

SUBJECT:

POLITY

TOPICS:

1. Constitution – Historical Background, Making of the Constitution, Philosophy of the Constitution
2. Union and its Territory
3. Citizenship

PRELIMS MCQ's:

1. At the time of British rule in India, the direct elections were for the first time incorporated under which Law/Act?
 - 1) Indian Councils Act, 1892
 - 2) Indian Councils Act, 1909
 - 3) Government of India Act, 1919
 - 4) Government of India Act, 1935

ANSWER: 2

The first attempt at introducing a representative and popular element was made by Morley-Minto Reforms or the Indian Councils Act, 1909. The Act also provided for separate representation of the Muslim community and thus sowed the seeds of separatism.

Source: D.D. Basu – Chapter 1 ' Historical Background'

2. The federation as prescribed by Government of India Act, 1935 never came into being because
 - 1) It was optional for the Indian States to join the federation
 - 2) The administration of State subjects like agriculture, law and order was under Governor-General.
 - 3) The Muslim League did not support federalism, rather they wanted a strong Centre to safeguard their interest.
 - 4) None of the above

ANSWER: 1

The federation as prescribed by Government of India Act, 1935 never came into being because it was optional for the Indian States (or the Princely States) to join the federation. And since the rulers of the Indian States never gave their consent, the Federation as envisaged by the Act of 1935 never came into being.

Source: D.D. Basu– Chapter 1 ‘ Historical Background’

3. Which of the following is/are the principal feature(s) of Government of India Act, 1919?

- 1) Introduced dyarchy at the Centre
- 2) Separated for the first time, provincial budget from the Central budget.
- 3) Introduced separate representation for the Muslim community and sowed the seeds of separatism.
- 4) Introduced provincial autonomy

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1) 2 only
- 2) 1 and 3
- 3) 4 only
- 4) 2 and 4

ANSWER: 1

Though Government of India Act, 1919 relaxed the central control over the provinces by demarcating and separating the central and provincial subjects, the structure of government continued to be centralised and unitary. The Act, further divided provincial subjects into two parts—transferred and reserved. The transferred subjects were to be administered by the governor with the aid of ministers responsible to the legislative Council. The reserved subjects, on the other hand, were to be administered by the governor and his executive council without being responsible to the legislative Council. This dual scheme of governance was known as ‘dyarchy’.

Separate electorate was introduced by the Morley-Minto Reforms or the Indian Councils Act, 1909

Source: Lakshmikanth– Chapter 1 ‘ Historical Background’

4. 'Objective Resolution' presented by Jawaharlal Nehru in December, 1946 is an historic event in the making of the Constitution. What did this resolution contain?
- 1) abolition of communal electorate
 - 2) the composition of the Constituent Assembly
 - 3) the fundamentals and philosophy of the constitutional structure
 - 4) ratified India's membership of the Common wealth

ANSWER: 3

On December 13, 1946, Jawaharlal Nehru moved the historic 'Objectives Resolution' in the Assembly. It laid down the fundamentals and philosophy of the constitutional structure.

Source: Lakshmikanth— Chapter 2 ' Making of the Constitution'

5. A democratic polity is based on the doctrine of popular sovereignty. With regard to this principle, consider the following
- 1) Plebiscite
 - 2) Referendum
 - 3) Recall
 - 4) Initiative

Which of the above is/are used in direct democracy?

- 1) 2, 3 and 4
- 2) 1 and 2
- 3) 1, 2 and 3
- 4) All of the above

ANSWER: 4

Democracy is of two types—direct and indirect. In direct democracy, the people exercise their supreme power directly as is the case in Switzerland. There are four devices of direct democracy, namely, Referendum, Initiative, Recall and Plebiscite.

In indirect democracy, on the other hand, the representatives elected by the people exercise the supreme power and thus carry on the government and make the laws. This type of democracy, also known as representative democracy, is of two kinds—parliamentary and presidential.

