

NCERT SOLUTIONS

CLASS - 12th



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Subject : Political science

Chapter : 1

Chapter Name : Challenges of nation building

Q1 Which among the following statements about the partition is incorrect?

- (a) Partition of India was the outcome of the two-nation theory.
- (b) Punjab and Bengal were the two provinces divided on the basis of religion.
- (c) East Pakistan and West Pakistan were not contiguous.
- (d) The scheme of partition included a plan for transfer of population across the border.

Answer. (d) The scheme of partition included a plan for transfer of population of across the border.

Page : 24 , Block Name : Multiple Choice Questions

Q2 Match the principles with instances:

- (a) Mapping of boundaries on religious ground
 - (b) Mapping of boundaries on grounds of different languages
 - (c) Demarcating boundaries within a country by geographical zones
 - (d) Demarcating boundaries within a country on administrative and political grounds
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- (i) Pakistan and Bangladesh
 - (ii) India and Pakistan
 - (iii) Jharkhand and chattisgarh
 - (iv) Himachal pradesh and Uttarakhand

Answer.

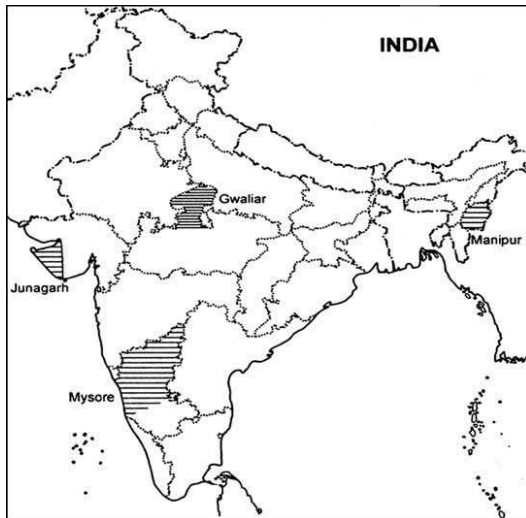
a.Mapping of boundaries on religious ground	ii. India and Pakistan
b.Mapping of boundaries on grounds of different languages	iv. Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand
c.Demarcating boundaries within a country by geographical zones	i. Pakistan and Bangladesh
d. Demarcating boundaries within a country on administrative and political grounds	iii. Jharkhand and Chattisgarh

Page : 24 , Block Name : Match the following question

Q3 Take a current political map of India (showing outlines of states) and mark the location of the following Princely States, the following Princely States,

(a) Junagadh (b) Manipur (c) Mysore (d) Gwalior.

Answer. Following places are mentioned in this map.



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Q4 Here are two opinions:

Bismay: "The merger with the Indian State was an extension of democracy to the people of the Princely States."

Inderpreet: "I am not so sure, there was force being used. Democracy comes by creating consensus." What is your opinion in the light of accession of Princely States and the responses of the people in these parts?

Answer. The Princely States were merged with the Indian union because the autonomy of princely states in Indian territory could have led to disintegration of India and it would have given rise to regional dividing aspirations. If the Princely States were not merged the idea of Unity, democracy and the motive of independence altogether, would have vanished. The people of the Princely States sometimes felt that their wishes were not expressed in the nation building process as the rulers of the Princely States were not willing to give the democratic rights to the people.

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Q5 Read the following very different statements made in August 1947: "Today you have worn on your heads a crown of thorns. The seat of power is a nasty thing. You have to remain ever wakeful on that seat... you have to be more humble and forbearing...now there will be no end to your being tested." -M.K, Gandhi

"India will awake to a life of freedom.... we step out from the old to the new.... The achievement we end, today a period of ill fortune and India discovers herself again. The achievement we celebrate today is but a step, an opening of opportunity ...", -Jawaharlal Nehru

Spell out the agenda of nation building that flows from these two statements. Which one appeals more to you and why?

Answer. Both the statements spell about the idea of freedom and independence that India was longing for.

The first statement reflects a sense of rejoice with a warning of being tested at each and every step. Whereas, the second statement reflects the idea of freedom, achievement and opportunities.

The second seems to be more appealing as it reflects the sense of freedom and celebrations for achievement and seems to be way more positive. This statement motivates the countrymen to utilise the opportunity for the betterment in their lives.

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Q6 What are the reasons being used by Nehru for keeping India secular? Do you think these reasons were only ethical and sentimental? Or were there some prudential reasons as well?

