

MCQs on Constitution – Why and How?

1. What is the primary focus of "Chapter 1: Constitution: Why and How?" in the provided text?
 - A. The history of India's independence movement.
 - B. The working of the Indian Constitution, its meaning, functions, and making.
 - C. Detailed information about elections and political parties.
 - D. The biographies of Indian presidents and prime ministers.
2. According to the text, where do the entire structure of the government and its various binding principles originate?
 - A. In ancient Indian scriptures.
 - B. In the Constitution of India.
 - C. In the directives of the Prime Minister.
 - D. In international treaties.
3. What is the first function of a constitution, as described in the text?
 - A. To guarantee economic prosperity for all citizens.
 - B. To provide a set of basic rules that allow for minimal coordination amongst members of a society.
 - C. To establish a monarchy as the form of government.
 - D. To promote a single religion across the nation.
4. Why do members of a group need basic rules that are publicly promulgated and known to all, according to the text?
 - A. To determine individual wealth.
 - B. To achieve a minimal degree of coordination.
 - C. To establish a ruling elite.
 - D. To organize sporting events.
5. What assurance does the legal enforceability of rules provide to citizens?
 - A. That they will never face disputes.
 - B. That others will follow these, for if they do not do so, they will be punished.
 - C. That all their desires will be met.
 - D. That they can disregard the rules without consequence.
6. What does a constitution specify regarding decision-making powers in a society?
 - A. The specific individuals who will hold all power.
 - B. The basic allocation of power in a society and who gets to decide what the laws will be.
 - C. The exact religious allegiances of its citizens.
 - D. The preferred hobbies and tastes of its members.
7. In a democratic constitution, broadly speaking, who gets to decide the laws?
 - A. A monarch.
 - B. One single party.
 - C. The people.
 - D. The military leaders.

8. According to the Indian Constitution, which body typically gets to decide laws and policies in most instances?
 - A. The President.
 - B. The Judiciary.
 - C. Parliament.
 - D. Individual citizens directly.
9. What is the second function of a constitution mentioned in the text?
 - A. To collect taxes from citizens.
 - B. To specify who has the power to make decisions in a society and how the government will be constituted.
 - C. To organize national festivals.
 - D. To dictate fashion trends.
10. What is the third function of a constitution, as explained in the document?
 - A. To allow the government unlimited power.
 - B. To enable the government to arrest anyone arbitrarily.
 - C. To define the specific clothes citizens must wear.
 - D. To set some limits on what a government can impose on its citizens.
11. What is the most common way constitutions limit the power of government?
 - A. By allowing only certain people to vote.
 - B. By specifying certain fundamental rights that all of us possess as citizens.
 - C. By prohibiting religious practice.
 - D. By ensuring only rich people hold office.
12. Which of the following is NOT explicitly listed as a basic liberty protected by most constitutions?
 - A. Freedom of speech.
 - B. Freedom to choose government officials.
 - C. Freedom of conscience.
 - D. Freedom of association.
13. Under what circumstances can fundamental rights be limited, according to the text?
 - A. During economic recessions.
 - B. During times of national emergency.
 - C. When a new government takes power.
 - D. For convenience of law enforcement.
14. What is the fourth function of a constitution?
 - A. To limit the number of political parties.
 - B. To enable the government to fulfil the aspirations of a society and create conditions for a just society.
 - C. To dictate personal beliefs.
 - D. To ensure social hierarchy.

15. The Indian Constitution is described as being particularly innovative in which aspect?

- A. Limiting government power.
- B. Allocating decision-making power.
- C. Providing an enabling framework for the government to do certain positive things, to express the aspirations and goals of society.
- D. Establishing a monarchical system.

16. Which of the following is an aspiration of Indian society that the Constitution enables the government to address?

- A. Becoming a society free of caste discrimination.
- B. Establishing a state religion.
- C. Promoting feudalism.
- D. Limiting access to education.

17. The Indian Constitution enables the government to take positive welfare measures. Where are these provisions primarily found?

- A. Only in the Preamble.
- B. Only in the Directive Principles of State Policy.
- C. In the Preamble, Fundamental Rights, and Directive Principles of State Policy.
- D. In a separate book on welfare policies.

18. What responsibility does the Constitution of South Africa assign to its government?

- A. To promote unfair discrimination.
- B. To neglect healthcare provision.
- C. To take measures to promote conservation of nature and ensure adequate housing, health care, etc.
- D. To establish a single-party rule.

19. What is the final and perhaps most important function of a constitution?

- A. To restrict international trade.
- B. To express the fundamental identity of a people.
- C. To abolish all forms of government.
- D. To promote individual isolation.

20. How does a collective identity of people come into being, according to the text?

- A. Through random events.
- B. By agreeing to a basic set of norms about how one should be governed, and who should be governed.
- C. By adopting a specific cultural dress code.
- D. By rejecting all shared principles.

21. What does the Indian Constitution NOT make a criterion for citizenship, unlike the German identity which was constituted by being ethnically German?

- A. Religious identity.
- B. Political affiliation.
- C. Ethnic identity.
- D. Economic status.

