

NCERT Solutions For Class 8 Social and Political life <http://freehomedelivery.net/> The Indian Constitution

NCERT Solutions For Class 8 Social and Political life <http://freehomedelivery.net/> The Indian Constitution

Question 1

Why does a democratic country need a Constitution?

Solution:

A democratic country needs a constitution because:

A constitution puts down certain principles that form the basis of the kind of country that we as citizens, desire to live in.

A Constitution tells us the fundamental nature of our society.

A Constitution helps serve as a set of rules and principles that all persons in a country can agree upon as the basis of the way in which they want the country to be governed. The constitution also spells out the ideals the citizens believe that their country should uphold.

Question 2

What is the difference in who exercises Executive Power in the 1990 and Interim Constitutions of Nepal? Keeping this in mind, why do you think Nepal needs a new Constitution today?

Solution:

In the 1990 Nepal constitution the Executive powers of the Kingdom was entirely in the hands of the King. According to the Interim constitution drafted in 2007, the executive powers of Nepal are in the hands of the council of ministers headed by the Prime Minister.

There was a dire need for a new constitution as the ideals of the people had changed as the country had moved from a monarchy to a democracy. The old constitution was drafted when the country was under the rule of the king. The people of Nepal fought for a democratic government for many years. So the old constitution does not reflect the ideals of the people. The new constitution will change the rules of the old constitution in order to bring in a new society with new ideals.

Question 3

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

Solution:

If there are no restrictions on the power of the elected representatives the leaders might misuse the powers given to them. The Indian Constitution provides safeguards against this misuse of power by our political leaders. The Constitution lays down rules that guard the citizens against misuse of power.

Question 4

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.

- (b) In a city, 5 per cent of the population are Buddhists.
- (c) In a factory mess for all employees, 80 per cent are vegetarians.
- (d) In a class of 50 students, 40 belong to more well-off families.

Solution:

(a) Female teachers are in the minority – It is necessary to respect the views of the lady teachers also as their view points may also be in the best interest of the students.

?

(b) Buddhists are in the minority- Every individual has the right to follow the religion of his choice.

(c) Non – vegetarians are in the minority – The food a person eats is his personal wish and so he should have the freedom to eat what he wants.

(d) The under privileged are in minority – Citizens cannot be discriminated by their birth so their views have to be respected.

Question 5

Listed below are the key features of the Indian Constitution. Write two sentences, in your own words, on why you think this feature is important key feature of

1. Federalism
2. Separation of Powers
3. Fundamental Rights
4. Parliamentary Form of Government

Solution:

1. **Federalism:**
means more than one level of government in the country. India has a 3 tier government. India needs a 3 tier government because of the diverse religious and cultural composition of its citizens. A government at the centre alone could not be effective for every one.
2. **Separation of Powers:**
In order to prevent the misuse of power by the elected representative the constitution advocate Separation of powers. Each branch of the government has its powers fixed by the Constitution. The Constitution ensures that a balance of power is maintained between the Legislature Executive and the Judiciary.
3. **Fundamental Rights:**
Fundamental Rights guarantees the rights of individuals against the State as well as against other individuals. It protects minority communities and guarantees rights against the majority.
4. **Parliamentary Form of Government:**
In a Parliamentary form of government the constitution guarantees universal adult franchise for all citizens. That is, all adults have a right to vote, irrespective of whether they are poor or rich, educated or uneducated, a Hindu, Muslim or a Christian. The idea of universal adult franchise is based on equality.

The Indian Constitution NCERT Class 8 Social and Political life Extra Questions

The Indian Constitution NCERT Class 8 Social and Political life Extra Questions

Question 1

In politics, what is a constitution?

Solution:

In Politics a Constitution can be described as a document outlining the basic laws or principles by which a country is to be governed

Question 2

Write a brief note on the making of the Indian Constitution.

Solution:

The Indian Constitutional Assembly was convened in December 1946. The members of this Assembly were only Indians. This Assembly started drafting the Constitution for Independent India. Dr. Ambedkar was the Chairman of the Constitution drafting committee.

The constitution declares India to be a sovereign, democratic republic and establishes the structure, procedures, powers and duties, of the government and duties of citizens.

The 308 members of the Assembly signed two hand-written copies of the document (one each in Hindi and English) on the January 24, 1950. Two days later, on January 26, 1950, the Constitution of India became the law of all the Indian lands.

Question 3

In Nepal, when did the Interim Constitution come into effect?

Solution:

In Nepal, the Interim Constitution came into effect from January 15, 2007.

Question 4

Write a brief note on the struggle for freedom in Nepal.

Solution:

In Nepal, there was a people's struggle for freedom in 1990. Democracy was established and it lasted for 12 years until 2002.

In October 2002, King Gyanendra began taking over the government with the assistance of the army. In 2005 King Gyanendra took over as the head of the government.

In 2006 people's movement for democracy began gaining immense force. In April 2006 the King restored the Third Parliament and asked the political parties to form a government. In 2007, Nepal adopted an Interim Constitution and Nepal gained political freedom.

Question 5

What are the negative points of a democratic society?

Solution:

In a democratic society Power can be misused. Sometimes the Majority can undermine minority. The citizens need certain rules to save themselves from folly.

Question 6

How can a leader misuse power in a democratic country?

Solution:

A leader misusing his power may send his security guards to beat up his neighbours for a personal reason or ask the police not to take action against a relative who has committed a crime.

Question 7

How does the Indian Constitution safe guard the minorities of the country?

Solution:

The Indian constitution ensures that the dominant group does not use its power against other, less powerful people or groups.

The Constitution contains rules that ensure that minorities are not excluded from anything that is routinely available to the majority. It also prevents the domination of the majority over the minority.

Question 8

Mention the key features of the Indian Constitution.

Solution:

The key features of the Indian constitution are:-

Federalism

Parliamentary Form of Government

Separation of Powers

Fundamental Rights

Secularism

Question 9

What are the factors the drafting committee had to take into consideration while drafting the constitution?

Solution:

The committee had to keep in mind that India was a land of many communities, languages and many religions. India was a land of diverse cultures and the Princely states in India had to be considered. The partition of the country into India and Pakistan was about to happen and the drafting committee had to bear this in mind. Finally the biggest consideration was the socio-economic condition of a majority of Indians which was in a bad state.

Question 10

What were the highlights of the text prepared by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, who was the Chairman of the constitution drafting committee?

Solution:

Highlights of the Text prepared by Dr. Ambedkar are:-

Constitutional guarantees and protections for individual citizens

Freedom of religion

Abolition of untouchability

Outlawing of all forms of discrimination

Economic and social rights for women

Reservations of jobs in the civil services, schools and colleges for members of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

Question 11

What is universal adult franchise?

Solution:

Universal adult franchise is every adult citizen having a right to vote irrespective of sex, caste, creed, education and financial status.

Question 12

What do you mean by the legislature, the executive and the judiciary?

