the name of a system of racial discrimination unique to South Africa.
- During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the trading companies from Europe-the White Europeans, occupied it with arms and force and imposed this system on South Africa.
- The native people of South Africa. Who made up about three - fourth of the population were called "Blacks."
- The White rulers treated the 'Blacks' as inferiors. They did not have voting rights. The Apartheid system was particularly oppressive for them. "Blacks" were prohibited to enter all the public places entered by the whites. Blacks could not form associations or protest against the terrible treatment.
- Since 1950, the Blacks, and Indians fought against the Apartheid system. They launched protest marches and strikes.

- The African National Congress, Worker's Union and the Communist Party led the struggle against the policy of segregation.
- Now the White Government realised and changed its policies. Discriminatory laws were repealed. Ban on political parties and restrictions on the media were lifted.
- After 28 years of imprisonment, Nelson Mandela walked out of the jail as a free man. Finally at the midnight of 26th April 1994, the new national flag of the Republic of South Africa was unfurled, marking the newly born democracy in the world.
- The Apartheid government came to an end, making way for the formation of a multi-racial government. Nelson Mandela became the first President of this new South Africa.

- **Legislature**

- (i) In India, a National Assembly of elected representatives, that exercises supreme political authority on behalf of the people is called "Parliament". At the state level, this is called "Legislative Assembly".
- (ii) Parliament is the final authority for making new laws, changing existing laws and exercising control over those who run the government. Parliament controls all the money that governments have. It is the highest forum of discussion and debate on public issues and national policy. It can seek information about any matter.
- (iii) The Parliament consists of two houses - the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) and the House of People (Lok Sabha).
- (iv) The President of India is a part of the Parliament, although he is not a member of either House. This is why all laws made in the Houses come into force only after they receive the assent of the President.
- (v) Any ordinary law needs to be passed by both the houses. But if there is a difference between the two houses, the final decision is taken in a joint session, where the views of Lok Sabha is likely to prevail.
- (vi) Once the Lok Sabha passes the budget of the government or any other money related law, the Rajya Sabha cannot reject it, it can only delay it by 14 days or suggest changes, which the Lok Sabha may or may not accept.
- (vii) The Lok Sabha controls the Council of Ministers. Only a person who enjoys the support of the majority of the members in the Lok Sabha, is appointed the Prime Minister. If the majority members of the Lok Sabha pass the 'no-confidence' motion, the whole ministry has to resign.

- **Executive**

- (i) A body of persons having authority to initiate major policies, make decisions and implement them on the basis of the constitution and laws of the country is called executive.
- (ii) Two categories make up the executive-one that is elected by the people for a specific period, is called the political executive. Political leaders who take the big decisions fall in this category.
- (iii) In the second category, people are appointed on a long term basis called permanent executive or civil servants. They remain in office even when the ruling party changes. They are more educated with expert knowledge of the

subject and work under political executive to assist them in carrying out day to day administration.

- (iv) The President appoints the leader of the majority party or the coalition of parties that commands a majority in the Lok Sabha, as Prime Minister.
  - (v) The Prime Minister is free too choose ministers, as long as they are the members of Parliament. A person who is not a member of Parliament can also become a minister but he has to get elected of one of the Houses of the Parliament within six months of appointment as minister.
  - (vi) Cabinet Ministers are usually top level leaders of the ruling party, who meet to take all major decisions. Ministers of State with independent charge are usually in charge of smaller ministries. Ministers may have different views and opinions but everyone has to own up to every decision of the Cabinet.
  - (vii) The Prime Minister is the real head of the government. He chairs cabinet meetings. He coordinates the work of different departments. He exercises general supervision of different ministries. He also has the power to dismiss ministers.
  - (viii) The President is the nominal head of the state. He is not elected directly by the people. All the Members of Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies elect him.
  - (ix) All the governmental activities take place in the name of the President. All laws and major policy decisions of the government are issued in his name. All major appointments are made in the name of the President. The President is the supreme commander of the defence forces in India.
- **Judiciary**
    - (i) An institution empowered to administer justice and provide a mechanism for the resolution of legal disputes. All the courts in the country are collectively known as judiciary.
    - (ii) The Indian judiciary consists of a Supreme Court for the entire nation, High Courts in the states, District Courts and the courts at local levels.
    - (iii) India has an integrated judiciary. It means the Supreme Court controls the judicial administration in the country. Its decisions are binding on all other courts of the country. It can take up any dispute between -
      - Citizens of the country.
      - Citizens and government
      - Two or more states governments and
      - Governments at the Union and State level.
    - (iv) It is the highest court of appeal in civil and criminal cases. It can hear appeals against the decisions of the High Courts.
    - (v) Independence of the judiciary means that it is not under the control of the legislature or the executive.
    - (vi) Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the High Court are appointed by the President.
    - (vii) A judge can be removed only by an impeachment motion, passed separately by two-third members of the two Houses of the Parliament.
    - (viii) Judiciary can determine the constitutional validity of any legislation or action of the executive in the country. This is known as the Judicial Review.