22. Which of the following countries, like the United Kingdom, does NOT have one single document that can be called its Constitution, but rather a series of documents and decisions?

- A. India.
- B. United States.
- C. United Kingdom.
- D. South Africa.

23. What are the three factors that determine the effectiveness of a constitution?

- A. Age, length, and language.
- B. Popularity, cost, and historical context.
- C. Mode of promulgation, substantive provisions, and balanced institutional design.
- D. Number of amendments, political parties, and international support.

24. What makes constitutions like India's, South Africa's, and the United States' most successful in terms of 'mode of promulgation'?

- A. They were crafted by military leaders.
- B. They were created in the aftermath of popular national movements.
- C. They were imposed by foreign powers.
- D. They were written in secret.

25. The Indian Constitution drew enormous legitimacy from the fact that it was drawn up by people who possessed which qualities?

- A. Vast personal wealth.
- B. Military dominance.
- C. Hereditary claims to power.
- D. Immense public credibility, the capacity to negotiate and command the respect of a wide cross-section of society.

26. Was the Indian Constitution subjected to a full-fledged referendum?

- A. Yes, it was voted on by all the people.
- B. No, but it nevertheless carried enormous public authority, because it had the consensus and backing of leaders who were themselves popular.
- C. Yes, but only by the elite.
- D. No, and as a result, it lacked public authority.

27. How many constitutions did Nepal have between 1948 and 1990, according to the text?

- A. Two.
- B. Three.
- C. Four.
- D. Five.

28. In Nepal, who 'granted' all constitutions until the significant political changes leading to a democratic republic?

- A. The people.
- B. The King.

- C. The military.
- D. The Parliament.

29. Which political party was at the forefront of the struggle for a popularly elected constituent assembly in Nepal?

- A. The Nepali Congress.
- B. The Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist).
- C. The Royalist Party.
- D. The Democratic Front.

30. When did Nepal emerge as a democratic republic after abolishing the monarchy?

- A. 1990.
- B. 2002.
- C. 2008.
- D. 2015.

31. When did Nepal adopt its new constitution, following its emergence as a democratic republic?

- A. 1990.
- B. 2008.
- C. 2015.
- D. The text does not specify.

32. What is a hallmark of a successful constitution regarding its substantive provisions?

- A. It allows permanent majorities to oppress minority groups.
- B. It systematically privileges some members at the expense of others.
- C. It gives everyone in society some reason to go along with its provisions.
- D. It systematically entrenches the power of small groups.

33. How does a well-crafted constitution prevent subversion by small groups?

- A. By concentrating all power in one institution.
- B. By giving unlimited power to the government.
- C. By fragmenting power in society intelligently.
- D. By relying solely on public opinion.

34. How does the Indian Constitution fragment power horizontally?

- A. Between the President and the Prime Minister.
- B. Across different institutions like the Legislature, Executive and the Judiciary and even independent statutory bodies like the Election Commission.
- C. Between different religious groups.
- D. Between the rich and the poor.

35. What is an important aspect of intelligent institutional design for a constitution?

- A. To be extremely rigid and unchangeable.
- B. To be so flexible that it provides no security or identity.
- C. To strike the right balance between certain values, norms and procedures as authoritative, and at the same time allow enough flexibility in its operations to adapt to changing needs

and circumstances.

D. To focus only on core values without allowing for adaptation.

36. How is the Indian Constitution described in the text due to its balance between preserving core values and adapting to new circumstances?

- A. A static document.
- B. A rigid framework.
- C. A living document.
- D. A historical relic.

37. When was the first sitting of the Constituent Assembly for undivided India held?

- A. 14 August 1947.
- B. 26 November 1949.
- C. 9 December 1946.
- D. 26 January 1950.

38. When did the Constituent Assembly reassemble as the Constituent Assembly for divided India?

- A. 9 December 1946.
- B. 14 August 1947.
- C. 26 November 1949.
- D. 24 January 1950.

39. How were the members of the Constituent Assembly chosen?

- A. By direct popular vote.
- B. By nomination from the British government.
- C. By indirect election by the members of the Provincial Legislative Assemblies.
- D. By a lottery system.

40. The composition of the Constituent Assembly was roughly along the lines suggested by which plan proposed by the committee of the British cabinet?

- A. The Mountbatten Plan.
- B. The Cripps Mission.
- C. The Cabinet Mission Plan.
- D. The Simon Commission Report.

41. According to the Cabinet Mission Plan, what was the approximate ratio for allotting seats to Provinces and Princely States based on population?

- A. 1:1,000.
- B. 1:10,000.
- C. 1:1,00,000.
- D. 1:10,00,000.

42. How many members were Provinces (that were under direct British rule) to elect to the Constituent Assembly?

- A. 93.
- B. 292.

- C. 299.
- D. 284.

43. In the Provincial Legislative Assemblies, how did members of each community elect their own representatives to the Constituent Assembly?

- A. By simple majority vote.
- B. By the method of proportional representation with single transferable vote.
- C. By direct appointment.
- D. By a rotating system.

44. When was the Indian Constitution adopted?

- A. 14 August 1947.
- B. 26 January 1950.
- C. 26 November 1949.
- D. 9 December 1946.

