

**Class – XI**  
**Political Science**  
**Chapter-1**

**Constitution: Why and How?**

Question 1

**what is Constitution?**

Answer:

Constitution of a country is a written document which prescribes it to be a supreme law of the country to decide the structure of the government along with rights and duties of citizens. The Constitution speaks of who would play a vital role in decision-making powers.

Question 2

**what are the features of Constitution?**

Answer:

- It is the Supreme Law of Country.
- It maintains a relationship between the government and the citizens of country.
- It constitutes the structure of the government.
- It tells who would play an important role in decision-making powers.

Question 3

**what is the nature of India as per the Preamble of the Indian Constitution?**

Answer:

India is a Sovereign, Secular, Socialist, Democratic and Republic state.

Question 4

**what is the need and importance of a Constitution?**

Answer:

- The Constitution provides a framework within which a government has to work.
- It minimizes the chances of disputes among the various organs of the government as it clearly defines their powers and functions separately.
- It also controls the misuse of power by the government.
- It safeguards the fundamental rights of the citizens.

Question 5

**What do you mean by 'Democratic' with special reference to India?**

Answer:

- Democratic denotes to choose democracy as a way of life and run the administration through democratic institutions like legislatures, executive, free and fair judiciary, etc.
- 'Democratic' word in Preamble refers to social and economic democracy except political democracy.

Question 6

**what do the political and economic justice stand for?**

Answer:

- Political Justice: Political justice refers to equal political rights to be enjoyed by all the citizens of country where every citizen has right to elect the representatives as well as the right to be elected as representatives.
- Economic Justice: It refers to every citizen to get the equal opportunities to earn one's livelihood as well as equal payment for equal work.

Question 7

**what is Preamble to the Constitution?**

Answer:

Preamble to the Constitution is an introductory part of Constitution which enables the people to assess and evaluate the performance of government in the light of objectives laid down into the Preamble.

Question 8

**Mention the four main features of Indian Constitution.**

Answer:

- It establishes a Sovereign, democratic republic in India.
- It establishes India as a secular state.
- It has provisions of fundamental rights as well as fundamental duties to the citizens of India.
- It establishes a parliamentary form of government in India.

Question 9

**"India is a secular state". Justify the statement.**

Answer:

- The word 'Secular' was put in the Preamble to Constitution through the 42nd Amendment.
- 'Secular' refers that the state has no religion of its own but shows due respect to all religions.
- The state observes complete neutrality in religious matters.
- The 45th Amendment carries equal respect and recognition to all religions.
- No discrimination in India has ever been made against any individual belonging to different communities, religions, castes, etc.

Question 10

**what do you understand by the terms liberty, equality and fraternity in the Preamble to Constitution?**

Answer:

Liberty: It is stated in the Preamble as a goal that the people should have liberty of thought, expression, belief and faith. The state should remove the obstacles for the individuals to enjoy freedom of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship.

Equality: The Preamble to the Constitution always emphasizes to remove any sort of discrimination on the basis of sex, religion, race, colour, caste, etc. by making the provisions:

- Article 14— Equality of Justice
- Article 15—Social equality

- Article 16—Equality to achieve administrative services
- Article 17—Untouchability is removed (Social inequality)
- Article 18—All the designations except academic and military were finished.

Fraternity: Fraternity refers to brotherhood means equality of all citizens and their integrity. Everybody in society should be provided with the basic right to food, housing and clothing without any discrimination. Every citizen of the state is to be regarded as the part of decision-making process.

Question 11

**“India is a Sovereign, Democratic, Republic”. Justify the statement.**

Answer:

India as a Sovereign State:

- India has attained a full status of independent statehood.
- India is no longer under subjugation of any foreign power.
- India is free to conduct her internal and external affairs as she deems desirable.

India as a Democratic State:

- The ultimate source of political and constitutional authority in India is vested with the people.
- Elections are held on regular intervals on the basis of adult franchise.
- Equality is the basic principle of a democratic form of government.
- Citizens of India enjoy the justifiable fundamental rights.
- Rule of Law is an essential feature of Indian Democratic State.

India as a Republic:

- The head of the state is the President of India.
- He is elected by the electoral college of parliament and state assemblies after every five years.

Question 12

**what are the unique features of Indian Constitution?**

Answer:

The unique features of Indian Constitution are as follows:

- Indian Constitution is written set of rules and regulations and it is the longest Constitution in the world containing 395 articles, 12 schedules and a book of more than 250 pages.
- Indian Constitution has provided to Indian citizens fundamental rights and to establish a welfare state, directive principles of state policy have also been generated.
- By the 42nd Amendment in 1976, some (ten) fundamental duties have also been added up in the Constitution.
- Indian Constitution is federal in structure but unitary in spirit.
- The Indian Constitution is a blend of flexibility and rigidity, i.e. some of the Articles in Constitution can be amended by simple-majority but some require 2/3 majority of the parliament and voting in each house as well as to be ratified by at least half of the state legislatures.