Solution:

The legislature refers to our elected representatives.

The executive is a smaller group of people who are responsible for implementing laws and running the government.

The judiciary refers to the system of courts in this country.

Question 13

What are the key components of fundamental rights?

Solution:

The key components of Fundamental rights are:-

Right to Equality

Right to Freedom

Right against Exploitation

Right to Freedom of Religion

Cultural and Educational Rights

Right to Constitutional Remedies

Question 14

What is secularism?

Solution:

Secularism is the right of the citizens to practice any religion. A secular state is one in which the state does not officially promote any one religion as the state religion.

NCERT Solutions For Class 8 Social and Political life <http://freehomedelivery.net/> Understanding Secularism

NCERT Solutions For Class 8 Social and Political life <http://freehomedelivery.net/> Understanding Secularism

Question-1

Will the government intervene if some religious group says that their religion allows them to practise infanticide? Give reasons for your answer.

Solution:

The government will intervene if some religious group says that their religion allows them to practise female infanticide.

In this instance, the State is intervening in religion in order to end a social practice that violates the Fundamental Rights of the female child to live on this earth.

Understanding Secularism NCERT Class 8

Social and Political life Extra Questions

Understanding Secularism NCERT Class 8 Social and Political life Extra Questions

Question-1

What is religion?

Solution:

Religion is the personal beliefs and practices relating to the divine. It is also people's beliefs and opinions concerning the existence, nature, and worship of the divine.

Question-2

Name the major religions practiced all over the world.

Solution:

Buddhism; Christianity; Hinduism; Islam and Judaism are the major religions practiced all over the world.

Question-3

What is secularism?

Solution:

Secularism is the belief that no one should be discriminated on the basis of the religion he or she practises. Every citizen, irrespective of which religion he or she follows, is equal in the eyes of the laws and policies that govern the Nation.

Question-4

State the 4th point of the Fundamental Rights of the Indian constitution.

Solution:

The 4th point of the 'Fundamental Rights' is ...

Right to Freedom of Religion

'Every person has the right to practise, profess and propagate the religion of their choice'.

Question-5

Secularism is separating religion from the power of the state. Discuss why it is vital to separate the power of the state from religious practices.

Solution:

Secularism is very essential for the smooth functioning of a democratic country. In today's world people go to other countries to work or do business. So you will find that people of different religions live in the same locality.

In the event of people of different religions living together in the same locality there is a possibility that people belonging to one particular religion being in the majority. If this majority has access to State power, there is likelihood that it will use it to discriminate and dominate the minority group which practices another religion.

In a secular democratic country any form of domination or tyranny, based on religion is in violation of the rights that a democratic society guarantees to each and every citizen irrespective of their religion.

Therefore it is important not to allow any one religion, even though it may be the majority, to violate the fundamental rights of all citizens. If this right has to be maintained it is vital to separate the power of the state from religious practices.

Question-6

What are the other reasons for separating the power of the State from religion?

Solution:

People should have the freedom to leave the religion they have been practicing and join another religion. They should also have the freedom to interpret religious teachings differently. It is for these reasons that it is important to separate the power of the state from religion.

Question-7

What do you understand from the statement 'freedom to interpret religious teachings differently' in context with the practice of untouchability?

Solution:

Untouchability refers to the social practice of excluding a minority group (untouchables) by regarding them as "ritually polluted" and segregating them from the mainstream by social custom.

According to the Indian constitution every one has the freedom to interpret religious teachings in their own way. Similarly the Dalits who are called untouchables have the freedom to interpret religion in their own way. The Indian constitution has abolished 'Untouchability'.

Question-08

What are the objectives of the Indian constitution that advocates secularism?

Solution:

The objectives of the Indian constitution that advocates secularism are...

One religious community should not dominate another.

Some members of a religious community should not dominate other members of the same religious community.

The State should not enforce any particular religion nor take away the religious freedom of individuals.

Question-9

What are the strategies followed by the Indian government to establish secularism?

Solution:

The strategies followed by the Indian government to establish secularism are...

Strategy of distancing itself from religion

Strategy of non-interference

Strategy of intervention

Question-10

State Article: 17 in the Right to Equality, in the Indian constitution.

Solution:

Article 17 in the Right to Equality is related to the 'Abolition of Untouchability.'

It states:

"Untouchability" is abolished and its practice in any form is forbidden. The enforcement of any disability arising out of "Untouchability" shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law."

Question-11

Mention a few points in the US constitution related to secularism.

Solution:

According to the U.S. Constitution the legislature cannot declare any religion as the

official religion. The legislature cannot give preference to one religion and neither the State nor religion can interfere in the affairs of one another.

NCERT Solutions For Class 8 Social and Political life <http://freehomedelivery.net/> Why Do We Need a Parliament

NCERT Solutions For Class 8 Social and Political life <http://freehomedelivery.net/> Why Do We Need a Parliament

Question-1

Why do you think the nationalist movement supported the idea that all adults have a right to vote?

Solution:

The British government did not allow all adults to vote nor could people participate in decision making, so the nationalist movement supported the idea that all adults have a right to vote.

Why Do We Need a Parliament NCERT Class 8 Social and Political life Extra Questions

Why Do We Need a Parliament NCERT Class 8 Social and Political life Extra Questions

Question-1

What are the basic ideals of a democracy?

Solution:

The basic ideals of democracy are...

The participation of the citizens in the government's decision- making.

The need for the government to have the consent of its citizens in all major issues taken by it.

Question-2

What is the purpose of a Parliament?

Solution:

The Parliament enables citizens of India to participate in decision making and control the government.

Question-3

What was the main principle of the Indian constitution?

Solution:

The main principle of the Indian constitution was Universal adult franchise. All adults in free India could vote and participate in decision- making.

Question-4

How can all the citizens participate in the decision-making process of the government?

Solution:

In a democracy general elections are held and all adults have a right to vote. The citizens elect a few people to represent them in the Parliament. The Parliament is made up of all these representatives. These representatives are known as Members of the Parliament. One group, from among these elected representatives forms the government. It is through these representatives that the citizens take part in the decision-making of the government.

Question-5

Who designed the Parliament house in India?

Solution:

The Parliament house in India was designed by the British architect Herbert Baker.

Question-6

What is an EVM?

Solution:

An EVM is an Electronic Voting Machine used for elections in India. Indian voting machines use a two-piece system with a balloting unit presenting the voter with a button for each choice connected by a cable to an electronic ballot box.

Question-7

What is a constituency?

Solution:

The country is divided into many areas for election purposes. Each area is called a constituency. A representative is elected from each constituency to serve in the legislative body.

Question-8

Mention the 2 houses of the Indian Parliament.

Solution:

The 2 Houses of the Indian Parliament are ...

The Rajya Sabha

The Lok Sabha

Question-9

Write a brief note on the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha.

