

1. What is democracy ?

Answer :

- Democracy is not only a system of governance but also a system for fulfilling various needs and aspirations of the citizens and thereby ensuring a dignified life.

2. What are the two classification constitutional institutions ?

Answer :

- **Constitutional bodies** : The constitutional bodies are autonomous bodies formed when the Constitution came into force. Eg :- Election commission
- **Extra constitutional bodies** : Extra constitutional bodies are formed by the laws passed by the Parliament. Eg:- Human Right Commission

3. What is Election Commission and write any four functions of election commission ?

Answer :

- In a democratic system , people's representatives and rulers come to power through elections.
- In India, the Election Commission is a constitutional body.
- The Election Commission of India came into existence on 25 January 1950 based on Article 324.
- The present Election Commission consists of a Chief Election Commissioner and two Commissioners.
- They are appointed by the President of India.
- The tenure of office of the members of the Commission is 6 years or up to the age of 65.

Functions

- Preparation of electoral roll and issuance of identity card.
- Recognition of political parties and allotment of symbols to them.
- Schedule the dates for poll and its counting, declare results and resolve disputes.
- Audit election expenses and take appropriate follow-up actions.

4. Write a note about the Representation of People Act, 1950

Answer :

- It is an act codifying the provision for fixing constituencies for elections to Parliament and state legislatures, delimiting their boundaries and preparing electoral rolls.
- The Act provides for matters such as division and delimitation of constituencies, appointment of Chief Electoral Officer, District Returning Officers and Electoral Registration Officers.

5. Write a note about the Representation of People Act, 1951

Answer :

- It is an act to provide for the conduct of elections to the Indian Parliament and State legislatures.
- Determine the eligibility and disqualification of those elected.
- Provide for the settlement of election disputes.
- It defines the invalidation of the members of Parliament and state legislative assemblies, system of election, and the qualifications and duties of the Chief Election Commissioner, District Election Officer, Election Observers and Returning Officers.
- According to this act, any organization that wants to become a political party has to register with the Election Commission.

6. What is National Human Rights Commission and write any four functions of National Human Rights Commission?

Answer :

- The Human Rights Commission was formed in our country with the objective of ensuring civil rights by avoiding violations of human rights.
- The National Human Rights Commission was established on 12 October 1993.
- New Delhi is its headquarters.
- There are six members in the commission including the Chairperson.
- The members of the commission are appointed by the President of India.
- The tenure of these members in office is 3 years or up to the age of 70

Functions

- To conduct inquiries on complaints related to human rights violation.
- Become a party to court proceedings in matters related to the violation of human rights
- To visit jails and rehabilitation centers and make recommendations for reforms.
- To evaluate the functioning and efficiency of the systems for protection of human rights

7. What is the Protection of Human Rights Act in 1993 ?

Answer :

- The Human Rights Protection Act is the act that came into existence directing that Human Rights Commissions and Courts shall be established at the national and state-level.
- The act came into force on 28 September 1993.
- It defines Human Rights Court, National Minority Commission, National Scheduled Castes Commission, National Women's Commission and State Human Rights Commission.
- The act defines the formation of the National Human Rights Commission, the appointment of its members, including the Chairperson, their removal from office, tenure in office, and the activities and powers of the Commission.

8. What is National Commission for Women and write any four functions of National Commission for Women?

Answer :

- The most important function of the National Women's Commission is to intervene in the various issues faced by women in society and to suggest legal solutions.
- The commission was founded on 31 January 1992.
- The commission consists of a chairperson, five members and a member secretary.
- The members of the commission are appointed by the Government of India.
- Their tenure of office is three years.

Functions

- Examine the constitutional provisions and laws for the safety of women
- Submit proposals for legislation to protect women's rights
- Activities for ensuring gender justice
- Give suggestions to eliminate inequality and discrimination faced by women

9. Write a note about the Dowry Prohibition Act in 1961.

Answer:

- The Dowry Prohibition Act was passed by the Parliament in 1961.
- To eradicate the evil practice of dowry from society and prevent abuses in the name of dowry.
- Dowry is the exchange of wealth on the occasion of marriage as per prior agreement or under compulsion.
- Both, accepting and giving dowry are punishable under this law.

10. What is Protection of Women Against Domestic Violence Act in 2005 ?

Answer :

- Protection of Women Against Domestic Violence Act came into force in India on 26 October 2006.
- This law protects women from violence by their life partners or relatives.
- This law assures protection, boarding and financial help to women who are victims of domestic violence.

11. What is The National Commission for Minorities and write any three functions of The National Commission for Minorities ?

Answer :

- The most important function of the commission is to ensure the welfare of the religious, linguistic and cultural minorities by protecting their rights.
- The National Minority Commission came into existence on 17 May 1993.
- The commission consists of a chairperson, a vice chairperson and five members.
- They are appointed by the President of India.

- Their term of office is three years.

Functions

- Evaluate the progress of the social development of the minorities.
- Evaluate the functioning of the constitutional provisions and laws for the protection of the minorities.
- Submit reports on the issues and crises faced by minorities from time to time.

12. What is National Commissions for Scheduled Castes – Scheduled Tribes and write any two functions of them.

Answer :

- This commission were formed with the objective of protecting the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes from discrimination and exploitation.
- Both the commissions came into existence in 2004.
- The commission consists of a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson and three other members.
- The members of the commission are appointed by the President of India.
- The members' term in office is three years.

Functions

- Inquire into the complaints regarding the abuses against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes
- Coordinate the efforts for the welfare, protection and growth of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

13. What is National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) and write any two functions of them.

Answer :

- This commission was established with the objective of the uplift of the socially and economically backward sections.
- The commission was established in 1993.
- It consists of a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson and three members.
- The members of the commission are appointed by the President of India.

- The official term of the members is three years.

Functions

- Submit report to the government on the activities of various systems for the welfare of the backward classes.
- Examine the demands related to backward status and give suggestions to the government.

14. “Constitutional institutions are the important factors of the spread of democracy” evaluate the statement.

Answer :

- It is essential to address the socio-economic backwardness of the different sections of people in our country with such a large geographical area, high population and cultural diversity.
- Democracy will be complete only when the socially and economically backward sections of people are brought to the mainstream of society.
- The success and failure of a democratic system of administration depend on the participation of the people.
- The above mentioned constitutional and extra constitutional bodies have an important role in ensuring the participation of different sections of the people in the political process.
- The Election Commission has been taking measures to strengthen electoral democracy.
- The National Human Rights Commission, National Women's Commission, National Minority Commission etc play a vital role in empowering historically marginalised sections of the people.
- So these institutions expand the scope of Indian democracy into social and economic domains and enabling them to exercise their political rights, thereby fostering a more inclusive and equitable democratic framework.