# Exercise

# 1

**DIRECTIONS :** This section contains multiple choice questions. Each question has 4 choices (1), (2), (3) and (4) out of which only one is correct. Choose the correct option.

1. Which of the following dates is referred to, in the Preamble of Indian Constitution ?  
(1) 26th January 1950 (2) 26th November 1949  
(3) 26th November 1950 (4) 26th November 1959
2. Which word is referred as 'social, economic and political' in the constitution ?  
(1) Liberty (2) Equality  
(3) Republic (4) Justice
3. 'Liberty' of which of these aspects is not referred in our constitution ?  
(1) worship (2) expression  
(3) revenge (4) belief
4. In which year was Nelson Mandela sentenced to life imprisonment ?  
(1) 1969 (2) 1964  
(3) 1967 (4) 1962
5. When did South Africa get independence ?  
(1) 26th April 1996 (2) 26th March 1994  
(3) 26th March 1992 (4) 26th April 1994
6. Which official policy was followed by the government of South Africa between 1948 and 1989 ?  
(1) Emergency (2) Martial law  
(3) Extermination (4) Apartheid
7. How many members were there in the Constituent Assembly of India ?  
(1) 259 (2) 299  
(3) 279 (4) 239
8. Which revolution inspired many Indians to think of shaping a system based on social and economic equality ?  
(1) Russian Revolution (2) French Revolution  
(3) American Revolution (4) British Revolution
9. Who played a decisive role in the integration of the Indian princely states ?  
(1) Abul Kalam Azad (2) Sarojini Naidu  
(3) Jawaharlal Nehru (4) Vallabhbhai Patel
10. The Indian Constitution adopted many institutional details and procedures from the Government of India act of  
(1) 1909 (2) 1919  
(3) 1930 (4) 1935
11. Which of these aspects were not spelt by Gandhiji in his magazine "Young India" in 1931 ?  
(1) Special privileges to businessmen  
(2) Choice of untouchability  
(3) Women will enjoy the same rights as men  
(4) Choice of the intoxicating drinks and drugs
12. Who was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of Indian Constitution ?  
(1) Sarojini Naidu (2) Bhimrao Ambedkar  
(3) Baldev Singh (4) Rajendra Prasad
13. A form of government where people enjoy equal political rights, elect their rulers and hold them accountable.  
(1) Republic (2) Socialist  
(3) Sovereign (4) Democratic
14. Who became the Governor of Uttar Pradesh after independence ?  
(1) Durgabai Deshmukh  
(2) Sarojini Naidu  
(3) Aruna Asaf Ali  
(4) Vijayalakshmi Pandit
15. Which word in the Preamble is related to "status and opportunity" ?  
(1) Fraternity (2) Liberty  
(3) Justice (4) Equality
16. In 1931, the resolution at the \_\_\_\_\_ session of the Indian National Congress planned about the constitution.  
(1) Karachi (2) Lahore  
(3) Nagpur (4) Kanpur
17. When did Motilal Nehru draft a constitution for India ?  
(1) 1926 (2) 1927  
(3) 1928 (4) 1929
18. Which point is not true regarding the agreement of a compromise between the Whites and Blacks in South Africa ?  
(1) One person one vote  
(2) Basic rights for the poor and the worker  
(3) Blacks should take revenge from whites.  
(4) Majority rule would not be absolute
19. Who headed the Mandal Commission ?  
(1) K. P. Mandal (2) M. P. Mandal  
(3) B. P. Mandal (4) A. P. Mandal
20. The Government of India appointed the second Backward Classes Commission in  
(1) 1978 (2) 1980  
(3) 1974 (4) 1979
21. What percent of government jobs was reserved for socially and educationally backward classes ?  
(1) 29 % (2) 28 %  
(3) 27 % (4) 26 %
22. Which political party came into power after the Lok Sabha election of 1989 ?  
(1) Congress (2) Communist Party  
(3) Janata Dal (4) Janata Party
23. Who became Prime Minister of India in 1989 ?  
(1) Chandra Shekhar (2) P.V. Narasimha Rao  
(3) I. K. Gujral (4) V. P. Singh

