

CLASS NOTES

Class:
VIII

Topic: THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

Subject: SOCIAL AND POLITICAL

Write the following questions and answers in your notebook.

Q.1) Why does a democratic country need a Constitution?

Ans. A democratic country needs a Constitution for the following reasons:

- A constitution serves as the set of rules using which the government runs.
- It also defines the nature of the political system.
- It provides the guidelines for the government of a country.
- It lays down the ideals that form the basis of the kind of country that its citizens aspire to live in.
- It protects the rights of lesser privileged citizens in the state.
- It also checks the power abuse by the political rulers.

Q.2) Look at the wordings of the two documents given below. The first column is from the 1990 Nepal Constitution. The second column is from the more recent Constitution of Nepal. What is the difference in who exercises 'Executive Power' in the above two Constitutions of Nepal?

Ans. The difference between who exercises the executive power is that earlier the power was vested in the hands of the King of Nepal whereas now the power is vested in the hands of the Council of Ministers of Nepal, headed by the Prime Minister of Nepal. Since Nepal is no longer a monarchy, it needs a new constitution which reflects the democratic ideals of the Nepalese society as the people had sought a revolution for the same.

Q.3) What would happen if there were no restrictions on the power of elected representatives?

ANS-If there are no restrictions on the power of the elected representatives, they would abuse the power to cause injustice to the people leading to the collapse of the democratic ideals of the society.

4. In each of the following situations. Identify the minority. Give reasons for your answer.

a) In a school with 30 teachers and 20 of them are male.

ANS-The other 10% females are in minority. It is important to respect the views of the female teachers because their needs, talent and requirements may be different from those of male teachers.

b) In a city, 5 % of the population are Buddhists.

ANS-The Buddhists are in minority .The views of the Buddhist population should be respected as India is a secular country.

c)In a factory mess for all employess,80% are vegetarians.

ANS-The remaining 20% are in minorities.It is important to respect the views of the minorities i.e.

non-vegetarian families because all employees have equal rights to eat the food of their choice.

d)In a class of 50 students .40 belong to more well off families.

ANS- In the above class, rest 10 students who do not belong to well-off families are in minority.The views of these 10 students should be respected as their families may not be able to spend money on books,Stationery and educational trips etc.

Q.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:

Ans. Federalism	Federalism refers to the existence of multiple levels of government. It provides national unity. It also enhances decision-making process.
Separation of Powers	It refers to the separation of powers between the three branches of government: the judiciary, legislative, and executive.The power is not concentrated in the hands of a few.It also provides for checks on abuse of power.
Fundamental Rights	According to the Indian Constitution, every citizen of the country is entitled to six major fundamental rights.They protect the citizens from abuse of power by the state.They also force the government to work for the people.
Parliamentary Form of Government	Each citizen of the country, regardless of caste or creed, has the right to vote and contest in election.It provides for a decentralized power system.It also leads to better coordination between the legislature and the executive.
Secularism	It ensures that the government does not favor any particular religion and provides equal treatment to all religions.

Q.6) Write down the names of the Indian States, which share borders with the following neighbouring nations: (a) Bangladesh (b) Bhutan (c) Nepal

Ans.

a) Bangladesh: West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura

b) Nepal : Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim

c) Bhutan : Sikkim, West Bengal, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh

CLASS NOTES**Class: VIII****Topic: Understanding Secularism****Subject: Social and Political Life- II**

Write the following questions and answers in your SSC notebook.

Q.1) List the different types of religious practice that you find in your neighbourhood. This could be different forms of prayer, worship of different gods, sacred sites, different kinds of religious music and singing etc. Does this indicate freedom of religious practice?

Ans: The different types of religious practices found in our neighbourhood are the Vedic chants in Temples, the Gurbani in Gurudwaras, the Namaaz in Mosques, and processions on festivals such as Muharram and prayers in Churches. This indicates the freedom of religious practice in our neighbourhood.

Q.3) Complete the following table: The first column states the objectives of secularism
Ans.

Objectives	Why is this important?
One religious community does not dominate another.	This is important in order to protect the rights of all the religious communities to practice their own religion.
The State does not enforce any particular religion nor take away the religious freedom of individuals.	This is important in order to keep the secular ideas of the state upright.
Some members do not dominate other members of the same community	This is important in order to keep the rights of all the people of the state enacted.

Q.4) Look up the annual calendar of holidays of your school. How many of them pertain to different religions? What does this indicate?

Ans:

There are several festivals on which holidays have been declared. 3 of them are national holidays whereas others are religious holidays such as Holi, Diwali, Janmashtami, Eid-ul-Fitr, Eid-ul-Zuha, Eid-e-Milad, Christmas, etc. This shows that in India all religions are respected and people live in communal harmony.



A large rectangular area with a dotted border, containing 20 horizontal dotted lines, serving as a template for writing.