Solution:

Rajya Sabha

The Rajya Sabha functions primarily as the representative of the states of India, in the Parliament. There are 233 elected members plus 12 members nominated by the President. The members of the Rajya Sabha are elected by the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of various states. The Rajya Sabha plays an important role of reviewing and altering the laws initiated by the Lok Sabha.

Lok Sabha

The Lok Sabha, known as the House of the People, with a total membership of 543, is presided over by the Speaker. The country is divided into 543 Lok Sabha constituencies. During a Lok Sabha election, people from different political parties stand for elections. Once elected, these candidates become Members of Parliament or MPs. These MPs together make up the Parliament.

Question-10

What are the three major duties of the Parliament?

Solution:

The three major duties of the Parliament are...
To Select the National Government
To Control, Guide and Inform the Government
Law-Making

Question-11

How is a National government selected?

Solution:

After the Lok Sabha elections, a list is prepared showing how many MPs belonging to each political party have won the elections. The Political party which has the majority of MPs will form the National government.

A majority Party should have at least 272 MPs, that is, more than half of the total number of MPs in the Lok Sabha.

Question-12

What is 'Question hour' in Parliament?

Solution:

The first hour of every sitting during a Parliament Session is called the Question Hour. During 'Question hour' Questions are posed by members to specific government ministries. The concerned Ministries have to answer these Questions on a fixed date. The Questions asked during 'Question Hour' highlights the shortcomings of the Government and also bring to light the opinion of the citizen through their representatives, namely the MPs.

This Question Hour helps the Parliament to control the Executive (Government).

Question-13

Write a brief note on the Members of Parliament.

Solution:

The Members of Parliament are from different backgrounds. Many members are from rural areas and from regional parties.

Groups and peoples that were not unrepresented so far, are beginning to get elected to the Parliament. Today there are more number of people from the Dalit and backward castes and the minorities, in Parliament.

It is good to have representatives in the Parliament from all sections of society, so that every Indian will be represented in the decision- making body.

NCERT Solutions For Class 8 Social and Political life <http://freehomedelivery.net/> Understanding Laws

NCERT Solutions For Class 8 Social and Political life <http://freehomedelivery.net/> Understanding Laws

Question-1

Write in your own words what you understand by the term the 'rule of law'. In your response include a fictitious or real example of a violation of the rule of law.

Solution:

Law is a system of rules, usually imposed through a Government or Institution and is applied to govern a group people. It shapes politics, economics and society in

numerous ways.

The most common example of a violation of the rule of law can be seen on the roads. Motorists and pedestrians do not follow the traffic rules.

Motorists do not adhere to speed limits nor do they stop behind the line at traffic signals. Pedestrians rarely use the zebra crossing and cross the road at will causing harm not only to themselves but also to other road users.

Question-2

State two reasons why historians refute the claim that the British introduced the rule of law in India.

Solution:

Historians refute the claim that the British introduced the rule of law in India because colonial law was arbitrary, and the Indian nationalists played a prominent role in the development of the legal sphere in British India.

Question-3

Re-read the storyboard on how a new law on domestic violence got passed. Describe in your own words the different ways in which women's groups worked to make this happen.

Solution:

Domestic violence against women was very common in India in the early 1990s. Throughout the 1990s, the need for a new law was raised in different forums like Public Meeting and women's organisations. In 1999, Lawyers Collective, a group of lawyers, law students and activists, after nation-wide consultations took the lead in drafting the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill. This draft bill was widely circulated. Meetings were held all over the country supporting the introduction of this Act. The Bill was first introduced in Parliament in 2002, but it was not to the satisfaction of all. Several women's organisations, like the National Commission for Women made submissions to the Parliamentary Standing Committee requesting changes in the Bill. In December 2002, after reviewing the request made by the National Commission for Women, the Parliamentary Standing Committee submitted its recommendations to the Rajya Sabha and these were also tabled in the Lok Sabha. The Committee's report accepted most of the demands of the women's groups. Finally a new Bill was reintroduced in Parliament in 2005. After being passed in both houses of Parliament, it was sent to the President for his assent. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act came into effect in 2006.

Question-4

Write in your own words what you understand by the following sentence on page 44-45: They also began fighting for greater equality and wanted to change the idea of law from a set of rules that they were forced to obey, to law as including ideas of justice.

Solution:

The Sedition Act of 1870 was a turning point in the struggle for freedom in India. According to the Sedition Act any person protesting or criticising the British government could be arrested without due trial. Indian nationalists began protesting and criticising this arbitrary use of authority by the British. They also began fighting for greater equality and wanted to change the idea of law from a set of rules that they were forced to obey, to law as including ideas of justice. By the end of the nineteenth century, the Indians started asserting themselves in the

colonial courts.

The Indian Legal profession began emerging as a force to reckon with and the Indians demanded respect in the courts. Indians started using law to defend their legal rights.

Indian judges began to play a greater role in making decisions.

Thus the Indians played a major role in the evolution of the rule of law during the colonial period.

Understanding Laws NCERT Class 8 Social and Political life Extra Questions

Understanding Laws NCERT Class 8 Social and Political life Extra Questions

Question-1

Mention the different categories under which Law can be classified.

Solution:

Some of the categories under which law can be classified are...

Criminal law

Contract Law

Property Law

International law

Equity and Trust Laws

Question-2

Write a short note on Lady Justice.

Solution:

Lady Justice or Justitia is the Roman Goddess of Justice. It is a personification of the moral force that underlies the legal system. Her blindfolded eyes symbolize equality under the law and impartiality towards all the people who are governed by it. The weighing scales represent the balancing of people's interests under the law, and her sword denotes the law's force of reason.

Question-3

Mention some of the common laws that govern us.

Solution:

Some of the common laws that govern us are...

The age at which a person can vote

Specific age for marriage

Laws governing the selling and buying of property

Question-4

What is a constitution?

Solution:

A Constitution is a document outlining the basic laws or principals by which a country is governed.

Question-5

State Article 14 of the Indian constitution

Solution:

Article 14 – Equality before law.—The State shall not deny to any person equality before

the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India.

Question-6

How was the system of law during ancient times in India?

Solution:

In ancient India, there were countless and overlapping local laws. Different communities were given the liberty to enforce the laws according to their need. In some cases, the punishment that two persons received for the same crime varied depending on their caste. The lower castes were punished more harshly.

Question-7

When was the Hindu Succession Amendment Act revised?

Solution:

The Hindu Succession Amendment Act was revised in 2005.

Question-8

What was the Sedition Act?

Solution:

According to the Sedition Act of 1870 any person protesting or criticising the British government could be arrested without due trial.

Question-9

Write a brief note on the Rowlatt Act.

