**Question and Answers – Constitutional Design**

**Q1. What is a Constit0ution? Why do we need a constitution?**

**Ans- 1) The constitution is a set of written rules that are accepted by all people living together in a country. It is the supreme law that determines the relationship among the people living in territory and also the relationship between the people and the government.**

**2) The constitution of a country generates a degree of trust and coordination that is necessary for different kinds of people to live together.**

**3) It specifies how the government will be constituted.**

**4) It lays down limits on the powers of the government and tells us what the rights of the citizens are**

**5) It expresses the aspirations of the people about creating a good society**

**Q2. What was the policy of Apartheid? How did it come to end in South Africa?**

**Ans- 1) Apartheid was the official policy of racial separation and ill treatment of blacks followed by the government of South Africa between 1948 and 1989.**

**2) Under this policy the blacks were forced to live in crowded townships lacking basic amenities. There were separate transport, hotels, beaches and even churches for the whites and blacks.**

**3) They had no political rights and no representation in the parliament.**

**4) The African national Congress started a movement against apartheid which gradually gained momentum. This included many worker’s unions and the Communist party.**

**5) International opposition against apartheid and economic sanctions imposed by the UNO had serious effect on South Africa.**

**6) The white regime realized that they could no longer keep the blacks under their rule and began to change their policies. Discriminatory laws were repealed. In 1990, President F.W. De Clerk released Nelson Mandela from jail after 28 years of imprisonment and began to negotiate with the ANC.**

**7) Finally at the midnight of 26 April 1994, a new democratic republic of South Africa was born. The apartheid government gave way to the formation of a multi-racial government.**

**Q3. What are the salient features of the Indian Constitution?**

**Ans -1) India has the lengthiest written constitution in the world.**

**2) The Constitution makes India a sovereign , secular , socialist democratic republic.**

**3) India’s constitution is federal in nature and has a unitary bias.**

**4) It provides for Universal Adult Franchise.**

**5) All constitutional amendments can be initiated only in the Union Parliament.**

**Q4) Why do we call India a secular democratic republic? Explain Ans-1) India is called secular because its citizens have complete freedom to follow and practise any religion of their own choice.**

**2) Democracy means that India has a government where people enjoy equal political rights, elect their rulers who are accountable.**

**3) Head of the State ie, India’s President is elected and not hereditary.**

**Q5) What problems existed in the making of the South African Constitution? What compromises were made?**

**Ans-1) Problems existed because both the black majority and the white minorityhad their own fears and anxieties.The black majority wanted their Constitution to be based on the democratic principle of majority rule.**

**2) The white minority on the other hand , wanted to protect its privileges and property.**

**3) Ultimately both agreed to a compromise. The Whites agreed to the principle of majority rule and that of one person one vote.**

**4) The Blacks in turn agreed to protect the property right of the white minority.**

**Q6) What difficulties did the framers of the Indian Constitution face?**

**Ans-1) India’s constitution was framed under very difficult circumstances because of the trauma caused by the partition of the country. Lakhs of people were killed on both sides of the border in partition related violence.**

**2) The existence of 560 odd princely states was another problem. These states had been given the choice to join or not to join any successor government or governments.**

**3) Moreover, the founding fathers had to frame a constitution which would ensure social and economic equality .**

**Q7) Why is the Preamble important?**

**Ans-1) The Preamble is very important because it contains the ideals and the basic underlying principles of the Constitution.**

**2) The Preamble shows the way the government ought to run. It declares India to be a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic.**

**3) It provides justice – Social, Economic and Political for all its citizens.**

**4) It seeks to give all types of freedom necessary for the individual.**

**5) It seeks to provide equality of status and opportunity to all individuals and thus promotes a sense of brotherhood among all citizens.**

**Q8) What factors have contributed to the making of the Indian Constitution?**

**Ans-Refer to the text book Pg 45 and 46- The Path to Constitution. (5 points)**

**8) What provisions have been made to incorporate changes in the Constitution and why?**

**Ans-1) The Indian Constitution is a very long and detailed document and therefore needs to be amended quite regularly to keep it updated.**

**2) Our founding fathers did not view the Constitution as sacred and unalterable. They realized that over a period of years inorder to keep pace with changing times , the Constitution would need to be amended to keep it updated.**

**3) So the provision was made to enable the Constitution to be changed from time to time called Constitutional Amendments.**

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