
Class XI - Political Science

Chapter 1: Constitution: Why & How

Competency-Based Assignment

Section A (MCQs - 1 Mark Each)

1. Which function of the constitution directly helps manage the diversity within Indian society by providing a common framework everyone agrees to follow?
 - (a) Imposing limitations on the government
 - (b) Allowing coordination and assurance
 - (c) Fulfilling the aspirations of the people
 - (d) Providing a fundamental identity
2. The members of the Constituent Assembly were elected by indirect election through provincial legislative assemblies established in 1935. What does this primarily imply about the initial representative nature of the Assembly?
 - (a) It was directly chosen by all adults in India.
 - (b) It was fully nominated by the British.
 - (c) Its representativeness was based on limited franchise existing pre-independence.
 - (d) It only represented the princely states accurately.
3. The Indian Constitution is often described as a 'living document' because, despite borrowing provisions, it:
 - (a) Was written very recently.
 - (b) Can be amended to suit changing needs and circumstances.
 - (c) Contains pictures and illustrations.
 - (d) Was handwritten by the original members.
4. The principle of 'Rule of Law', borrowed from the British Constitution, primarily ensures that:
 - (a) Rulers are above the law.
 - (b) Laws apply differently based on social status.
 - (c) Everyone is subject to the same laws, and legal processes are followed.
 - (d) The Parliament can make any law without restrictions.
5. The Objective Resolution, presented by Jawaharlal Nehru, served primarily as:
 - (a) The final draft of the Constitution.
 - (b) A list of members of the Constituent Assembly.
 - (c) A declaration of the guiding principles and philosophy for the Constitution.
 - (d) The procedure for electing the President.

6. Setting limits on government power through Fundamental Rights (borrowed from the US Constitution) primarily serves which constitutional goal mentioned in the text?
 - (a) Fulfilling aspirations of the people.
 - (b) Providing enabling framework for government.
 - (c) Allowing coordination and assurance.
 - (d) Preventing government tyranny and protecting citizen liberties.
 7. The Constituent Assembly's emphasis on 'deliberations and consent' (as mentioned on Page 1/Page 10) highlights its commitment to which value?
 - (a) Authoritarian decision-making
 - (b) Quick implementation without discussion
 - (c) Democratic process and reasoned public argument
 - (d) Following orders from the British cabinet
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Section B (Very Short Answer Questions - 2 Marks Each)

1. If a newly formed country has deep ethnic and linguistic divides, which two functions of a constitution (based on the text) would be most crucial to establish first to ensure stability? Briefly explain why.
 2. The Indian Constitution makers chose a Parliamentary form of government, borrowing from the British system. Give two reasons, based on the text or common understanding of the context, why this system might have been considered suitable for post-independence India.
 3. How does providing a 'fundamental identity' (as mentioned on Page 3) through a constitution help in the process of nation-building, especially in a diverse country?
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Section C (Short Answer Questions - 4 Marks Each)

1. The text acknowledges that the Indian Constitution borrowed heavily ("bag of borrowing") but argues it wasn't "slavish imitation" (Page 4). Evaluate this statement. Explain how the framers adapted borrowed provisions to the Indian context, using two examples of borrowed features mentioned in the text (e.g., Fundamental Rights, Parliamentary System, DPSP).
 2. The Constituent Assembly needed to create a document acceptable to vastly different groups and ideologies within India. How did its composition (representation) and functioning (like the emphasis on 'deliberations' mentioned on Page 1/Page 10) attempt to ensure the final Constitution reflected a broad consensus?
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Section D (Long Answer Questions - 6 Marks Each)

1. "A constitution is not merely a set of rules for the government, but the embodiment of a society's values and aspirations." Justify this statement by explaining at least three functions of the Indian Constitution, as discussed in the text (Pages 1-3), that go beyond simply defining government powers (e.g., fulfilling aspirations, creating a just society, providing identity, setting limits).

2. Analyze the key factors that contribute to the 'Authority of the Indian Constitution'. How did the *process* of its creation – including the nature of the Constituent Assembly (representative character, democratic values), its procedures (deliberations, consensus), and its inheritance of values from the national movement – contribute to its legitimacy and widespread acceptance?
 3. The Indian Constitution seeks to establish a balance between the power required by the government to govern effectively and the fundamental rights guaranteed to citizens. Explain how the Constitution achieves this balance, referring to specific functions (like setting limits vs. enabling government) and relevant features (like Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles, Parliamentary accountability, Rule of Law) mentioned in the text.
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