Solution:

The Rowlatt Committee was a Sedition Committee appointed in 1918 by the British Indian Government with Mr. Justice Rowlatt, an English judge, as its president. The Rowlatt Act, also known as the Black Act, was instituted on the Rowlatt Committee's recommendations. It had a significant impact on the political situation of India, placing her on a path of political movement headed by Gandhi that ultimately dominated the Indian Independence movement for the next 20 years. The Act gave the Viceroy's government powers to quell sedition by silencing the press, detaining the political activists without trial, and arresting without warrant any individuals suspected of sedition or treason. In protest, a nationwide cessation of work was called, marking the beginning of widespread, although not nationwide, popular discontent. The agitation unleashed by the Act culminated on 13 April 1919, in the Jallianwala Bagh massacre in Amritsar, Punjab.

Question-10

How is a new law introduced in Parliament?

Solution:

Parliament of India consists of the President and two Houses—the Council of States or the Rajya Sabha and the House of the People or the Lok Sabha.

A Bill can be introduced in either House of Parliament. A Bill introduced by the Minister is known as Government Bill and a Bill introduced by a private member is known as Private Member's Bill.

The procedure for the passage of the Bills is similar in both the cases. A Bill has to pass through three stages in each House of Parliament and receive Presidential assent before it becomes an Act of Parliament. In the event of a deadlock between the two Houses on a Bill, the issue is resolved at a joint sitting of the two Houses.

NCERT Solutions For Class 8 Social and Political life <http://freehomedelivery.net/> The Judiciary

NCERT Solutions For Class 8 Social and Political life <http://freehomedelivery.net/> The Judiciary

Question-1

You read that one of the main functions of the judiciary is 'upholding the law and Enforcing Fundamental Rights'. Why do you think an independent judiciary is necessary to carry out this important function?

Solution:

The independence of the judiciary allows the courts to play a central role in 'upholding the law and Enforcing Fundamental Rights' as it ensures that there is no misuse of power by the legislature and the executive. Anyone can approach the courts if they believe that their rights have been violated and Politicians or other socially powerful people cannot use their power to change any judgement.

Question-2

Re-read the list of Fundamental Rights provided in Chapter 1. How do you think the Right to Constitutional Remedies connects to the idea of judicial review?

Solution:

Right to Constitutional Remedies declares that citizens can go to court for justice if they believe that any of their Fundamental Rights have been violated by the State. Hence the independence of the judiciary is necessary to uphold the rights of the citizens

Question-3

In the following illustration, fill in each tier with the judgment given by the various courts in the Sudha Goel case. Check our responses with others in class.

Solution:

Lower court: The Lower Court convicted Sudha's husband, his mother and his brother-in-law and sentenced all three of them to death.

High Court: The High Court passed the judgement stating that Sudha's husband and the others were innocent and set them free.

Supreme Court: The Supreme Court passed a judgement stating that Sudha's husband and his mother were guilty and sentenced them to prison for life. The court freed the brother-in-law.

Question-4

If they do not like the Supreme Court verdict, the accused can go back again to the Trial Court.

Solution:

(a) True

(b) False: They went to the Supreme court after the High court had given its decision

(c) False: The verdict of the Supreme Court is final.

Question-5

Why do you think the introduction of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the 1980s is a significant step in ensuring access to justice for all?

Solution:

Access to courts has always been difficult for a vast majority of the poor in India. Legal procedures involve a lot of money and time. The poor who are illiterate and financially weak find it difficult going to court to get justice.

In the 1980s the Supreme Court devised a mechanism of Public Interest Litigation or PIL to increase access to justice for the poor and illiterate. Any individual or organisation can file a PIL in the High Court or the Supreme Court on behalf of those whose rights are being violated. It is not necessary, that the person filing a case should have a direct interest in the case.

Question-6

Re-read excerpts from the judgment on the Olga Tellis vs Bombay Municipal Corporation case. Now write in your own words what the judges meant when they said that the Right to Livelihood was part of the Right to Life.

Solution:

Olga Tellis vs Bombay Municipal Corporation case portrays the plight of lakhs of persons who live on pavements and in slums in the city of Bombay. They constitute nearly half the population of the city.

These men and women came to Court to ask for a judgment that they cannot be evicted from their shelters without being offered alternative accommodation. They rely for their rights on Article 21 of the Constitution which guarantees that no person shall be deprived of his life except according to procedure established by law.

They do not contend that they have a right to live on the pavements. Their contention is that they have a right to live, a right which cannot be exercised without the means of livelihood. They have no option but to flock to big cities like Bombay, which provide the means of bare subsistence. They only choose a pavement or a slum which is nearest to their place of work.

Their plea is that the right to life is misleading without a right to the protection of the means by which alone life can be lived.

The Judiciary NCERT Class 8 Social and Political life Extra Questions

The Judiciary NCERT Class 8 Social and Political life Extra Questions

Question-1

What do you understand by the word 'law'?

Solution:

Law is a system of rules, usually imposed through a Government or Institution and is applied to govern a group people. It shapes politics, economics and society in numerous ways.

Question-2

What does judiciary mean?

Solution:

In law, the judiciary or judicial system is the system of courts which administers justice in the name of the state. It is the mechanism for the resolution of disputes and pronouncement of punishment. As an organ of the State, the judiciary plays a crucial

role in the functioning of India's democracy.

Question-3

How is the work of the judiciary categorised?

Solution:

The Judiciary comprises of courts that take decisions on a very large number of issues. The work of the judiciary can be divided into 3 categories, namely Dispute Resolution, Judicial Review and upholding the Law and Enforcing Fundamental Rights.

Question-4

Write a brief note on the independence of the judiciary.

Solution:

The Judiciary of India is an independent body. It is separate from the Executive and Legislative bodies of the Indian Government. The Executive and Legislature, that is the Central and State Governments, cannot interfere in the work of the judiciary.

The courts are not under the government and do not act on their behalf.

Judges in the High Court as well as the Supreme Court are appointed by the President with very little interference from the other branches of the government. It is also very difficult to remove a judge from his post.

Question-5

What is the structure of the judicial system of India?

Solution:

The judicial system of India is stratified into various levels. At the apex is the Supreme Court, which is followed by High Courts at the state level, District Courts at the district level and Lok Adalats at the Village and Panchayat Level.

The structure of the courts from the lower to the highest level resembles a pyramid.

Question-6

What is the 'appellate system'?

Solution:

An appellate court, commonly called an appeals court or court of second instance is any court of law that is empowered to hear an appeal of a trial court or other lower tribunal. In most jurisdictions, the court system is divided into at least three levels: the trial court, which initially hears cases and reviews evidence and testimony to determine the facts of the case; at least one intermediate appellate court; and a supreme court which primarily reviews the decisions of the intermediate courts. A jurisdiction's supreme court is that jurisdiction's highest appellate court. Appellate courts nationwide can operate by varying rules.

The authority of appellate courts to review decisions of lower courts varies widely from one jurisdiction to another. In some places, the appellate court has limited powers of review. "Generally speaking, an appellate court's judgment provides 'the final directive of the appeals courts as to the matter appealed, setting out with specificity the court's determination that the action appealed from should be affirmed, reversed, remanded or modified'".

