

1. Here are different opinions about what made India a democracy. How much importance would you give to each of these factors?

- (i) Democracy in India is a gift of the British rulers. We received training to work with representative legislative institutions under the British rule.
- (ii) Freedom struggle challenged the colonial exploitation and denial of different freedoms to Indians. Free India could not be anything but democratic.
- (iii) We were lucky to have leaders who had democratic convictions. The denial of democracy in several other newly independent countries shows the important role of these leaders.

Ans. (i) It is not correct that democracy is gift to the Britishers to Indian people. Because we realized the pinch and started struggle to gain freedom.

(ii) It is correct that freedom struggle challenged the colonial exploitation and denial of different freedoms to Indians. So we fought and leaders like Bal Gangadhar Tilak said, "Freedom is my birth right and I will have it." This strong slogan motivated Indians.

(iii) We have leaders who had democratic attitudes and farsightedness.

2. Read the following extract from a conduct book for 'married women', published in 1912.

'God has made the female species delicate and fragile both physically and emotionally, pitifully incapable of self-defence. They are destined thus by God to remain in male protection-of father, husband and son-all their lives. Women should, therefore, not despair, but feel obliged that they can dedicate themselves to the service of men.'

Do you think the values expressed in this para reflected the values underlying our Constitution? Or does this go against the constitutional values?

Ans. According to Constitution of India, the above mentioned statement is wrong. We have equality before law and opportunity. So we cannot exclude the women folk.

3. Read the following statements about a constitution. Give reasons why each of these is true or not true.

- (i) The authority of the rules of the constitution is the same as that of any other law.
- (ii) Constitution lays down how different organs of the government will be formed.

(iii) Rights of citizens and limits on the power of the government are laid down in the constitution.

- Ans.**
- (i) It is true. Because all the laws are directed according to Constitution of the country.
 - (ii) Yes, it is true, that no government can be formed beyond the constitution.
 - (iii) It is true that the rights of citizens are given in the constitution and we cannot cross the limitations.

4. Fill in the blanks :

- (a) The Indian Constitution was passed by the Constituent Assembly on 26th November _____
- (b) The Constituent Assembly met for _____ days.
- (c) The Congress decided to fight for complete independence in its _____ session.
- (d) Rajendra Prasad was the _____ of the Constituent Assembly.
- (e) B. R. Ambedkar was the _____ of the drafting committee.

- Ans.**
- (a) 1949
 - (b) 114
 - (c) 1929 Lahore
 - (d) President
 - (e) Chairman

5. Here are some false statements. Identify the mistake in each case and rewrite these correctly based on what you have read in this chapter.

- (a) Leaders of the freedom movement had an open mind about whether the country should be democratic or not after independence.
- (b) Members of the Constituent Assembly of India held the same views on all provisions of the Constitution.
- (c) A country that has a Constitution must be a democracy.
- (d) Constitution cannot be amended because it is the supreme law of a country.

- Ans.**
- (a) Leaders of the freedom movement had decided that the country would be democratic after independence.
 - (b) Members of the Constituent Assembly of India deferred on certain provisions of the Constitution but reached a broad consensus on basis values.
 - (c) All countries that are democratic will have Constitutions.
 - (d) A Constitution is not a sacred, static or unalterable law and can be amended.

6. Which of these was the most salient underlying conflict in the making of a democratic Constitution in South Africa :

- (a) Between South Africa and its neighbours
- (b) Between men and women
- (c) Between the white minority and the black majority
- (d) Between the coloured minority and the black majority [NCERT]

Ans. (c) Between the white minority and the black majority

7. Which of these is a provision that a democratic Constitution does not have ?

- (a) Powers of the head of the state
- (b) Name of the head of the state
- (c) Powers of the legislature
- (d) Name of the country

Ans. (b) Name of the head of the state.

8. Match the following leaders with their roles in the making of the Constitution:

Group 'A'		Group 'B'	
(a)	Motilal Nehru	(i)	President of the Constituent Assembly
(b)	B. R. Ambedkar	(ii)	Member of the Constituent Assembly
(c)	Rajendra Prasad	(iii)	Chairman of the Drafting Committee
(d)	Sarojini Naidu	(iv)	Prepared a Constitution for India in 1928

Ans. (a) → (iv); (b) → (iii); (c) → (i); (d) → (ii)

10. Read again the extracts from Nehru's speech. 'Tryst with Destiny' and answer the following:

- (a) Why did Nehru use the expression "not wholly or in full measure" in the first sentence ?
- (b) What pledge did he want the makers of the Indian Constitution to take ?
- (c) "The ambition of the greatest man of our generation has been to wipe every tear from every eye". Who was he referring to ?

Ans. (a) He used this expression because though India had become free, it had still to provide social and economic equality and freedom to everyone.

(b) He wanted them to pledge themselves to work for the welfare of all Indians, to remove poverty, ignorance and inequality of opportunity.

(c) He was referring to Mahatma Gandhi.

11. Here are different opinions about what made India a democracy. How much importance would you give to each of these factors ?

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- (b) Freedom Struggle challenged the colonial exploitation and denial of different freedoms to Indians. Free India could not be anything but democratic.
- (c) We were lucky to have leaders who had democratic convictions. The denial of democracy in several other newly independent countries shows the important role of these leaders.

- Ans.**
- (a) The training received by the functioning of the provincial governments helped in the formation of our Constitution though it is not correct to state that it is a gift of the British rulers.
 - (b) Undoubtedly, the struggle against colonial rule is instrumental for India choosing a democratic system of government.
 - (c) However, this is most important as many newly independent countries fell prey to dictators where even the basic rights have been denied to the people because their leaders did not believe in democracy.

- 12.** Here are some of the guiding values of the Constitution and their meaning. Rewrite them by matching them correctly.

Group 'A'		Group 'B'	
(a)	Sovereign	(i)	Government will not favour any religion
(b)	Republic	(ii)	People have the supreme right to make decisions
(c)	Fraternity	(iii)	Head of the state is an elected person
(d)	Secular	(iv)	People should live like brothers and sisters

- Ans.** (a) → (ii); (b) → (iii); (c) → (iv); (d) → (i)

- 13.** Read the following extract from a conduct book for 'married women', published in 1912. 'God has made the female species delicate and fragile both physically and emotionally, pritiably incapable of self-defence. They are destined thus by God in in male protection - of father, husband and son - all their lives. Women should, therefore, not despair, but feel obliged that they can dedicate themselves to the service of men'. Do you think the values expressed in this paragraph reflected the values underlying our constitution? Or does this go against the constitutional values?

- Ans.** No, they do not express the values underlying our Constitution because our Constitution believes in giving equality to everyone irrespective of caste, creed, sex or race.

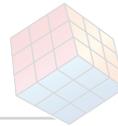
14. Read the following statements about a Constitution. Give reasons why each of these is true or not true.

- (a) The authority of the rules of the Constitution is the same as that of any other law.
- (b) Constitution lays down how different organs of the government will be formed.
- (c) Rights of citizens and limits on the power of the government are laid down in the Constitution.
- (d) A constitution is about institutions, not about values.

Ans.

- (a) Not true because the Constitution is the supreme law of the land.
- (b) True
- (c) True
- (d) Not true. A Constitution reflects the values cherished by its peoples and which are implemented by the institutions formed by the provisions of the Constitution.

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