24. All laws made in the houses come into force only after they receive the assent of the \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (1) Speaker (2) President  
 (3) Prime Minister (4) Cabinet
25. In case any conflict arises upon any ordinary law, view of \_\_\_\_\_ prevails.  
 (1) Lok Sabha (2) Rajya Sabha  
 (3) President (4) Speaker
26. Financial budget of the government is passed by the \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (1) Rajya Sabha (2) President  
 (3) Cabinet (4) Lok Sabha
27. Rajya Sabha can suggest any changes or delay a bill only for \_\_\_\_\_ days.  
 (1) 15 (2) 17  
 (3) 14 (4) 16
28. "No - confidence" motion is passed by Lok Sabha in order to remove \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (1) President  
 (2) Speaker  
 (3) Cabinet  
 (4) Prime Minister and his council of Ministers
29. Which of the following institutions can make changes to an existing law of the country ?  
 (1) The President (2) The Parliament  
 (3) The Prime Minister (4) The Supreme Court
30. Who among the following is a part of the political executive ?  
 (1) Superintendent of Police  
 (2) Defence Minister  
 (3) District Collector  
 (4) Block Development Officer
31. Who among the following is a part of the permanent executive ?  
 (1) Chief Minister (2) Prime Minister  
 (3) District Collector (4) Finance Minister
32. Which of the given statements is false about the civil servants ?  
 (1) They are influential over the ministers.  
 (2) They are appointed on a long term basis.  
 (3) They remain in office even when the ruling party changes.  
 (4) They have more expert knowledge of the subject.
33. Cabinet Ministers meet to take decisions in the name of the \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (1) President (2) Parliament  
 (3) Council of Ministers (4) Prime Minister
34. Which of the following statement should be followed by the Prime Minister of Coalition Government ?  
 (1) He has to accommodate different groups and factions in his party.  
 (2) He should neglect his alliance partners.  
 (3) He can heed to the views of his partners as per his own wishes.  
 (4) He can take any decision as he likes.
35. The President of India is equivalent to  
 (1) King of Bhutan  
 (2) President of America  
 (3) Queen of Britain  
 (4) Chancellor of Germany
36. The President of India is a \_\_\_\_\_ executive.  
 (1) sovereign (2) judicial  
 (3) elected (4) nominal
37. Name the ruling coalition party of India ?  
 (1) NDA (2) UPA  
 (3) TMC (4) CPM
38. Who is the 13<sup>th</sup> President of India ?  
 (1) Pratibha Patil (2) A.P.J. Abdul Kalam  
 (3) K.R. Narayanan (4) Pranab Mukherjee
39. Who is the supreme commander of the defence forces of India ?  
 (1) Lieutenant Commander  
 (2) Marshal-in-Chief  
 (3) Army Superintendent  
 (4) President
40. Impeachment is a process, used for the removal of \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (1) Prime Minister  
 (2) District Collector  
 (3) Judges of Supreme Court  
 (4) Attorney General of India
41. Which of the following is not the basic feature of a Constitution ?  
 (1) It lays down the basic principles of turning a country into a superpower in the world.  
 (2) It expresses the aspirations of the people about creating a good society.  
 (3) It specifies how the government will be constituted, who will have power to take decisions.  
 (4) It lays down limits on the powers of the government and tells us what are the rights of the citizens.
42. Which of the following is not the correct feature of Parliament ?  
 (1) Once the government comes into control, it should pay no attention for the support of the Parliament.  
 (2) Parliament is the final authority for making laws in the country.  
 (3) All the money that the governments have, is controlled by the Parliament.  
 (4) Parliament is the highest forum of discussion and debate on public issues.
43. Which of the following is not the correct feature of the Cabinet ?  
 (1) Cabinet Ministers are usually top level leaders of the ruling party.  
 (2) Any wrong decision taken by the Cabinet should be forcibly accepted by the Parliament.  
 (3) Cabinet is the inner ring of the Council of Ministers.  
 (4) Cabinet works as a team.
44. In which year was the resolution at the Karachi session taken about the Constitution of India ?  
 (1) 1930 (2) 1933  
 (3) 1935 (4) 1931
45. Who among the following are highly advocated and have more expert knowledge about the technical matters of the subject ?  
 (1) Cabinet Ministers  
 (2) President  
 (3) Judges of Supreme Court  
 (4) Civil servants

