

LESSON 2 - Ideals of our Constitution

Exercises

A. Multiple choice questions:

Answers-

1. D. Dr. B R Ambedkar
2. B. Frames laws
3. B. Six
4. B. To Enforce laws
5. D. All of the above

B. Match the Following:-

- 1.- C. April 1,2012
- 2.- E. Organs of the state
- 3.-A. The ideals of the Constitution
- 4.-B. Fundamental Rights
- 5.-D. Fundamental Duties

C. Answer the Questions in about 50-70 words..(Short answers).

1. In order to run the country in a democratic way the leaders felt the need for a Constitution. A Constituent Assembly was formed to draft the Constitution. The President of the Drafting Committee was Dr. Rajendra Prasad and it's Chairman, Dr. B R Ambedkar. It met for 165 Days over a period of over 2 years. The Constitution was passed on November 26,1949 and came into effect on January 26,1950.

2. Fundamental Rights are basic human rights which are essential for development of every individual and for a peaceful society. They are applicable to all citizens irrespective of religion, caste, skin colour, education, etc. When a person feels free to do or say what he wants and does not feel discriminated against, it translates into satisfaction thus leading to peace in the society.

3. The philosophy behind the Constitution forms the Preamble. It is like an introduction to the aims and objectives of the Constitution. However, it is not enforceable by law. According to the Preamble, India is a Sovereign Socialist Democratic Republic and strives to secure justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity to all citizens.

4. For the smooth functioning of a society, citizens must perform their fundamental duties.

They are an indication that we respect our country, the Constitution, our national flag, national anthem, each other as people, our differences in terms of religion, language, places of worship, etc. It also indicates that we have a role in making our country a better place to live in by not following incorrect practices, striving for excellence in various spheres and safeguarding our environment.

5. An amendment is a minor change Or addition in an existing law Or legal right with an intention to improve the situation. With changing times, laws also need to change. For example, the 42nd amendment which added the words 'secular' and 'socialist' to the type of country we are. This was done so that the minorities do not feel discriminated against and the social and economic gap between the rich and the poor is bridged.

D. Answer the questions in about 80-100 words... (Long answers).

1. The nationalist movements leading up to India achieving independence inspired people to come together as a nation towards a common goal of self-rule or independence from the British. The Indians were made aware by the leaders of the freedom struggle of the various strategies of the British to keep them from achieving freedom. People from diverse backgrounds and from all sections of society came together to protest against the British laws and policies and demand freedom. Thus the foundation of democracy was built on the values of self-rule (liberty), equality and unity in diversity (fraternity).

2. The philosophy of the Constitution exists in the Preamble. It is the beliefs and values that form the backbone of our Constitution and can be likened to the aims and objectives. The objectives that were kept in mind while drafting the Constitution were to ensure and facilitate liberty, justice, equality and fraternity. The Constitution also keeps in mind that the sovereign nature of our country is not compromised, there is religious, social, and economic equality among all people and everyone should have a say in how to run the country.

3. A monarchy and a democracy can exist together. There are around 34 constitutional monarchies in the world. In a monarchy the Head of State is the King, Queen or Emperor. These heads of state may have very little powers which may be mostly symbolic or ceremonial. The laws of the country are formed by a democratically elected government. There is a Constitution on the basis of which the country is governed. The Head of the Government is the Prime Minister. An example is the United Kingdom.

4. The Right to Education is the most recent Fundamental Right. It was adopted on April 1, 2012. All children between 6 and 14 years of age are entitled to free and compulsory education. All private schools have to reserve 25 per cent of their seats for the economically weaker sections of society, identify drop-outs or children who have never been to school between 6 and 14 years of age, train and place them in their Age-appropriate classes besides providing basic facilities such as teachers, a playground and sufficient infrastructure. The central and state government shares the financial responsibility. Though efforts are on to ensure that every child gets an elementary education, a lot of work still needs to be done.

5. In a democracy the people are the most important. India is a multicultural society.

At least nine different religions are followed by the more than 1 billion population of our country. It is only people feel happy, satisfied and secure will they try to coexist in society. If a person feels threatened because he belongs to a particular religion, he will try and protect himself. This will lead to tension. This insecurity

might even lead to voting for the wrong people for the wrong reasons. Religion should never form the basis of voting for someone. Hence, a secular nation is crucial to democracy.