Question-7

Mention the branches of the Legal system.

Solution:

The Legal system can be divided into 2 branches, criminal law and civil law.

Question-8

What is “Public interest Litigation”?

Solution:

“Public interest Litigation” or PIL is a litigation filed in a court of law, for the protection of “Public Interest”, such as pollution, terrorism, road safety, constructional hazards etc.

PIL can be filed for the following reasons:

1. Violation of basic human rights of the poor
2. Content or conduct of government policy
3. Compel municipal authorities to perform a public duty
4. Violation of religious rights or other basic fundamental rights
5. Any individual or organisation can file a PIL in the High Court or the Supreme
6. Court on behalf of those whose rights are being violated. It is not necessary, that the person filing a case should have a direct interest in the case.

NCERT Solutions For Class 8 Social and Political life <http://freehomedelivery.net/> Understanding our Criminal Justice System

NCERT Solutions For Class 8 Social and Political life
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Question-1

Define the term “Criminal Justice System’.

Solution:

Criminal justice system is the ‘body of law’ or ‘Court’ regulating the inquiry into whether a person has violated criminal law or not.

Question-2

Write a brief note on the criminal procedure in the Criminal Justice System in India.

Solution:

A crime is first reported by the victim to the Police and the police file a FIR or First Information Report. Then the police begin the investigation and arrest the suspected person or persons. The police then file a charge sheet in the Magistrate’s Court. The trial begins in court. The Public Prosecutor represents the victim and the accused can defend themselves with the help of a lawyer.

Once the trial is over the accused is either convicted or acquitted. If convicted, the accused can appeal to the higher court.

Question-3

What is the role of the police in the Criminal Justice System?

Solution:

In the Criminal Justice System the police play the role of investigating the case and arresting the accused.

Question-4

What are the guidelines that the police have to follow during investigation?

Solution:

Police investigations have to be conducted in accordance with law and with full respect for human rights. The police are not allowed to torture or beat or shoot anyone during investigation. They cannot inflict any form of punishment on a person even for petty offences.

Question-5

What are D.K. Basu Guidelines?

Solution:

D.K. Basu Guidelines are as follows

- The police officials who carry out the arrest or interrogation should wear clear, accurate and visible identification and name tags with their designations.
- A memo of arrest should be prepared at the time of arrest and should include the time and date of arrest. It should also be attested by at least one witness who could include a family member of the person arrested. The arrest memo should be counter-signed by the person arrested.
- The person arrested, detained or being interrogated has a right to inform a relative, friend or well wisher.
- When a friend or relative lives outside the district, the time, place of arrest and venue of custody must be notified by police within 8 to 12 hours after arrest.

Question-6

What is a FIR?

Solution:

FIR stands for First Information Report. The police have to file a FIR whenever a person gives information about a known offence. This information can be given to the police either orally or in writing. A FIR is necessary for the police to begin their investigations into a crime.

The FIR should mention the date, time and place of the offence, details about the offence, including a description of the events. The FIR should also state the name and address of the complainant.

There is a prescribed form in which the police register an FIR and it is signed by the complainant. The complainant also has a legal right to get a free copy of the FIR from the police.

Question-7

Who is a Prosecutor?

Solution:

'The Prosecutor' is a lawyer representing the state or the people of the state in a criminal trial.

Question-8

Why is the Prosecutor called a Public Prosecutor?

Solution:

The Prosecutor who represents the State is called a Public Prosecutor as a criminal offence is regarded as a public wrong, which has been committed not only against the victim, but also against the society as a whole.

Question-9

What is the role of the judge in the Criminal Justice System?

Solution:

The judge conducts the trial impartially and in an open court. The judge hears all the

witnesses and any other evidence presented by the prosecution and the defence. The judge decides whether the accused person is guilty or innocent on the basis of the evidence presented and in accordance with the law.

If the accused is convicted, then the judge pronounces the sentence. He may send the person to jail or impose a fine or both, depending on what the law prescribes.

Question-10

What are the procedures that have to be followed if the criminal trial has to be a Fair Trial?

Solution:

A copy of the charge sheet and all other evidence has to be given to the accused. The trial has to be held in an open court, in public view and should be in the presence of the accused. The accused has to be given a lawyer to defend himself in case he cannot afford to employ a lawyer.

The Prosecution has to prove beyond doubt the guilt of the accused and the Judge has to pass the judgement only on the basis of the evidence before the court

NCERT Solutions For Class 8 Social and Political life <http://freehomedelivery.net/> Understanding Marginalization

NCERT Solutions For Class 8 Social and Political life <http://freehomedelivery.net/> Understanding Marginalization

Question-1

Write in your own words two or more sentences of what you understand by the word 'marginalisation'.

Solution:

Marginalization is the social process of being confined to a lower social standing. Marginalization involves people being denied their fundamental rights which results in lowering their economic and social status.

Question-2

List two reasons why Adivasis are becoming increasingly marginalised.

Solution:

The development of forests robbed the Adivasis of their natural territory and livelihood and turned them into marginal and powerless communities.

The Adivasis are portrayed negatively as exotic, primitive and backward people and are represented through colourful costumes and headgears. This has led to the marginalization of this community in modern India.

Question-3

Write one reason why you think the Constitution's safeguards to protect minority communities are very important?

Solution:

Safeguards are needed to protect minority communities against the possibility of being culturally dominated by the majority and being marginalized.

Question-4

Re-read the section on Minorities and Marginalisation. What do you understand by the term minority?

Solution:

The term minority is most commonly used to refer to communities that are numerically small in relation to the rest of the population.

The Indian Constitution provides safeguards to religious and linguistic minorities as part of its Fundamental Rights. It ensures that the minorities are not discriminated and that they do not face any disadvantage.

Question-5

You are participating in a debate where you have to provide reasons to support the following statement: 'Muslims are a marginalised community'. Using the data provided in this chapter, list two reasons that you would give.

Solution:

The literacy rate of the Muslim population in India is the lowest. It is only 59%.

43.2% of Hindus have access to electricity while only 30% of Muslims have access to electricity.

The above statistics support the statement that Muslims are a marginalised community in India.

Question-6

Imagine that you are watching the Republic Day parade on TV with a friend and she remarks, "Look at these tribals. They look so exotic. And they seem to be dancing all the time". List three things that you would tell her about the lives of Adivasis in India.

Solution:

Adivasis had a deep knowledge of the forests. They were traditionally hunter-gatherers and nomads and lived by shifting agriculture and also cultivating in one place. This knowledge of forests made the Adivasis indispensable to the Rulers of the various Empires in India during the pre-colonial days.

Adivasis have their own languages which may be as old as Sanskrit. The Adivasi language has influenced the formation of Indian languages, like Bengali.

Question-7

Would you agree with the statement that economic and social marginalisation are interlinked? Why?