# Exercise

## 2

### Matching Based MCQ

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 1 to 4) :** Match Column-I with Column-II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the columns.

- | Column I      | Column II                               |
|---------------|---|
| A. SOVEREIGN  | (p) People enjoy equal political rights |
| B. SECULAR    | (q) No socio-economic inequalities      |
| C. DEMOCRATIC | (r) No external power can dictate India |
| D. SOCIALIST  | (s) All religion are equally respected  |

(1) A → (q); B → (p); C → (r); D → (s)  
 (2) A → (p); B → (q); C → (s); D → (r)  
 (3) A → (r); B → (s); C → (p); D → (q)  
 (4) A → (s); B → (r); C → (q); D → (p)
- | Column I  | Column II      |
|---|----------------|
| A. Government should work for the welfare of all          | (p) FRATERNITY |
| B. Freedom to think to wish and to express their thoughts | (q) JUSTICE    |
| C. All of us should behave as brothers and sisters        | (r) EQUALITY   |
| D. All are equal before the law                           | (s) LIBERTY    |

(1) A → (p); B → (q); C → (r); D → (s)  
 (2) A → (q); B → (p); C → (s); D → (r)  
 (3) A → (r); B → (s); C → (q); D → (p)  
 (4) A → (q); B → (s); C → (p); D → (r)
- | Column I (Ministry)                         | Column II (Work to be done)                             |
|---|---|
| A. Ministry of Health                       | (p) Free education to all children below 15 years.      |
| B. Ministry of Commerce and Industry        | (q) A Pulse Polio campaign to be conducted              |
| C. Ministry of Education                    | (r) Special monetary help to soldiers posted at borders |
| D. Ministry of Defence and External Affairs | (s) Increase the leather export of                      |

(1) A → (q); B → (s); C → (p); D → (r)  
 (2) A → (p); B → (s); C → (q); D → (r)  
 (3) A → (s); B → (q); C → (r); D → (p)  
 (4) A → (r); B → (p); C → (q); D → (s)

- | Column I (Ministry)                 | Column II (Work to be done)                             |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| A. Ministry of Finance              | (p) The price of fruits and vegetables to be subsidised |
| B. Ministry of Food and Agriculture | (q) New mines to be explored in South India             |
| C. Ministry of Mining               | (r) All vehicles to run on C.N.G in metropolitans       |
| D. Ministry of Petroleum            | (s) Taxation benefits to women working in factories     |

(1) A → (p); B → (q); C → (r); D → (s)  
 (2) A → (q); B → (p); C → (s); D → (r)  
 (3) A → (s); B → (p); C → (q); D → (r)  
 (4) A → (s); B → (r); C → (q); D → (p)

### Statement Based MCQ

- With reference to the making of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements :
  - The Indian Constitution adopted many institutional details and procedures from the Government of India Act of 1933.
  - The drafting of the Indian Constitution was done by the Constituent Assembly.

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

(1) (a) only                      (2) (b) only  
 (3) Both (a) and (b)        (4) Neither (a) nor (b)
- Consider the following statements :
  - After two years of discussion and debate South Africans came out with one of the finest constitution of the world.
  - They decided that in the search for a solution to the problems, nobody should be excluded, no one should be treated as a demon.
  - The Constitution gave to its citizens, the most extensive rights to take revenge upon the atrocities committed to them.
  - They agreed that only the Black people should become a part of the solution.