45. How many members were actually present and appended their signature to the Constitution as finally passed on 24 January 1950?

- A. 299.
- B. 292.
- C. 284.
- D. 93.

46. When did the Constitution of India come into force?

- A. 26 November 1949.
- B. 24 January 1950.
- C. 26 January 1950.
- D. 14 August 1947.

47. Despite the Constituent Assembly members not being elected by universal suffrage, what attempt was made to make it a representative body?

- A. Only members of the majority community were included.
- B. Members of all religions were given representation; in addition, the Assembly had twenty-eight members from the Scheduled Castes.
- C. Only high-ranking officials were included.
- D. Representation was based solely on wealth.

48. After the Partition, what percentage of seats in the Assembly did the Congress party occupy?

- A. Around 50%.
- B. As many as eighty-two per cent.
- C. Less than 20%.
- D. The text does not specify.

49. What was the only provision of the Constitution that was passed without virtually any debate in the Constituent Assembly?

- A. The powers of the judiciary.
- B. The relations between States and the Centre.

- C. The introduction of universal suffrage.
- D. The protection of property rights.

50. The authority of the Constituent Assembly came partly from the principle of 'public reason'. What does 'public reason' emphasize?

- A. Advancing only one's own interests.
- B. Discussion and reasoned argument, giving principled reasons to other members for their positions.
- C. Imposing decisions without debate.
- D. Relying solely on historical precedents.

51. How many major Committees on different subjects did the Constituent Assembly have?

- A. Two.
- B. Five.
- C. Eight.
- D. Twelve.

52. Who were some of the key figures who chaired the major committees of the Constituent Assembly?

- A. Mahatma Gandhi and Subhas Chandra Bose.
- B. Jawaharlal Nehru, Rajendra Prasad, Sardar Patel or B.R. Ambedkar.
- C. Winston Churchill and Lord Mountbatten.
- D. Only one person chaired all committees.

53. How long did the Constituent Assembly meet, spread over how many years and months?

- A. 100 days, over one year.
- B. One hundred and sixty six days, spread over two years and eleven months.
- C. 365 days, over three years.
- D. 50 days, over six months.

54. What was the Objective Resolution, moved by Nehru in 1946, intended to do?

- A. To dissolve the Constituent Assembly.
- B. To define the aims of the Assembly and encapsulate the aspirations and values behind the Constitution.
- C. To declare war on neighboring countries.
- D. To establish a new economic policy.

55. The Objective Resolution gave institutional expression to which fundamental commitments?

- A. Monarchy and ethnic purity.
- B. Equality, liberty, democracy, sovereignty and a cosmopolitan identity.
- C. Feudalism and isolationism.
- D. Colonial rule and economic exploitation.

56. According to the Objectives Resolution, from where shall all powers and authority of sovereign and independent India and its constitution flow?

- A. From the British Crown.
- B. From the Prime Minister.

- C. From the people.
- D. From international organizations.

57. Which country's constitution influenced the 'First Past the Post' electoral system in the Indian Constitution?

- A. United States.
- B. Irish Constitution.
- C. British Constitution.
- D. Canadian Constitution.

58. From which constitution were the 'Charter of Fundamental Rights' and 'Power of Judicial Review and independence of the judiciary' adopted for the Indian Constitution?

- A. British Constitution.
- B. United States Constitution.
- C. Irish Constitution.
- D. French Constitution.

59. The Directive Principles of State Policy in the Indian Constitution were adapted from which country's constitution?

- A. British Constitution.
- B. United States Constitution.
- C. Irish Constitution.
- D. French Constitution.

60. Which country's constitution provided the idea of a 'quasi-federal form of government (a federal system with a strong central government)' and the 'Idea of Residual Powers' to the Indian Constitution?

- A. United States.
- B. France.
- C. Canadian Constitution.
- D. Ireland.

Answers

1. B. The working of the Indian Constitution, its meaning, functions, and making.
2. B. In the Constitution of India.
3. B. To provide a set of basic rules that allow for minimal coordination amongst members of a society.
4. B. To achieve a minimal degree of coordination.
5. B. That others will follow these, for if they do not do so, they will be punished.
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15. C. Providing an enabling framework for the government to do certain positive things, to express the aspirations and goals of society.
16. A. Becoming a society free of caste discrimination.
17. C. In the Preamble, Fundamental Rights, and Directive Principles of State Policy.
18. C. To take measures to promote conservation of nature and ensure adequate housing, health care, etc.
19. B. To express the fundamental identity of a people.
20. B. By agreeing to a basic set of norms about how one should be governed, and who should be governed.
21. C. Ethnic identity.
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35. C. To strike the right balance between certain values, norms and procedures as authoritative, and at the same time allow enough flexibility in its operations to adapt to changing needs and circumstances.

36. C. A living document.

37. C. 9 December 1946.

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40. C. The Cabinet Mission Plan.

41. B. 1:10,000.

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52. B. Jawaharlal Nehru, Rajendra Prasad, Sardar Patel or B.R. Ambedkar.

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54. B. To define the aims of the Assembly and encapsulate the aspirations and values behind the Constitution.

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56. C. From the people.

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