## Chapter-3

### Election and Representation

Question 1

**what is Democracy?**

Answer:

Democracy is a type of government of the people, for the people and by the people.

Question 2

**what is meant by a direct democracy?**

Answer :

In direct democracy, the citizens directly participate in day-to-day decision making and in the running of the government. Example – Greece.

Question 3

**what do you mean by Universal Adult Franchise?**

Answer:

All adult citizens of a country above maturity age are entitled to enjoy the right to vote without any discrimination, known as Universal Adult Franchise.

Question 4

**what does FPTP and PR stand for?**

Answer:

FPTP: First Past the Post System.

PR: Proportional Representation.

Question 5

**what do you mean by Election System?**

Answer:

Election system is a medium to elect the representatives especially in indirect democracy to form the government. The representatives are elected by the people to act in accordance with the wishes of the people.

Question 6

**what is Direct Method of Election?**

Answer:

In Direct Method of Election:

- A voter participates in election directly.
- A voter casts his vote to a candidate of one's own choice.
- Secret method of ballot is used.
- Elected representatives hold the rein of government of the country.

Question 7

**what is an Indirect Method of Election?**

Answer:

In Indirect Method of Election:

- Voters do not elect the representatives directly.
- Voters elect intermediary electors who are collectively known as Electoral College.
- Electoral college elects the representatives to the legislative assemblies.

Question 8

**Define Secret Ballot system.**

Answer:

Secret Ballot system refers to the secret ballot-when everyone chooses one's own candidate in secret as well as does not disclose one's choice also, so that others could not pressurize the one.

Question 9

**what do you mean by Bye-election?**

Answer:

Bye-election refers to the elections held on creating some sudden reasons which make the seat vacant, i.e. resignation or the sudden death of the member, etc.

Question 10

**“Universal Adult Franchise is important in a democracy”. Justify the statement.**

Answer:

Universal Adult Franchise is important in a democracy for the following reasons:

- Right to vote is enjoyed by every adult without any discrimination on any ground.
- Only lunatics, bankrupts, minors or criminals are deprived of right to vote.
- The age of adulthood differs from country to country, i.e. 18 years in India, 21 years in the USA and 23 years in Norway and so on.
- Everyone is treated equally.
- This provides political education to the citizens and develop self-respect.

Question 11

**what is Election Manifesto? Explain.**

Answer:

Election Manifesto is a document to let the voters know about programmes, policies and aims of political party to be declared on the eve of elections:

- It clarifies the internal and external policies of the government.
- People became aware of performance of the political party on winning.
- People can pressurize even the winning party or the government to work on behalf of manifesto.

Question 12.

**Explain the role of Election Commission of India.**

Answer:

The role of Election Commission can be summarized as follows:

- The Election Commission controls over the election machinery to conduct free and fair elections as supervises and makes changes if needed in the electoral rules of the elections.
- The Election Commission prepares the voters' list who enjoy the right to vote as well as considers objections also to be raised by voters in reference of voters' list.

- Election Commission provides the election symbols to the political parties as well as to independent candidates. As Congress (I) has been assigned the symbol of hand and lotus has been provided to BJP. The independent candidates are provided symbols on temporary basis.
- The Election Commission declares and recognizes the political parties as national or regional.

Question 13

**Suggest some major suggestions for electoral reforms.**

Answer:

The various committees have worked on electoral reforms, i.e. the Goswami Committee and Tarkunde Committee, but these have not brought substantial changes in electoral system and law. It seems that political parties are indifferent to electoral reforms because in some cases, political parties have neutralized the steps taken by the Election Commission to bring in some desired changes. It is now widely recognized to preserve and strengthen the democratic setup a comprehensive agenda of reforms is necessary in system, structure and processes:

- Criminalization should be checked in politics.
- Political parties' functions should be regulated.
- Voters' participation and awareness should be ensured.
- Make the election machinery effective and credible.
- The use of money and muscle power should be stopped.
- A proportionate share to every class, section and society should also be provided in the parliament.

## Chapter-5

### Legislature

Questions 1.

**How is the Lok Sabha formed?**

Answer:

The Lok Sabha is the Lower House of the Parliament having 545 members:

- Its members are elected by the people who enjoy the right to vote.
- To conduct its elections, the country is divided into constituencies, and members are elected from here.
- Two Anglo-Indians are nominated to it by the President.