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

(1) (a), (b) and (c)        (2) (a) and (b)  
 (3) (b) and (d)            (4) (a) and (c)
- With reference to the 'Powers of the Prime Minister', consider the following statements :
  - The Constitution clearly signifies the powers of the Prime Minister.
  - When the Prime Minister quits, the entire ministry remains in existence to continue his works.

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

(1) (a) only                      (2) (b) only  
 (3) Both (a) and (b)        (4) Neither (a) nor (b)

## Passage Based MCQ

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 8 to 29) :** Read the passage(s) given below and answer the questions that follow.

### PASSAGE - 1

Nelson Mandela and seven other leaders were sentenced to life imprisonment in 1964 for daring to oppose the Apartheid Regime in his country. He was tried of treason by the White South African government. He spend the next 28 years in South Africa's most dreaded prison, Robben Island. The Apartheid system was particularly oppressive for the Blacks. They were forbidden from living in and entering all those public places entered by the White people. Blacks could not form associations or protest against the terrible treatment. Since 1950, Nelson Mandela fought against Apartheid and launched protest marches and strikes. But the white racist government continued to rule by detaining, torturing and killing thousands of Blacks and others.

8. The system of keeping and maintaining separate public places and amenities for the white and black is called \_\_\_\_  
(1) congregation (2) aggregation  
(3) segregation (4) degradation
9. The policy of Apartheid was followed in which African Country ?  
(1) Zimbabwe (2) Namibia  
(3) South Africa (4) Botswana
10. Apartheid was an official policy of separation on the basis of \_\_\_\_  
(1) caste (2) sex  
(3) religion (4) race
11. Who among the following did not take part in the fight against Apartheid ?  
(1) The African National Congress  
(2) The Communist Party  
(3) White government officials  
(4) Indians
12. Which of the following points is not correct with reference to the realisation of mistakes by the white racial government ?  
(1) Discriminatory laws were repealed  
(2) Nelson Mandela was freed  
(3) White regime changed its policies  
(4) Blacks were under their repressive rule.

### PASSAGE - 2

The drafting of the Constitution was done by an assembly of elected representatives called the Constituent Assembly. Elections for the Constituent Assembly were held in July 1946. Its first meeting was held in December 1946. Soon after, the country was divided into India and Pakistan. The Constituent Assembly was also divided into that of India and Pakistan. The Assembly had 299 members and it adopted the Constitution on 26th November 1949 but it came into effect on 26th January 1950.

13. Who among the following was not the member of the Constituent Assembly of India ?

- (1) Dr. Rajendra Prasad
  - (2) Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru
  - (3) Mahatma Gandhi
  - (4) Bhimrao Ambedkar
14. On which of these date did Pakistan get its independence  
(1) 15th August 1947 (2) 13th August 1946  
(3) 17th August 1945 (4) 14th August 1947
  15. Who among the following became the governor of West Bengal after independence ?  
(1) H. C. Mukherjee  
(2) Subhash Chandra Bose  
(3) Somnath Lahiri  
(4) Shyama Prasad Mukherjee
  16. Which point among the following was not a source of inspiration for the makers of our Constitution ?  
(1) French Revolution  
(2) Bill of Rights in the US  
(3) Constitution of South Africa  
(4) Parliamentary democracy in Britain
  17. The Preamble to the Constitution was taken from the \_\_\_\_  
(1) British model (2) French model  
(3) German model (4) American model

### PASSAGE - 3

The working of a government involves various activities. For example, the government is responsible for ensuring security to the citizens and providing facilities for education and health to all. It collects, takes and spends the money thus raised on administration, defence and development programmes. It formulates and implements several welfare schemes: (i) (Some persons have to take decisions on how to go about these activities). (ii) (Others have to implement these decisions) (iii) (If disputes arise on these decisions or in their implementation, there should be someone to determine the right or wrong). (iv) (It is important that everyone should know who is responsible for doing what). (v) (It is also important that these activities keep taking place, even if the person in key positions change).