Solution:

Yes, economic and social marginalisation is interlinked. When Adivasis were displaced from their lands, they lost much more than a source of income. They lost their traditions and customs – a way of living and being. Destruction in one sphere impacts the other.

Understanding Marginalization NCERT Class 8

Social and Political life Extra Questions

Understanding Marginalization NCERT Class 8 Social and Political life Extra Questions

Question-1

Mention the levels on which marginalization can take place.

Solution:

Marginalization can take place on three levels.

They are.... Individual Community Global .

Question-2

Mention the Names of the communities which experience marginalization in India?

Solution:

The major communities which experience marginalization in India are the Adivasis, Dalits and Muslims.

Question-3

What are the reasons why a community is marginalized, and how does it affect the community?

Solution:

The reasons for a community to be socially marginalized are..... Different language

Different customs

Different religion

Financial status

Education

Economic, social, cultural and political factors work together to make certain groups in society feel marginalised. Marginalized groups are viewed with hostility and deprived of opportunities that are available to other communities. They experience a sense of disadvantage and powerlessness against more powerful and dominant sections of society.

Question-4

Write a brief note on Adivasis.

Solution:

The Adivasis are indigenous peoples and are believed to be the first inhabitants of India. Adivasis have distinct languages, religions and forms of self-government, together with a deep bond to their land and respect for nature. 8 per cent of India's population are Adivasis. There are over 500 different Adivasi groups in India.

Adivasi communities do not have any hierarchy among them. They are totally different from communities organised around principles of the caste system.

The religion of Adivasis is different from Islam, Hinduism or Christianity. The Adivasis worship their ancestral, village or nature spirits.

During the nineteenth century, substantial numbers of Adivasis converted to Christianity, which has emerged as a very important religion in modern Adivasi history.

Adivasis have their own languages which may be as old as Sanskrit. The Adivasi language has influenced the formation of Indian languages, like Bengali.

Question-5

How are Adivasis portrayed today?

Solution:

Today, Adivasis are portrayed as exotic, primitive and backward people. Cultural shows are presented with Adivasis dances. They are represented through colourful costumes and headgears.

Adivasis are blamed for their lack of advancement as they are believed to be resistant to change or new ideas.

This negative portrayal of the Adivasis has led to the marginalization of this community in modern India.

Question-6

What were the hardships faced by the Adivasis?

Solution

The Adivasis were pushed out of the forests of Jharkhand and they had to migrate to other parts of India and the world. The Adivasis experienced hardship and death during the migration. Five lakh Adivasis had perished in these migrations.

When forests were cleared for mining a majority of tribals are displaced. Wide areas of forest land were submerged under water when many dams were built in India after 1947. Due to this many Adivasis were displaced from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Jharkhand.

In the North east, Adivasi lands are war-torn and occupied by the military.

There are 54 national parks and 372 wildlife sanctuaries in India. These Parks cover an area of 1, 09,652 sq km. of forest land. The Adivasis were evicted from these forests.

Question-7

Who headed the Committee set up by the government to look into the social, economic and educational status of the Muslim Community in India?

Solution:

Justice Rajindar Sachar headed the Committee set up by the government to look into the social, economic and educational status of the Muslim Community in India.

Question-8

What was the conclusion reached by the Justice Rajindar Sachar Committee?

Solution:

The committee came to the conclusion that on a range of social, economic and educational indicators the situation of the Muslim community is comparable to that of other marginalised communities like Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Question-9

How can we tackle marginalization?

Solution:

Marginalization is a complex and delicate issue and has to be handled by the Government very carefully. To rectify marginalization a variety of strategies, measures and safeguards have to be undertaken.

It is the duty of every citizen of this country to ensure that the Fundamental Rights of all citizen, whether they belong to the majority community or the minority community is protected. It is only the effort of everyone that will protect the diversity that makes our country unique and promote equality for all.

Question-10

What are the consequences of marginalisation?

Solution:

Marginalisation results in having a low social status and not having equal access to education and other resources enjoyed by the majority communities

Confronting Marginalisation NCERT Class 8

Social and Political life Extra Questions

Confronting Marginalisation NCERT Class 8 Social and Political life Extra Questions

Question-1

What are the ways in which marginalized communities tried to overcome the discriminations they faced?

Solution:

The marginalized communities tried many ways to overcome the discrimination they faced. They are:-

Religious solace
Armed struggle
Self improvement
Education
Economic progress.

Question-2

What did the marginal groups rely on to protect themselves from continued exploitation by other groups?

Solution:

Marginal groups relied on the Constitution of India and the Judiciary System to protect them from continued exploitation by other groups.

Question-3

What are the seven rights stated in the Indian constitution?

Solution:

The seven fundamental rights are:

1. Right to equality
2. Right to freedom
3. Right against exploitation
4. Right to freedom of religion
5. Cultural and educational rights
6. Right to constitutional remedies
7. Right to Life and personal liberty.

Question-4

What is 'untouchability', and who were called 'untouchables'?

Solution:

Untouchability is the individual discrimination against certain classes of persons. Dalits are sometimes called Untouchables. Untouchables are regarded as 'low caste' and have been marginalized for centuries.

Question-5

Mention 4 untouchable practices.

Solution:

Some untouchable practices are :-

Segregation in seating and food arrangements in village functions and festivals
Prohibited from entering into village temples

Separate burial grounds
No access to village's wells and ponds.

Question-6

What is the 'Reservation Policy'?

Solution:

Reservation Policy confirms that a percentage of seats are reserved in the public sector units, union and state civil services, union and state government departments and in all public and private educational institutions, except in the religious/ linguistic minority educational institutions, for the socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or the Scheduled Castes and Tribes who were inadequately represented in these services and institutions.

Question-7

What is the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006?

Solution:

The central government passed the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. The Act states that the injustice meted out to the Adivasis must be undone. This Act recognises their right to their homestead, cultivable and grazing land and to non-timber forest produce. It points out that the rights of forest dwellers include conservation of forests and bio-diversity.

Question-8

Mention a few crimes listed in the Prevention of Atrocities Act 1989.

Solution:

The Prevention of Atrocities Act 1989 lists several levels of crimes. Some of them are

I. Modes of humiliation

(i) Force a member of a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe to ; ; drink or eat any inedible or obnoxious substance

(ii) Forcibly removes clothes from the person of a member of a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe or parades him or her naked or with painted face or body or commits any similar act which is derogatory to human dignity

II. Actions that deprive Dalits and Adivasis of their possessions

(i) wrongfully occupies or cultivates any land owned by, or allotted to, ... a member of a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe or gets the land allotted to him transferred

III. Crimes against Dalit and tribal women

(i) Assaults or uses force on any woman belonging to a Scheduled ; ; Caste or a Scheduled Tribe with intent to dishonour her.

Why was the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 framed?

Solution:

The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, was framed in response to demands made by Dalits and others groups.

