

CLASS : 8

SUB : CIVICS

CH.1 : THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

EXERCISE SOLUTION

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Q1. Why does a democratic country need a Constitution?

Ans. A democratic country needs a Constitution because of the following reasons :

(i) It lays down certain ideals that form the basis of the kind of country that its citizens aspire to live in.

(ii) It tells the fundamental nature of society.

(iii) It defines the nature of the political system of the country.

(iv) It determines the relationship of the citizens with the governments.

(v) It provides rules to safeguard the interests of minorities and prevent them from being dominated by the majority section.

(vi) It lays down certain rules based on which people belonging to different religions and communities can coexist in harmony.

(vii) It lays down rules that guard against the misuse of authority by the political leaders.

(viii) It also provides certain fundamental rights to its citizens and protects their freedom.

Q2. Look at the wordings of the two documents given below. The first column is from the 1990 Nepal Constitution. The second column is from the more recent Constitution of Nepal.

1990 Constitution of Nepal Part 7: Executive	2015 Constitution of Nepal Part 7: Federal Executive
Article 35: Executive Power: The executive power of the Kingdom of Nepal shall be vested in his Majesty and the Council of Ministers.	Article 75: Executive Power: The Executive Power of Nepal shall, pursuant to this Constitution and law, be vested in the Council of Ministers.

What is the difference in who exercises 'Executive Power' in the above two Constitutions of Nepal?

Ans. Article 35 of the 1990 Constitution of Nepal states that the whole powers to rule the country is vested in the king of the country and the ministers appointed under him.

On the other hand, article 75 of the 2015 Constitution of Nepal states that the rules and management of the country will be based on the laws mentioned in the Constitution of the country under the supervision of the council of ministers.

Q3. What would happen if there were no restrictions on the power of elected representatives?

Ans. If there are no restrictions on the power of the elected representatives then the leaders might misuse their powers and authority. This would have resulted in gross injustice against the people of the country. Hence, the Indian constitution has provided measures to safeguard the country against such misuse of power by our political leaders.

Q4. In each of the following situations, identify the minority. Write one reason why you think it is important to respect the views of the minority in each of these situations.

(a) In a school with 30 teachers, 20 of them are male.

Ans. Here, the 10 female teachers teaching in the school come under the minority category. It is important to respect the views of the minority so that they do not feel left out or underpowered by the majority. Moreover, no decision made keeping the majority's views in mind should cause any kind of discomfort to the female teachers.

(b) In a city, 5 percent of the population are Buddhists.

Ans. Here, the minority section is the Buddhist population in the city. Their views should be respected. Any decision taken for the interest of the majority should not hurt the religious feelings or beliefs of the Buddhist population.

(c) In a factory mess for all employees, 80 percent are vegetarians.

Ans. Here, 20 percent non-vegetarians fall under the minority category. It is important that the food prepared in the factory mess must be prepared to fulfill the diet requirements of both vegetarians and non-vegetarians.

(d) In a class of 50 students, 40 belong to more well-off families.

Ans. Here, the 10 students who do not belong to well-off families come under the minority category. It is important to respect their views and make sure that there is no kind of distinction or discrimination based on the financial backgrounds of students in the class. Various expenses required by the school should be adjusted in a way that the minority students do not feel left out or humiliated for not being able to pay the same.

Q5. The column on the left lists some of the key features of the Indian Constitution. In the other column write two sentences, in your own words, on why you think this feature is important:

Key Features	Significance
Federalism	?
Separation of Powers	?
Fundamental Rights	?
Parliamentary Form of Government	?

Ans.

Key Features	Significance
Federalism	Federalism refers to the existence of more than one level of government in the

	<p>country. It ensures national unity and at the same time allows individual progress.</p> <p>The three tier government in India that includes the Panchayati Raj, the state government and the Central Government, is important because of diverse cultural and religious composition of its citizens.</p>
<p>Separation of Powers</p>	<p>It is important as it ensures that the tyrannical use of power is avoided since the whole power is not vested in any single authority.</p> <p>Secondly, the three organs of governance: legislature, executive and judiciary also work as a check on each other, thereby maintaining a good balance.</p>
<p>Fundamental Rights</p>	<p>The Fundamental Rights are a set of rights that the Constitution offers to all citizens of the country. These rights are important to protect the citizens against arbitrary and absolute use of power by the State.</p> <p>These rights give every citizen of the country the right to be considered as an equal irrespective of their caste, religion or community so that everyone gets equal educational opportunities to live and grow in the country.</p>
<p>Parliamentary Form of Government</p>	<p>It upholds universal adult franchise. It is the one where the citizens of the country have the right to elect their representatives.</p>