18. Which department of the government is referred in the statement (v) of the given passage ?  
(1) Judiciary (2) Civil Servants  
(3) Cabinet Ministers (4) Press and Media
19. Which department of the government is referred in the statement (iii) of the passage ?  
(1) Press and Media (2) Executive  
(3) Public opinion (4) Judiciary
20. Who among the following brings awareness among the people about the government ?  
(1) Police (2) Cabinet  
(3) Press and Media (4) Court
21. Who among the following takes all important policy decisions ?  
(1) President (2) Civil Servants  
(3) Judges (4) Prime Minister



#### **PASSAGE - 4**

The judiciary in India is one of the most powerful in the world. Supreme Court and the High Court have the power to interpret the Constitution of the country. They can determine the Constitutional validity of any legislation or action of the executive in the country, when it is challenged before them. This is known as the Judicial Review. The Indian judiciary acts as the guardian of the Fundamental Rights. The citizens have a right to approach the courts to seek remedy, in case of any violation of their rights. Courts have given several judgments and directives to protect public interests and human rights.

22. In which of the following cases, the Indian Judiciary cannot give any decisions ?
- Preventing the misuse of government's power to take decision.
  - Check malpractices on the part of public officials.
  - Military aggression by the neighbouring countries.
  - Protection of public interest and human rights.
23. A judge can be removed only by an impeachment motion passed separately by \_\_\_\_\_ members of the two houses of Parliament.
- three fourth
  - simple majority
  - one third
  - two third
24. In which of the following cases, the Supreme Court cannot take up any dispute between :
- Citizens and government
  - Governments at the Union and State level
  - Two or more state governments
  - Citizens and three state governments
25. The Supreme Court of India is situated in \_\_\_\_\_
- Kolkata
  - Chennai
  - New Delhi
  - Mumbai
26. Where is the High Court of Uttar Pradesh located ?
- Lucknow
  - Kanpur
  - Allahabad
  - Varanasi
27. Which of the following statements about the judiciary is false ?
- Judiciary can strike down a law, if it goes against the spirit of the Constitution.
  - Judiciary is independent of the executive.
  - Every law passed by the Parliament, needs approval of the Supreme Court.
  - Any citizen can approach the courts, if his/her rights are violated.
28. Which of the following statements about the executive is false ?
- Mostly the decisions taken by the permanent executives prevail over the political executives.
  - The ministers decide the overall framework and objectives of the policy.
  - Executive is finally answerable to the people.
  - Executive can take advice of the experts.
29. Which of the following statements about the Legislature is false ?

- Parliament is the final authority for making laws in the country.
- Majority party can forcefully impose its laws upon the country.
- Legislature can take decisions as long as they enjoy the support of the Parliament.
- Legislature Controls all the money that the government has.

#### **Assertion Reason Based MCQ**

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 30 to 36) :** Following questions consist of two statements, one labelled as the '**Assertion**' and the other as '**Reason**'. You are to examine these two statements carefully and select the answer to these items using the code given below.

**Code :**

- Both A and R are individually true and R is the correct explanation of A.
  - Both A and R are individually true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
  - A is true but R is false
  - A is false but R is true.
30. **Assertion :** The constitution of a country is a set of written rules that are accepted by all people living together in a country.  
**Reason :** The Indian Constitution came into effect on 26th January 1950.
31. **Assertion :** Those who drafted the Indian Constitution felt that it has to be in accordance with people's aspirations and changes in the society.  
**Reason :** They made provisions to incorporate changes from time to time.
32. **Assertion :** President is the head of the state and is the highest formal authority in the country.  
**Reason :** The President of India announced the intention of the government to implement the recommendations of the Mandal Commission.
33. **Assertion :** Some of the delays and complications introduced by the government institutions are very useful.  
**Reason :** They provide an opportunity for a wider set of people to be consulted in any decision.
34. **Assertion :** The Prime Minister is free to choose ministers, as long as they are members of Parliament.  
**Reason :** A person who is not a member of Parliament can also become a minister at the recommendation of Prime Minister.
35. **Assertion :** If there is a difference between the two houses, the final decision is taken in a joint session in which members of both the Houses sit together.  
**Reason :** All laws made in the Houses come into force only after they receive the assent of the President.
36. **Assertion :** Every law passed by the Parliament needs approval of the Supreme Court.  
**Reason :** Judiciary is independent of the Executive.



