

NCERT SOLUTIONS

CLASS - 11th



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Class : 11th

Subject : Political science

Chapter : 10

Chapter Name : The philosophy of constitution

Q1 The following are certain laws. Are they connected with any value? If yes, then what is the underlying value? Give reasons.

- a. Both daughters and sons will have a share in the family property.
- b. There will be different slabs of sales tax on different consumer items.
- c. Religious instructions will not be given in any government school.
- d. There shall be no begar or forced labour.

Answer.

- (a) It is based upon the value of gender justice so that women also get equality in terms of economic and propertial justice.
- (b) It is based upon the value of the use associated with different consumer items according to its consumption.
- (c) It is based upon the value of secularism to make students believe in the respect and integrity towards all beliefs.
- (d) It is based upon the value to eradicate the exploitation associated with the underprivileged sections of the society so that we can achieve the greater goal of political and social justice.

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Q2 Which of the options given below cannot be used to complete the following statement?

Democratic countries need a constitution to check the power of the government.

- I. Protect minorities from majority.
- II. Bring independence from colonial rule.
- III. Ensure that a long-term vision is not lost by momentary passions.
- IV. Bring social change in a peaceful manner.

Answer. II. Bring independence from colonial rule.

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Q3 The following are different positions about reading and understanding Constituent Assembly debates.

- i. Which of these statements argues that Constituent Assembly debates are relevant even today? Which statement says that they are not relevant?
- ii. With which of these positions do you agree and why?
 - a. Common people are too busy earning livelihood and meeting different pressures of life. They can't understand the legal language of these debates.
 - b. The conditions and challenges today are different from the time when the Constitution was made. To read the ideas of Constitution makers and use them for our new times is trying to bring past in the present
 - c. Our ways of understanding the world and the present challenges have not changed totally. Constituent Assembly debates can provide us with reasons why certain practices are important. In a period when constitutional practices are being challenged, not knowing the reasons can destroy them.

Answer.

- I. (a) States that Constituent Assembly debates are not relevant as these debates are considered as lawyer's paradise.
- (b) States that Constituent Assembly debates are relevant as it brings out the application of past in present.

(c) States that Constituent Assembly debates are relevant as those can provide us with reasons and justifications regarding all the problems.

II. I agree with all the three positions as we believe that the Constituent Assembly debates and even the changes in the past discourse are important to solve the political problems of status quo.

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Q4 Explain the difference between the Indian Constitution and western ideas in the light of:

- a. Understanding of secularism.
- b. Articles 370 and 371.
- c. Affirmative action.
- d. Universal adult franchise.

Answer.

- (a) Indian Constitution supports the concept of “positive secularism” rather than the western idea of “negative secularism”. It aims at the interference of state in the former one while as the western democracies, believe in complete demarcation between religion and state institutions.
- (b) Articles 370 (revoked by BJP government, doesn't exist) and Article 371 are the special provisions created for states with some regional aspirations and such an idea is not prevalent in Western governance.
- (c) Affirmative action policies are introduced in Indian context to aim towards the upliftment of marginalised sections of the society while as in the West, such provisions don't exist.
- (d) Universal Adult Franchise is present in India and other Western Democracies also, but in India this respective provision was introduced just after Independence for men and women but in the West, people (women) had to fight for the right to vote.

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Q5 Which of the following principles of secularism are adopted in the Constitution of India?

- a. that state will have nothing to do with religion

- b. that state will have close relation with religion
- C. that state can discriminate among religions
- D. that state will recognize the rights of religious groups
- E. that state will have limited powers to intervene in affairs of religions

Answer.

- (a)that state will have nothing to do with religion.
- (d)that state will recognize the rights of religious groups.
- (e)that state will have limited powers to intervene in affairs of religions.

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Q6 Match the following.

a. Freedom to criticise	i. Substantive treatment of widows achievement
b. Taking decisions in the constituent assembly on the basis of	ii. Procedural achievement reason, not self interest
c. Accepting the importance of community in an individual's life	iii. Neglect of gender justice
d. Article 370 and 371	iv. Liberal individualism
e. Unequal rights to women regarding family property and children	v. Attention to the requirements of a particular region

Answer.

a. Freedom to criticise	i. Substantive treatment of widows achievement
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e. Unequal rights to women regarding family property and children	iii. Neglect of gender justice

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Q7 This discussion was taking place in a class. Read the various arguments and state which of these do you agree with and why.

Jayesh: I still think that our Constitution is only a borrowed document.

Saba: Do you mean to say that there is nothing Indian in it? But is there such a thing as Indian and western in the case of values and ideas? Take equality between men and women. What is western about it? And even if it is, should we reject it only because it is western?

Jayesh: What I mean is that after fighting for independence from the British, did we not adopt their system of parliamentary government?

Neha: You forget that when we fought the British, we were not against the British as such, we were against the principle of colonialism. That has nothing to do with adopting a system of government that we wanted, wherever it came from.

Answer. I agree with the second and fourth statement as these are completely based upon the rational principles regarding the establishment of constitution. The euro-centrism cannot be

neglected but the negation of the parameters associated with the west, is completely baseless as these notions form an essential part of democratic discourse.

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Q8 Why is it said that the making of the Indian Constitution was unrepresentative? Does that make the Constitution unrepresentative? Give reasons for your answer.

Answer. It is often said that the making of the Indian Constitution was unrepresentative as the assumption among the critics is that the Constituent Assembly and Drafting Committee was dominated by the members of Indian National Congress and belonged to the elite group of the society. No, it does not make the Constitution unrepresentative as it was based upon the principle of deliberation and about 12% of the members of the Assembly were from marginalised sections of the society.

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Q9 One of the limitations of the Constitution of India is that it does not adequately attend to gender justice. What evidence can you give to substantiate this charge? If you were writing the Constitution today, what provisions would you recommend for remedying this limitation?

Answer. The Constitution of India has not reflected upon the “syndrome of exclusion” present in the Indian society. The provisions are very faulty if we look at the structure of the executive and legislative organs of the governance. The Constitution lacks to achieve the balance in men-women ratio in legislatures and also doesn't provide remedies in cases of maternity leaves, equal-pay & equal- work etc.

The changes that I would recommend will include the:

- (a) Affirmative action policies in legislature.
- (b) Economic justice with special reference to women.
- (c) To make laws against the gender discrimination in different avenues of society.

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Q10 Do you agree with the statement that “it is not clear why in a poor developing country, certain basic socio-economic rights were relegated to the section on Directive Principles rather than made an integral feature of our Fundamental Rights”? Give reasons for your answer. What do you think are the possible reasons for putting socio-economic rights in the section on Directive Principles?

Answer. Yes, the developing countries gave primacy to the notion of political and economic development rather than emphasised upon the socio-economic inequalities present in society. The major reasons for such an approach could be that the most efficient way of development was to achieve the western ideas of development and neglect the socio-economic rights and problems as these countries didn't possess the feasibility to perform the developmental functions in a socialistic way.

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