

## 1 Working of the Constitution

**Q.1 Choose the correct option from the given options and complete the sentences.**

**(1) In Maharashtra ..... seats are reserved for women in local self-governing institutions.**

- (a) 25%
- (b) 30%
- (c) 40%
- (d) 50%**

**2) Which of the following laws created a favourable environment for women to secure freedom and self-development?**

- (a) Right to Information Act
- (b) Dowry Prohibition Act**
- (c) Food Security Act
- (d) None of the above

**(3) The essence of democracy is .....**

- (a) Universal adult franchise
- (b) Decentralization of power**
- (c) Policy of reservation of seats
- (d) Judicial decisions

**2. State whether following statements are true or false. Give reasons for your answer.**

**1) Indian democracy is con democracy is considered the largest democracy in the world.**

**Ans.** The above statement is True.

(1) Indian Constitution cancelled all the conditions which were put for voting before independence thereby increasing the number of voters.

(2) The Constitution adopted adult suffrage which has facilitated all adult men and women to cast their vote.

(3) The age limit to vote was reduced to 18 years from 21 years which gave opportunity of political participation to the young generation. No other democratic country in the world has voters in such large numbers.

Hence, Indian democracy is the largest democracy in the world.

**2) Secrecy in the working of Government had increased due to Right to Information.**

**Ans.** The above statement is False.

(1) To strengthen democracy and increase mutual trust between the government and the people, it is very important that the people should know about the functioning of the government.



- (2) Transparency and accountability are the hallmarks of good governance.
- (3) With Right to Information given to the citizens, Government became more transparent. Thus, the Right to Information has reduced element of secrecy in administration.

### **(3) The Constitution is a living document.**

**Ans.** The above statement is True.

- (1) Parliament has the powers to make changes in the Constitution according to the changing circumstances and conditions.
- (2) However, it should be done without tampering or changing the basic structure of the Constitution.
- (3) As it has kept itself abreast with the changes, the Constitution became a live and dynamic document instead of a rigid one.

### **3. Write short notes.**

#### **1) Provisions regarding Minorities:**

**Ans:** (1) Constitution has adopted several measures for the protection of the rights of minorities.

- (2) Several policies have been adopted by the government to provide them the opportunities in education and employment.
- (3) The Constitution has prohibited any form of discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, religion, language and region.
- (4) The Constitution provides rights to the minorities to protect and conserve their language, culture and establish educational institutions

#### **(2) Policy of Reservation of Seats:**

**Ans :** (1) Some sections of Indian society were denied social justice.

- (2) They were deprived of educational and employment opportunities. It was essential to bring them in the main stream of society.
- (3) The policy was adopted to give reservation to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in educational institutions and public employment.
- (4) Seats were also reserved for Other Backward Classes. Reservation policy gave the deprived classes justice and opportunities for development.

#### **(3) Women representation in Lok Sabha :**

**Ans:** (1) The Constitution of India empowers women by granting them equal status with men and equal political rights.

- (2) 22 women were elected in the Lok Sabha elections held in 1951-52. Their number increased to 66 in 2014 elections.
- (3) Reservation has been increased to 50% in local self-governing institutions in Maharashtra and in many other states.
- (4) If the number of women representative increased in Lok Sabha, it will help in reducing incidents of violence against women and increase their involvement in the decision-making process.



#### 4. Explain the following concepts:

##### (1) Rights Based Approach:

**Ans.** (1) India adopted democracy after independence. Each government which came to power took efforts to make the democratisation process more profound.

(2) In the initial stages, these governments considered citizens as 'beneficiaries'.

(3) After the year 2000, the approach towards citizens changed. Democratic reforms were considered as 'rights of citizens'.

(4) Hence, the Right to Information, Education and Food Security was granted not as beneficiaries but as rights of the citizens.

This approach is known as Rights Based Approach.

##### 2) Right To Information:

**Ans.** (1) In order to bring transparency in the administration and make it accountable, Indian citizens are given Right to Information.

(2) Right to Information helped in promoting harmony between government and people and empowered the citizens.

(3) It brought transparency in administration, made the government realise that they are answerable to people.

(4) It has helped to reduce the element of secrecy which surrounded the functioning of the government. It made the government open and transparent.

#### 5. Answer the following questions.

##### 1. What are the effects of reducing the voting age from 21 years to 18 years ?

**Ans:** The following are the effects of reducing the voting age from 21 years to 18 years.

(i) It provides an opportunity of political participation to the younger generation in India.

(ii) This provision have made India the largest democratic nation in the world.

(iii) This has increased the number of voter as compared to other democratic nation.

(iv) This effect has not only brought quantitative but also quantitative participation of young voters.

##### 2. What is meant by establishment of special justice ?

**Ans.** Establishing social justice means :

(1) To eliminate the practices and beliefs which are responsible for injustice towards a person or a community and which hampers collective progress of society should be eliminated.

(2) Government policies should be all inclusive which means it should aim at accommodating different sections of society.

(3) There should not be any discrimination based on caste, creed, religion, gender, language, property, region or place of birth.

(4) All should get equal opportunities for development

**(3) Which decision of Court has resulted in the protection of honour and prestige of women?**

**Ans.** (1) The apex court has given several judgements which have helped in protection of honour and prestige of women.

(2) Court gave judgement on Right to alimony as well as Right to equal remuneration.

(3) Women have an equal share in the property of husband and father. This gave them financial security. Women were allowed access to all religious places.

(4) The Act against domestic violence is also very important in the direction of women empowerment.

(5) All these acts emphasised the need to protect women and protect their self-esteem and dignity rejecting the traditional forms of domination and authoritarianism.