Questions 2.

**What is a Money Bill?**

Answer:

- A Money Bill contains the matters like imposing, reducing, expenditure, loan, payments, etc.
- A Money Bill can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha by a minister and not in the Rajya Sabha

Questions 3

**Mention the qualifications for membership of Legislative Assembly.**

Answer:

- He/She must be a citizen of India.
- He/She must be 25 years old.
- He/She must not hold any office of profit under Government of India.
- He must not be of unsound mind.

Questions 4

**What is an Ordinary Bill?**

Answer:

Ordinary Bills are concerned with the matters other than money matters. These are of two types, i.e. Government Bills introduced by a minister and Private Member's Bill introduced by a member of Parliament.

Questions 5

**Why do we need a Parliament?**

Answer:

We need a Parliament for the following reasons:

- For law making
- To help the people to hold representatives accountable.
- All political processes take place in a democratic manner.

Questions 6

**Mention some important functions of the legislature.**

Answer:

- The legislature is to enact laws.
- To control the finance of the country.
- To amend the constitution if required.

Questions 7

**What is a legislature?**

Answer:

Legislature is an organ of government to frame laws for the nation alongwith the expression of people's will, in which all the sections of society participate.

Questions 8

**How is the speaker of the Lok Sabha elected?**

Ans. The speaker of the Lok Sabha is elected by the members of parliament in the first sitting of a new government. He/she belongs to the party having majority in the Lok Sabha. He/ she is supported to conduct proceeding of Parliament in an impartial manner.

Question 9

**What are the qualifications for a member in Lok Sabha?**

Answer:

- He should be a citizen of India.

- He should not be less than 25 years of age.
- He should not hold any office of profit under Government of India.
- No criminal case should be pending against him or should not be criminal or of unsound mind.
- His name should be in the voters' list.

Question 10

**What are the powers of the Speaker of Lok Sabha?**

Answer:

- The Speaker presides over the meetings of the Lok Sabha.
- He appoints the chairperson and other members of select committees.
- He is the guardian of the privileges of the members of the Lok Sabha.
- He enjoys the power to grant permission for the introduction of bill in the House.

Question 11

**How are the members of a Legislative Assembly elected?**

Answer:

- The members of the Legislative Assembly are elected by the people of concerned states on the basis of Universal Adult Franchise.
- Every state is divided into the constituencies on the basis of population.
- Every constituency elects only one member.
- Only those voters can participate in the election whose name is there in the voters' list.

Question 12

**Mention power of Parliament to amend the Constitution.**

Answer:

The Parliament can amend the Constitution:

- By passing the bill by simple majority in both the Houses of Parliament.
- By special majority in both the Houses of Parliament.
- By 2/3 majority of both the Houses of Parliament and the consent of more than half of the total states.

Question 13

**What is the composition of the State Legislative Council?**

Answer:

- 1/3 members are elected by the State Legislative Assembly and these persons are not to be the members of the State Legislative Assembly.
- 1/3 of the members are elected by the local bodies like corporations, Municipalities, Panchayats, Zila Parishad, etc.
- 1/12 of the members are elected by the teachers of not lower than Higher Secondary Schools. Teachers who have three years of standing are entitled to vote in the elections.
- 1/6 of the total members of the council are nominated by the Governor, who have distinction in the field of Literature, Science, Fine Arts and Social Service.
- 1/12 of the members are elected by the university graduates of atleast 3 years of standing.

Question 14

**How is the speaker of the Lok Sabha elected? What are his main functions?**

Answer:

- The speaker presides over the meetings of the Lok Sabha and conducts its proceedings.
- The Lok Sabha elects him in the first sitting.
- The person who gets majority is elected as the speaker to impartially conduct the business of the House.

The speaker conducts the following functions:

- To preside over the meetings of the Lok Sabha.
- To appoint the chairperson and other members of select committees.
- To maintain discipline in the House.
- To decide whether a bill is Money Bill or not.
- To grant permission to introduce any bill in the house.
- To protect the privileges of the members of the Lok Sabha.

Question 15

**What are the powers and functions of the chairperson of the Rajya Sabha?**

Answer :

The Vice President of India is the chairperson of Rajya Sabha to perform the following functions:

- To preside over the meetings of Rajya Sabha.
- To allow members to speak.
- To maintain relevance in debates and to stop the members if anyone uses un-parliamentary language.
- He is the custodian of the dignity of house and protects the privileges of the members of the Rajya Sabha.
- He preserves order in the house and if situation goes out of control he can suspend the meetings.
- He is not allowed to vote, but in case of equality of votes, he has a casting vote.