They wanted the government to stop the ill treatment and humiliation Dalits and tribal groups face everyday.

Question-10

How did the Dalits assert themselves?

Solution:

The Dalits asserted themselves and sort the help of law to fight discrimination. In the late 1970s and 1980s in parts of South India the Dalits asserted themselves by refusing to perform their so-called caste duties and insisted on being treated equally. Adivasi people successfully organised themselves and demanded equal rights, and for their land and resources to be returned to them. Dalit groups demanded new laws that would list the various sorts of violence against Dalits and prescribe stringent punishment for those who indulge in them.

NCERT Solutions For Class 8 Social and Political life <http://freehomedelivery.net/> Public Facilities

NCERT Solutions For Class 8 Social and Political life <http://freehomedelivery.net/> Public Facilities

Question-1

Why do you think there are so few cases of private water supply in the world?

Solution:

Private companies work for a profit. Providing public facilities like water supply is not a profitable business. More over the capital needed to provide water supply to the entire population is very high which very few private companies will be able to bear.

Question-2

Do you think water in Chennai is available and affordable by all? Discuss.

Solution:

Water is not equally available to all citizens in Chennai. Certain areas like Anna Nagar get copious water while areas like Saidapet receive very little water. Municipal supply meets only about half the needs of the people of the city, on an average. Areas that are close to the storage points get more water whereas colonies further away receive less water. The burden of shortfalls in water supply falls mostly on the poor.

The middle class, when faced with water shortages, are able to cope through a variety of private means such as digging bore wells, buying water from tankers and using bottled water for drinking. The wealthy have safe drinking water, whereas the poor are again left out. In reality, universal access to 'sufficient and safe' water, in Chennai, is still a dream.

Question-3

How is the sale of water by farmers to water dealers in Chennai affecting the local people? Do you think local people can object to such exploitation of ground water? Can the government do anything in this regard?

Solution:

Many private companies are providing water to cities due to shortage of water supply by the government organization. These companies buy water from places around the city. In Chennai, water is taken from nearby towns like Mamandur, Palur, Karungizhi and from villages to the north of the city using a fleet of over 13,000 water tankers. Every month the water dealers pay farmers an advance for the rights to exploit water sources

on their land. The water that is taken away from the farms is creating a deficit for irrigation and for drinking water for the villagers. There is also a drastic drop in ground water levels in these areas.

The local people have a right to object to this exploitation and the government has the power to stop this.

Question-4

Why are most of the private hospitals and private schools located in major cities and not in towns or rural areas?

Solution:

Private hospital and private schools are located only in major cities as the services they offer are very costly and only the affluent city dweller will be able to afford it.

Question-5

Do you think the distribution of public facilities in our country is adequate and fair? Give an example of your own to explain.

Solution:

The distribution of public facilities in our country is neither adequate nor fair. For example, the Delhiites avail all public facilities like water, healthcare and sanitation, electricity, public transport, schools and colleges. But if we go few kilometers away, for example, Mathura or Aligarh people face grave crises of public facilities. Electricity cut-off, water shortages are normal routine of life. Public transport is also not properly developed.

Question-6

Private educational institutions – schools, colleges, universities, technical and vocational training institutes are coming up in our country in a big way. On the other hand, educational institutes run by the government are becoming relatively less important. What do you think would be the impact of this? Discuss.

Solution:

Private educational institutions levy very high fees, which only affluent people can afford. So quality education will be the right of only the rich. If educational institutions run by the government are not up to the mark, the weaker sections of the society are deprived of quality education.

The end result of this disparity will be that only the rich will get good education while the poor will be deprived of it.

Public Facilities NCERT Class 8 Social and Political life Extra Questions

Public Facilities NCERT Class 8 Social and Political life Extra Questions

Question-1

Mention some public facilities that are provided by the government.

Solution:

Public facilities provided by the government are:- Health care

Water

Sanitation

Transport

Education
Electricity
Roads

Question-2

Which Article in the Indian Constitution recognises the 'right to water'?

Solution:

The Constitution of India recognises the right to water as being a part of the Right to Life under Article 21.

Question-3

What is Universal Access to water?

Solution:

Every person, rich or poor, has the right to sufficient amount of water to meet their daily needs, at a price they can afford. This is known as Universal Access to water.

Question-4

What are the characteristics of Public facilities?

Solution:

The benefits of public facility can be shared by many people. Government schools enable many children to get educated. The supply of electricity is essential for all households. Farmers can run pump sets to irrigate their fields; people open small workshops that run on electricity.

Public transport help people commute at an affordable price. Public parks and libraries provide recreation for the citizens. Health care and sanitation are essential for a healthy life.

Question-5

Mention some public facilities that only the government can provide and maintain.

Solution:

Roads
Railways
Sanitation
Water supply
Electricity

Question-6

Mention a few public facilities that are provided by private companies.

Solution:

Schools and colleges
Hospitals
Transportation

The above mentioned facilities are provided by the government and private companies. We can find many private educational institutions in cities. Long distance buses are operated by private companies; similarly there are many Private Hospitals that provide health care for the citizens.

Question-7

How does the government raise fund to provide public facilities?

Solution:

The main source of income for the government is through the tax it collects from the citizens.

Some of the types of taxes the government collects are.....

Income Tax
Property Tax
Sales Tax
Excise Duty
Water Tax
Vehicle Tax

With the revenue from the tax collected, the government provides the public facilities mentioned earlier.

Question-8

What is a Government Budget?

Solution:

The government plans its expenditure, making a clear statement on the amount of money it is going to spend on each facility.

This statement is called the 'Government Budget' and is presented in the Parliament and Legislature every year in the month February / March.

Question-9

What is sanitation?

Solution:

Sanitation is measures taken up by the government to protect public health through proper solid waste disposal, sewage disposal, and cleanliness during food processing and preparation.

Question-10

Write a short note on Sulabh International.

Solution:

Sulabh International is an Indian based social service organization which works to promote human rights, environmental sanitation, non-conventional sources of energy, waste management and social reforms through education. Sulabh was founded by Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak in 1970 and has 50,000 volunteers.

The organization constructs and maintains pay-&-use public toilets, popularly known as Sulabh Complexes with bath, laundry and urinal facilities being used by about ten million people every day.

There are more than 7,500 public toilet blocks and 1.2 million private toilets. The majority of the users of Sulabh facilities are from the poor working class.

NCERT Solutions For Class 8 Social and Political life <http://freehomedelivery.net/> Law and Social,Justice

NCERT Solutions For Class 8 Social and Political life
<http://freehomedelivery.net/> Law and Social,Justice

Question-1

What are the advantages to foreign companies in setting up production in India?

Solution:

India provides cheap labour compared to some other countries. Wages paid to workers

in foreign countries are much higher than in India. For lower pay, the foreign companies can get longer hours of work. Additional expenses such as housing facilities for workers are also fewer in India. Thus, foreign companies can save costs and earn higher profits.

