The Constitution of India — An Introduction

Standard difficulty · 20 questions · 40 marks · Time: 36 minutes

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: ____ / 40

Write full answers in Sections B and C. Answers are on the last page — try every question first!

Section A — Choose the correct answer — 8 × 1 = 8 marks

1. The Constituent Assembly was formed on:
   (a) 26 January 1950 **(b)** 26 November 1949
   (c) 15 August 1947 **(d)** 9 December 1946

2. In the Preamble, “Justice” means:
   (a) no discrimination, and welfare for all
   (b) all are equal before the law
   (c) people elect their rulers and hold them accountable
   (d) all citizens as members of one family

3. “Valuing our composite culture” is a:
   (a) Fundamental Right **(b)** Directive Principle
   (c) Preamble word **(d)** Fundamental Duty

4. What is the date of the formation of the Constituent Assembly?
   (a) 26 January 1950 **(b)** 2 October 1950
   (c) 9 December 1946 **(d)** 26 November 1949

5. The idea of the Directive Principles was inspired by the constitution of:
   (a) China **(b)** Japan **(c)** the USA **(d)** Ireland

6. How many years has the Constitution been in effect (since 1950) in 2030?
   (a) 80 years **(b)** 83 years **(c)** 81 years **(d)** 84 years

7. Which number about the Constitution is correct?
   (a) 25 parts today, 22 at the start **(b)** 50 schedules today
   (c) 1,000 members of the Assembly **(d)** 10 parts today, 5 at the start

8. The Constituent Assembly was formed in 1946; the first general elections began in 1951. How many years apart were these?
   (a) 15 years **(b)** 6 years **(c)** 5 years **(d)** 8 years

Section B — Short answer — 8 × 2 = 16 marks

9. What is a constitution?

10. Explain each word of the Preamble: (a) Democratic (b) Justice

11. Fundamental Right, Directive Principle or Fundamental Duty? (a) Protecting forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife (b) Nutrition, standard of living and public health

12. In which year: (a) the first general elections began (b) the 73rd Amendment added Panchayati Raj?

13. (a) How many years after the Constitution came into effect (1950) is 2055? (b) How many after it was adopted (1949)?

14. Which word of the Preamble means: (a) no outside power can dictate to India's government (b) freedom of thought and expression?

15. Constitution Day is celebrated on 26 November, the day the Constitution was adopted in 1949. How many years since its adoption will be marked on 26 November 2039, and why is it a different day from Republic Day?

16. The 73rd Amendment was made in 1992. What did it do, and how many years before 2028 was it?

Section C — Longer answers — 4 × 4 = 16 marks

17. Describe how the Constitution of India was made.

18. Match each with its meaning: (a) Dignity (b) Equality (c) Liberty. Choose from: freedom of thought and expression; all are equal before the law; the respect every individual deserves.

19. The Constituent Assembly was formed on 9 December 1946 and the Constitution adopted on 26 November 1949. (a) In which year did it come into effect, and on what date? (b) How many years old is the Constitution in 2055? (c) Why do we celebrate 26 January as Republic Day?

20. “Right to Education (6–14 years)” is a Fundamental Right and “Protecting monuments of national importance” is a Directive Principle. Explain the difference between the two kinds of provision.

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Answer key

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Q	Answer	Working
1	**(d) 9 December 1946**	—
2	**(a) no discrimination, and welfare for all**	—
3	**(d) Fundamental Duty**	—
4	**(c) 9 December 1946**	—
5	**(d) Ireland**	—
6	**(a) 80 years**	2030 − 1950
7	**(a) 25 parts today, 22 at the start**	—
8	**(c) 5 years**	1951 − 1946 = 5
9	**A document that sets out a nation's basic principles and laws, the framework of government, and citizens' rights and duties.**	—
10	**(a) people elect their rulers and hold them accountable (b) no discrimination, and welfare for all**	—
11	**(a) Fundamental Duty (b) Directive Principle**	—
12	**(a) 1951 (b) 1992**	—
13	**(a) 105 years (b) 106 years**	2055 − 1950; 2055 − 1949
14	**(a) Sovereign (b) Liberty**	—
15	**90 years; it was adopted on 26 November 1949 but came into effect on 26 January 1950 (Republic Day).**	2039 − 1949
16	**Added the Panchayati Raj system; 36 years**	2028 − 1992
17	**The Constituent Assembly, formed on 9 December 1946 and chaired by Dr Rajendra Prasad, worked for almost three years; Dr B. R. Ambedkar's Drafting Committee prepared the text, adopted on 26 November 1949 and in force from 26 January 1950.**	—
18	**(a) the respect every individual deserves (b) all are equal before the law (c) freedom of thought and expression**	—

Q	Answer	Working
19	**(a) 26 January 1950 (b) 105 years (c) Because the Constitution came into effect that day, making India a republic.**	2055 − 1950
20	**A Fundamental Right can be enforced in court if it is denied; a Directive Principle is a goal the government should work towards but cannot be enforced in court.**	—

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