Source : Lakshmikanth Chapter 4 'Preamble of the Constitution'

6. Which of the following statements is correct with regard to the Preamble of the Indian Constitution?
- 1) The Preamble is a source of power to the legislature
 - 2) Preamble is a part of the Constitution
 - 3) Preamble cannot be amended
 - 4) It is non-justiciable, or it is not enforceable in courts of law.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1) 2 and 4
- 2) 2 only
- 3) 1, 3 and 4
- 4) 1, 2 and 4

ANSWER: 1

In the Kesavananda Bharati case (1973), the Supreme Court held that Preamble is a part of the Constitution and it can be amended, subject to the condition that no amendment is done to the 'basic features'. The Preamble has been amended only once so far, in 1976, by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, which has added three new words—Socialist, Secular and Integrity—to the Preamble. The Preamble is neither a source of power to legislature nor a prohibition upon the powers of legislature. It is non-justiciable, that is, its provisions are not enforceable in courts of law.

Source : Lakshmikanth Chapter 4 'Preamble of the Constitution'

7. The first schedule of the Indian Constitution pertains to
- 1) Names of States
 - 2) Names of Union territories
 - 3) Citizenship
 - 4) Forms of Oaths and Affirmation

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1) 1 and 3
- 2) 1 and 2
- 3) 4 only
- 4) 1 only

ANSWER: 2

The first schedule of the Indian Constitution pertains to Names of the States and their territorial jurisdiction and Names of the Union Territories and their extent. Forms of Oaths and Affirmation comes under Third Schedule.

Source : Lakshmikanth Chapter 5 'Union and its Territory'

8. In India, the Citizenship Act of 1955 prescribes which of the following ways to acquire citizenship?

- 1) By naturalisation
- 2) By descent
- 3) By incorporation of territory
- 4) By registration

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1) 1 and 4
- 2) 1, 2 and 3
- 3) 1, 2 and 4
- 4) All of the above

Solution (4)

The Citizenship Act (1955) provides for acquisition and loss of citizenship after the commencement of the Constitution. Originally, the Citizenship Act (1955) also provided for the Commonwealth Citizenship. But, this provision was repealed by the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2003. The Citizenship Act of 1955 prescribes five ways of acquiring citizenship - birth, descent, registration, naturalisation and incorporation of territory

Source : Lakshmikanth Chapter 6 'Citizenship'

9. Consider the following statements:

Assertion (A) : Article 1 describes India, as a 'Union of States' rather than 'Federation of States'

Reason (R) : Indian Federation is not the result of an agreement among the States

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1) Both A and R are True and R is the correct explanation of A
- 2) Both A and R are True but R is not the correct explanation of A

- 3) A is True and R is False
- 4) A is False and R is True

ANSWER: 1

Article 1 describes India, that is, Bharat as a 'Union of States' rather than a 'Federation of States'. This provision deals with two things: one, name of the country, and two, type of polity. According to Dr B R Ambedkar, the phrase 'Union of States' has been preferred to 'Federation of States' for two reasons: one, the Indian Federation is not the result of an agreement among the states like the American Federation; and two, the states have no right to secede from the federation.

Source : Lakshmikanth Chapter 5 'Union and its Territory'

10. According to the Constitution of India, Article 3 authorises the Parliament to reorganise the States. With this authority, the Parliament can
- a) alter the name of any state
 - b) diminish the area of any state
 - c) alter the boundaries of any state
 - d) increase the area of any state

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1) 1, 3 and 4
- 2) 1 and 3
- 3) 2, 3 and 4
- 4) All of the above

ANSWER: 4

Article 3 authorises the Parliament to:

- form a new state by separation of territory from any state or by uniting two or more states or parts of states or by uniting any territory to a part of any state,
- increase the area of any state,
- diminish the area of any state,
- alter the boundaries of any state, and
- alter the name of any state.

Source : Lakshmikanth Chapter 5 'Union and its Territory'