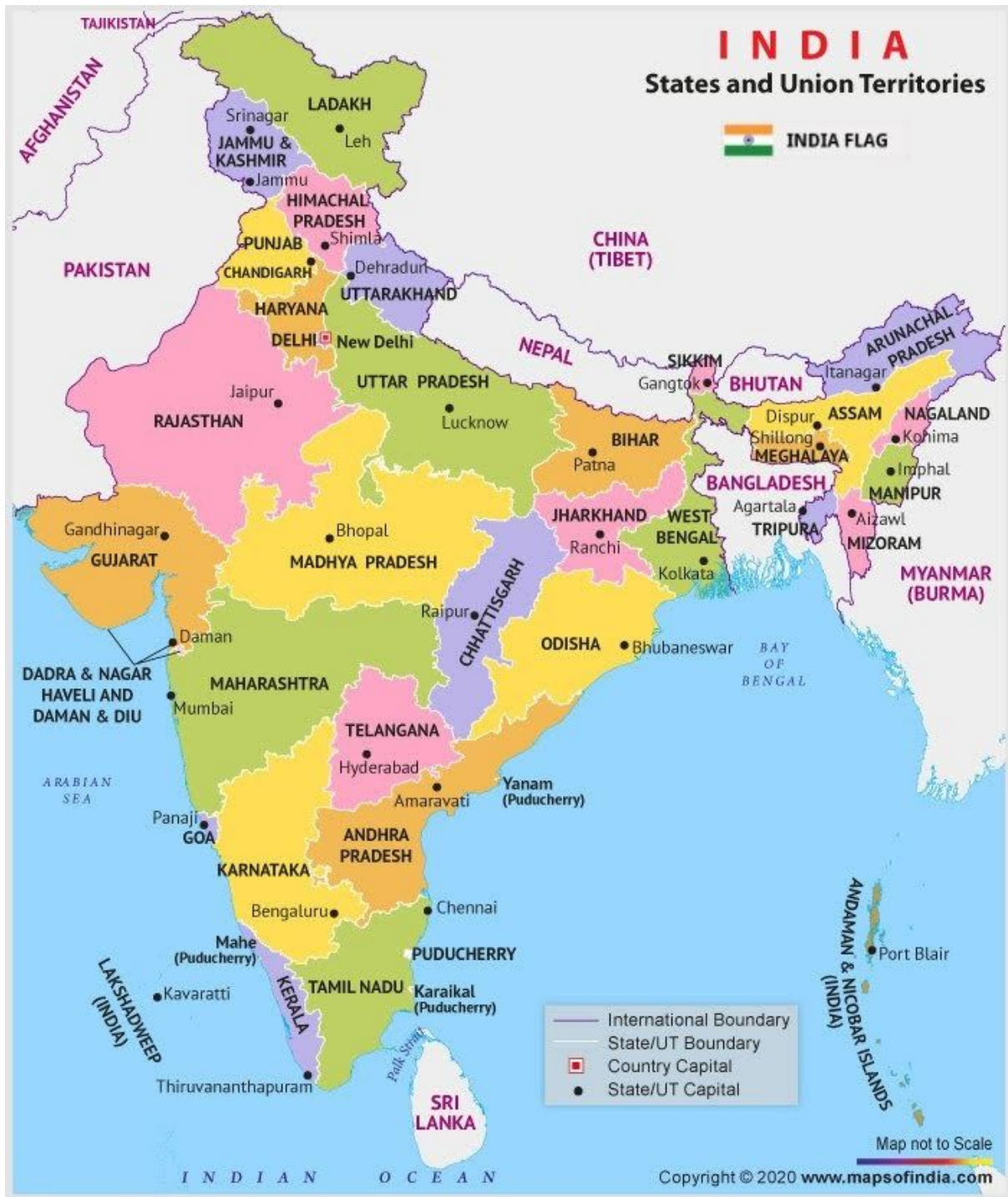
	<p>Any person, irrespective of his caste, colour, creed, religion, sex and income can contest elections and is accountable to the people who have elected him.</p>
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Q6. Write down the names of the Indian States, which share borders with the following neighbouring nations:

(a) Bangladesh

(b) Bhutan

(c) Nepal



Ans.

Nations	States which share borders
(a) Bangladesh	Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, West Bengal, Assam.

(b) Bhutan	Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, West Bengal, Assam
(c) Nepal	Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Sikkim, West Bengal