Answer. Nehru's idea of secularism for India was a long term decision rather than an instinct decision based on communal differences in nation. India was a nation with different ethnic and religious background that is why Nehru decided India's future as a secular nation. Muslim league was formed to protect the interests of muslims in colonial India. It demanded separate Muslim nation. Similarly, there were organizations, which were trying to organize the Hindus in order to turn India into a Hindu nation.

These reasons are not only ethical and sentimental but were logical, prudential and valid for the newly independent India because secularism would lead to unity in the nation, which India was longing for. Nehru and several other leaders believed that India must treat people of all religions equally and that India should not be a country that gave superior status to people of one faith and inferior to others. All citizens should be equal irrespective of their religious beliefs. Therefore, the ideal of secular nation was adopted.

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Q7 Bring out two major differences between the challenges of nation building for eastern and western regions of the country at the time of Independence.

Answer. The major differences between eastern (Bengal) and Western (Punjab) regions is that these regions were the muslim majority provinces to be joined. Hence, it was decided that Pakistan will comprise two territories that were West and East Pakistan. Now we saw there was a problem of minorities on both sides of the border. Lakhs of Hindus and Sikhs in areas of Pakistan and Muslims on the Indian side of Punjab and Bengal found themselves trapped with

no option except to leave their homes. The huge migration from these two regions led to huge destruction in the livelihood of people. There were huge massacre, murder and rape on both the sides which were the results of communal conflicts between Hindus and Muslims.

In the eastern region like Manipur there were shared differences over the question of merger of Manipur with India. Congress wanted the merger, other political parties were opposed to this. The government of India succeeded in pressurizing the maharaja to sign a Merger Agreement in September 1949 without consulting the popularly elected legislative assembly of Manipur. This caused a lot of anger and opposition in Manipur and dissatisfaction among the members of the newly elected Legislative assembly.

Page : 25 , Block Name : Long Answer Questions

Q8 What was the task of the States Reorganisation Commission? What was its most salient recommendation?

Answer. The task of the States Reorganisation Commission was to look up into the matter of redrawing the boundaries of the States.

The most salient recommendation of the States Reorganisation Commission was to draw the boundaries of the states on the basis of linguistic grounds and that the boundaries of the states should represent the boundaries of different languages.

Page : 25 , Block Name : Long Answer Questions

Q9 It is said that the nation is to a large extent an “imagined community” held together by common beliefs, history, political aspirations and imaginations. Identify the features that make India a nation.

Answer. Following are the features that makes India a nation :

(a)The acceptance of the principle of linguistic states did not mean, that all states immediately became linguistic states, we can see the example of ‘bilingual’ Bombay state, consisting of Gujarati and Marathi speaking people. So this clearly indicates that it was held on a common belief of oneness and linguistic differences seemed nothing.

(b) A nation is held together by different beliefs, different history and different culture of people is totally representation of India. India which consists of many different religions, different cultural backgrounds, different languages, different races and ethnicity shows how there is a unity in diversity. It is the choice in favour of recognising and accepting of differences which are present in a single nation. Benedict Anderson in his book "imagined community" talks about how the nation is an idea emerged from imagined community within a particular territorial boundary.

(c) Indian constitution talks about India as a secular, sovereign, republican democracy. Every citizen of India will have equal rights, freedom, opportunity. There will be no discrimination on the basis of race, caste, religion, sex. Equality and freedom ensures a functioning of a nation in today's world.

Page : 25 , Block Name : Long Answer question

Q10 Read the following passage and answer the questions below: "In the history of nation-building only the Soviet experiment bears comparison with the Indian. There too, a sense of unity had to be forged between many diverse ethnic groups, religious, linguistic communities and social classes. The scale-geographic as well as demographic was comparably massive. The raw material the state had to work with was equally unpropitious: a people divided by faith and driven by debt and disease." —Ramachandra Guha

(a) List the commonalities that the author mentions between India and Soviet Union and give one example for each of these from India. one example for each of these from India.

(b) The author does not talk about dissimilarities between the two experiments. Can you mention two dissimilarities?

(c) In retrospect which of these two experiments worked better and why?

Answer. (a) Both the nations shaped the nation on linguistic basis. In both the nations, States were divided on the grounds of geographical boundaries and strength of population.

(b) The Soviet Union was geographically divided into 15 independent republics/countries, which never happened to India.

India continued to be a united country, even with such a diverse cultural and religious backgrounds of people, speaking a variety of different languages.

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