Question-2

Do you think the victims of the Bhopal gas tragedy got justice? Discuss.

Solution:

The victims of the Bhopal gas tragedy did not get justice. The disaster was caused due to gross neglect of safety measures by the management of the factory.

The government of India represented the people to legally claim compensation for the affected people. The government demanded \$ 3 billion but had to accept a meagre \$ 470 million from the Company.

Today, 24 years after the disaster, people of Bhopal are still fighting for justice.

Question-3

What do we mean when we speak of law enforcement? Who is responsible for enforcement? Why is enforcement so important?

Solution:

Law enforcement means to compel obedience to a law. Laws passed by the government have to be enforced otherwise the benefit of the laws will not reach the citizens. It is the duty of the government to enforce the laws.

By enforcing and upholding these laws, the government can control the activities of individuals or private companies so as to ensure social justice.

Enforcement is even more important when the law seeks to protect the weak from the strong.

Question-4

How can laws ensure that markets work in a manner that is fair? Give two examples to support your answer.

Solution:

The government has passed laws that ensure that essential products such as food grains, sugar and kerosene are not highly priced. It is necessary that such restrictions are placed on people who market these products; otherwise the poor will not be able to afford these goods.

The government has also passed the Consumers' Protection Act which ensures that the consumers are not cheated by the sale of sub-standard products.

'Hallmark' certification helps the consumer to buy standard gold ornaments and

'Agmark' certification ensures that the food products on sale are of good quality.

Question-5

Write a paragraph on the various roles of the government that you have read about in this unit.

Solution:

The common man is exploited in most societies. When this happens it is the duty of the government to ensure that social justice prevails and all the citizens can establish their rights.

The government has passed many laws to guarantee that workers are not exploited by unscrupulous employers. Payment of Wages Act, 1936; Minimum Wages Act, 1948; Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 are some of the Acts that ensure that workers are not underpaid and exploited.

The government has passed the Factories Act, 1948. This Act regulates health, safety, welfare and other working conditions of workers in factories. It is enforced by the State Governments through their factory inspectorates.

The Consumer Protection Act ensures that the consumer is not put to risk by the poor quality of products such as electrical appliances, food and medicines. The Bureau of Indian Standards is a government organization that oversees the quality of products sold.

The government has also passed laws that ensure that essential products such as food grains, sugar and kerosene are not highly priced.

The Environment (protection) Act, 1986, was passed to protect the environment and avert health hazards to human beings.

Prohibition of Employment of Young Children protects children from being exploited. No child who has not completed his fourteenth year shall be required or allowed to work in any factory

The Trade Unions Act, 1926 provides for registration of trade unions with a view to render lawful organisation of labour to enable collective bargaining.

Question-6

How was environment treated earlier? What has been the change in perception?

Solution:

In 1984, there were very few laws to protect the environment in India. These few laws were not enforced strictly by the government. Industries discharged their waste into water bodies and made it unfit for consumption. The air was polluted with smoke that belled from the factories.

This pollution proved to be a health hazard for the people. The Bhopal disaster brought the issue of environmental pollution into focus.

The existing laws did not protect the common man from industrial disasters.

Environmental activists insisted on new laws which will protect all the citizens from hazardous pollution of the environment. In response to the demand by the activists and the public, the government introduced new laws on the environmental safety.

According to the new laws imposed by the government the polluter will be held accountable for the damage done to the environment.

The Right to Life is a Fundamental Right under Article 21 of the Constitution and it includes the right to the enjoyment of pollution-free water and air for full enjoyment of life.

Question-7

What do you think the famous cartoonist R.K. Laxman is trying to convey in this cartoon? How does it relate to the 2006 law that you read about on page 125?

Solution:

The cartoon shows a young under privileged boy carrying the books of a well-to-do boy who is off to school. This reveals that the boy who is less than 14 years of age has been employed by the woman seen in the picture.

The cartoon emphasises that young children are being exploited at work places. They are made to work for long hours for very little wages. These children are being denied basic education which is very essential for them.

This is a violation of the Child Labour Prevention Act that was passed by the government in 2006. No child who has not completed his fourteenth year shall be

required or allowed to work in any factory. The government has passed certain laws that will protect these children from being exploited.

Law and Social,Justice NCERT Class 8 Social and Political life Extra Questions

Law and Social,Justice NCERT Class 8 Social and Political life Extra Questions

Question-1

How do government certifications like the ISI certification help the consumer?

Solution:

When a product has the ISI mark the consumer can be certain that the product is of good quality and it is safe. Hall mark certification assures the consumer of the purity of gold they buy.

ISO certification assures the consumer that a company has a good Quality Management System.

Consumers might be put to risk by the poor quality of products such as electrical appliances, food, medicines if the government had not set up the Bureau of Indian Standards.

Question-2

How can the government ensure social justice?

Solution:

Through making, enforcing and upholding certain laws, the government can control the activities of individuals or private companies so as to ensure social justice.

Question-3

Write a brief note on the Bhopal gas tragedy.

Solution:

Union Carbide was an American Company which had a factory in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India, which produced pesticides. At midnight on 2nd December, 1984, methyl-isocyanides – a highly poisonous gas – started leaking from the factory plant.

Within three days, more than 8,000 people were dead. Hundreds of thousands were maimed. Most of those exposed to the poison gas came from poor, working-class families.

There are nearly 50,000 people today who are too sick to work. Among those who survived, many developed severe respiratory disorders, eye problems and other disorders. Children developed peculiar abnormalities.

The Bhopal disaster is frequently cited as the world's worst industrial disaster.

Question-4

What were the reasons for the Bhopal tragedy?

Solution:

The Union Carbide tank's alarms had not worked for 4 years. The steam boiler, intended to clean the pipes, was out of action and water sprays designed to "knock down" gas leaks were poorly designed. No action plans had been established to cope with incidents of this magnitude. The local authorities were not informed of the quantities or dangers of chemicals used and manufactured at the factory. These were

the reasons for the Bhopal tragedy.

Question-5

What are the reasons for the sharp differences in safety standards between the 2 Union carbide factories in the USA and India?

Solution:

India has a high rate of unemployment and due to this workers are willing to work in unsafe conditions. One worker can easily replace another due to over population. Ignorance and the vulnerability of Indian workers is also another reason why the safety standards in the Indian factory were very much lower than the factory in USA.

Question-6

In what way was the Government responsible for the Bhopal tragedy?

Solution:

Safety laws were lax in India and these weak safety laws were not enforced. Government officials refused to recognise the plant as hazardous and allowed it to come up in a populated locality. Though there was some objection regarding the safety violation, the government allowed the factory to start production as it was providing jobs for the local people.

The government did not take the initiative to ask the Union Carbide Company to shift to cleaner technology or safer procedures. Government inspectors continued to approve the procedures in the plant, even when there were repeated incidents of poisonous gas leaks. So the government has to bear certain responsibility for the tragedy.