### Correct Definition Based MCQ

37. Which of the following is the correct definition of "Constitution" ?
- (1) Supreme law of a country, containing the legal rights to govern a country.
  - (2) Supreme law of a country, containing the political procedures to govern a country.
  - (3) Supreme law of a country, containing the judicial rights and procedures of a country.
  - (4) Supreme law of a country, containing fundamental rules, governing the politics and society in a country.
38. Which of the following is the correct definition of "constitutional amendment" ?
- (1) A change in the constitution made by the supreme executive body in a country.
  - (2) A change in the constitution made by the supreme judicial body in a country.
  - (3) A change in the constitution made by the supreme legislative body in a country.
  - (4) A change in the constitution made by the supreme legal authority in a country.
39. Which of the following is the correct definition of "Office Memorandum" ?
- (1) A document issued by the ruling party, stating the policies of the government.
  - (2) A report issued by the press, stating the decisions of the government.
  - (3) A communication issued by an appropriate authority, stating the policy or decision of the government.
  - (4) A memorandum issued by the President, stating the functioning of the government.

## Hints & SOLUTIONS

### Exercise 1

- (2)
- (4)
- (3)
- (2)
- (4)
- (4) The official policy of racial separation and ill treatment of Blacks, followed by the government of South Africa between 1948 and 1989.
- (2)
- (1)
- (4)
- (4)
- (1) Mahatma Gandhi had a wish that poorest shall have an effective voice and there shall be no high and low class of people.
- (2)
- (4)
- (4)
- (1)
- (3)
- (3) Black leaders appealed to fellow Blacks to forgive the Whites for the atrocities they had committed, while in power.
- (3) It was asked to determine the criteria to identify the socially and educationally backward classes in India and recommend steps to be taken for their advancement.
- (4)
- (3)
- (3)
- (4)
- (2) The President of India is an integral part of the Parliament.
- (1) Because of the larger number of members in the Lok Sabha.
- (4)
- (3)
- (4)
- (2)
- (2) Because he is elected by the people for a specific period.
- (3) Because he remains in office even when the ruling party changes.
- (1) They work under political executives and assist them in carrying out the day to day administration.
- (3) Because they are usually top level leaders of the ruling party.
- (1)
- (3)
- (4)
- (2)
- (4)
- (3)
- (3) An impeachment motion has to be passed separately by two - third members of the two Houses of Parliament.
- (1) It is the supreme law of a country, containing fundamental rules governing the politics and society in a country.
- (1) The ruling party has to heed to the views and positions of different group, factions and other parties for the survival in the Parliament.

- (4)
- (2)
- (4) Sometimes, the ministers may know very little knowledge about the technical matters that come under their ministry like in Defence Industry, Health, Science and Technology, Mining etc, so they take the advice of the experts on all technical matters.

### Exercise 2

- (3)
- (4)
- (1)
- (3)
- (2) The Indian Constitution adopted many institutional details and procedures from the Government of India Act of 1935.
- (2)
- (4) The constitution does not say very much about the powers of the Prime Minister. When the Prime Minister quits, the entire ministry resigns.
- (3)
- (3)
- (4) The White rulers treated the non- whites as inferiors.
- (3)
- (4) Equality of all races and men and women, on democratic values, social justice and human rights.
- (3)
- (4)
- (1)
- (3) It was made after South Africa became independent in 1994.
- (4)
- (2)
- (4)
- (3) Press and Media should always be free and impartial from the influence of the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary.
- (4)
- (3) In these cases only the United Nations Organisation can interfere and take decisions.
- (4)
- (4)
- (3)
- (3)
- (3)
- (2)
- (2)
- (1) A change in the constitution made by the supreme legislative body in a country is known as constitutional amendment.
- (2)
- (1)
- (4) A person who is not a member of Parliament can also become a minister but he has to get elected to one of the Houses of the Parliament, within six months of appointment as minister.
- (2)
- (4)
- (4)
- (3)
- (3)