

Exercises

A . Multiple choice questions:

Answers-

- C. an important law
- D. people enjoy equal political rights
- C. 1878
- A. Mahatma Gandhi
- B. British

B. Match the following:

- 1. – c
- 2. –d
- 3. –a
- 4. –b
- 5. –e

C. Short answers:

1. In the context of a nation, the Constitution plays a crucial role in providing guidelines which ensure the safety and well-being of the people of a nation who belong to various communities and cultures. Principles, provisions, ideals, and rules which form the basis of governance of a nation.
2. The constitution is also known as the 'Soul of a democracy'. It ensures political stability, peace and maintenance of the Rule of Law in the country. In a democracy, the people are at the centre of political power and elect representatives to protect their interests by forming a government. It is the constitution that defines the roles and powers of elected representatives. Also, on the basis of the guidelines in the constitution laws are framed by the government.
3. Rule of Law means settled upon or arrange. It refers to a legal principle that upholds the practice of laws governing the nation rather than opinions of certain individuals.
4. Dowry comprises the money, gifts and property given by the bride's family to the groom during marriage. It affects women in our country in the following ways:

In many cases, this custom becomes a tool of exploitation of the bride's family, by groom and his family members.

When a bride or her family refuses to satisfy the unnecessary demands of her husband and in –laws for dowry, she is subjected to inhuman treatment.

This also leads to suicides or murder of the brides by their husbands and their families.

5.The vernacular or regional press was a medium by which dissent could be voiced and communicated to others as many people did not speak English at that time. In order to curb this dissent which they felt was rebellious, the Vernacular Press Act of 1878, was brought out. Under this act , all Indian newspapers were to submit proof sheets before publication and could be fined or the editors jailed if the British felt so.

D. Long answers:

1. People can protest against laws that do not benefit them by various methods. These could be violent or non- violent in nature. Some forms of protest commonly seen are:

Hartals or strikes, Rallies or demonstrations, Marches, Vigils, Boycott, Organising press conferences, Filing lawsuits, Motorcades, Symbolic displays such as painting, Civil disobedience methods, Information distribution through Pamphlets, petitions, writing letters, etc., Violent methods such as attack, riots, among others.

2. The 'soul' of democracy is its Constitution. The people form the basis of a democratic nation. People of a country have diverse cultures, traditions and beliefs. Every individual is allowed to show dissent. In such a situation it is very easy for a country to go into a state of lawlessness. It is this very state that the constitution prevents. It is the 'Rule Book' which all individuals are bound to follow. Only if rules are followed and laws implemented keeping in mind the welfare and safety of the sections of society can a democracy function the way it should.

3.Our constitution contains rules to prevent the domination of the majority over the minority. It ensures that the interests of the minorities are not neglected. It has special provisions for minorities based on religion and language. These include 'common domain ' which are applicable to all citizens equally and 'special domain' which are applicable only to minorities. According to the constitution , India is a 'secular' state that is all religions are equal. Also all citizens are to be given 'liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith, worship' and ' equality of status and opportunity' .

4. The major purposes served by our constitution are:

A. It contains certain ideals and principles that determine the structure, nature and duties of the government.

B. Serves as a set of rules and principles that all citizens respects and should follow irrespective of what religion, caste or community they belong.

C. The Constitution does not allow domination of the minorities. It has provisions to protect the rights of all citizens irrespective of religion, language or caste differences.

D. Powers of the central and state governments are defined clearly facilitating decision- making.

Fundamental rights and directive principles are two ways by which the Constitution seeks to address the interests of the citizens.

5. The Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961, declares that taking and giving dowry is a crime. It is a punishable offence with a fine and jail term from 6 months up to 5 years. This was required as it had in many cases it had become a way to earn money the easy way by groom and his family. In order to get their daughter married, families would go to any lengths to fulfill the demand for money continued after marriage as well. Women are tortured if they are unable to meet the demand.

E. Think and answer:

Note- Students will give answers by themselves.

Use these links to learn more about the lesson:

<https://youtu.be/Z3fUyAcNgzs>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dowry_law_in_India

