

CLASS-8 Civics

Chapter-1 The Indian Constitution

Exercises

1. Why does a democratic country need a Constitution?

Answer A democratic country need a Constitution because:

→ It lays out the important guidelines that govern decision making within the various societies of the country.

→ It lays down the ideals that form the basis of the kind of country that its citizens aspire to live in.

→ It serves as asset of rules and principles as the basis by which the country has to be governed.

→ It provides rules to safeguard the interests of minorities and prevent any kind of domination by the majority on minorities.

→ It lays down rules that guard against the misuse of power by any politician leader.

→ It also provides rights to its citizens and protects their freedom.

2. What would happen if there were no restrictions on the power of elected representatives?

Answer : If there are no restrictions on the power of the elected representatives the leaders might misuse the powers given to them. The Constitution provides safeguards against this misuse of power by our political leaders.

3. In each of the following situations, identify the minority. Write one reason why you think it is important to respect the views of the minority in each of these situations.

- a. In a school with 30 teachers, 20 of them are male.
- b. In a city, 5 per cent of the populations are Buddhists.
- c. In a factory mess for all employees, 80 per cent are vegetarians.
- d. In a class of 50 students, 40 belong to more well-off families.

Answer :

- a. Female teachers are in minority. The female teachers must be allowed space to voice their opinion so that their efforts at teaching are not hindered by their minority status.
- b. Buddhists are in minority. Every individual has the right to follow the religion of his/her choice. People of other faith must respect the religion other than their own.
- c. Non-vegetarians are in minority. Food choice is personal wish so he/she should have the freedom to eat what he/she wants.

- d. Under privileged are in minority. Citizen cannot be discriminated by their birth so their views have to be respected.

5. The column on the left lists some of the key features of the Indian Constitution. In the other column write two sentences, in your own words, on why you think this feature is important:

Key Feature	Significance
Federalism Separation of Powers Fundamental Rights Parliamentary Form of Government	

Answer : Key features

1. Federalism: It ensures national unity and at the same time allows individual progress. A federal government allows the Centre to hold supreme power but its Constituent States have some power as well.

2. Separation of Powers: This serves two purposes: firstly, tyrannical use of power is avoided since it does not vest power in any single authority. Secondly, the 3 organs of power also work as a check on each other, thereby maintaining a good balance.

3. Fundamental Rights: These are important because they conform to a humane society. They also protect citizens against arbitrary and absolute use of power by the State.

4. Parliamentary Form of Government: It upholds universal adult franchise. This entails the fact that the people of a country play a direct role in electing their representatives to run the state as well as thenation.

Extra Questions

Q1. What do you understand by monarchy?

Ans. Monarchy is a form of government in which final authority rested with the King.

Q2. In Nepal, when did the Interim Constitution come into effect?

Ans. In Nepal, the Interim Constitution came into effect from January 15, 2007.

Q3. Who is known as the Father of the Indian Constitution?

Ans. Baba Saheb Dr Ambedkar is known as the Father of the Indian Constitution.

Q4. What is a "State"?

Ans. The State refers to a political institution that represents a sovereign people who occupy a definite territory.

Q5. What does Federalism mean?

Ans. Federalism refers to the existence of more than one level of government in the country.

Q6. What do you understand by a secular state?

Ans. A secular state is one in which the state does not officially promote any one religion as the state religion.

Q7. What is democracy?

Ans. Democracy is a form of government in which we choose our leaders so that they can exercise power responsibly on our behalf.

Q8. What is universal adult franchise?

Ans. Universal Adult Franchise means that the right to vote should be given to all adult citizens without the discrimination of caste, class, colour, religion or gender.

Q9. How does the Indian Constitution protect minority rights?

Ans. The Constitution usually contains rules that ensure that minorities are not excluded from anything that is routinely available to the majority.

Q10. Explain Right against Exploitation.

Ans. Right against Exploitation: The Constitution prohibits human trafficking, forced labour, and employment of children under 14 years of age.

Q11. What is Right to Constitutional Remedies?

Ans. Right to Constitutional Remedies - This allows citizens to move the court if they believe that any of their Fundamental Rights have been violated by the State.

Q12. Explain Right to Freedom of Religion.

Ans. Right to Freedom of Religion - Religious freedom is provided to all citizens. Every person has the right to practise, profess and propagate the religion of their choice.

Q13. Write a short note on Cultural and Educational Rights.

Ans. Cultural and Educational Rights - The Constitution states that all minorities, religious or linguistic, can set up their own educational institutions in order to preserve and develop their own culture