

Chapter 1- How, When and Where

Page No: 8

Let's Recall

1. State whether true or false:

a) James Mill divided Indian History into three periods- Hindu, Muslim, and Christian. ►
False

b) Official documents help us understand what the people of the country think. ► False

c) The British thought surveys were important for effective administration.
► True

Let's Discuss

2. What is the problem with the periodisation of Indian History that James Mill offers?

Answer

James Mill divided his book into three period, namely: Hindu Muslims and British. According to his prejudiced version of Indian history, the British rule represents all the forces of progress and civilisation, while the period before British rule represents darkness, ignorance, despotism, religious intolerance, caste taboos, superstitious practises, etc.

The view of Mill has several problems which is not acceptable due to reasons:

→ A variety of faiths, apart from Hinduism and Islam, existed in the periods categorised as Hindu and Muslim by Mill.

→ All rulers in ancient India did not share the same faith.

→ It is this country from where two other religions like- Buddhism and Jainism developed and spread to other parts of the world while Hindu religion also existed.

3. Why did the British preserve official documents?

Answer

The British preserved the important official documents because these served as records of what the officials thought, what they were interested in and what they wished for. According to the British, writing

can be utilized for reference at a much later period whenever required for studying or debating. These can also serve as an information or proof of any decision or action taken earlier on some matter.

4. How will the information historians get from old newspapers be different from that found in police reports?

Answer

Information is essential for writing history of a time which can be gathered from various sources. Apart from official documents in the archives, historians gather information also from old newspapers, diaries of people, accounts of pilgrims, autobiographies of important personalities and booklets etc. Information found in newspapers is varied, based on incidents that have happened across the country whereas; the police reports are limited and localized. Because of this fact sometimes the information historians get from police reports is not as useful as it is from old newspapers. However for any incidence the newspaper may not quote all the reasons behind this and biased as per the thinking of reporter while in police records we could find some evidences for an incident and unbiased reports.

Ch 1 The Indian Constitution

Page No: 16

Exercises

1. Why does a democratic country need a Constitution?

Answer

A democratic country need a Constitution because:

- It lays out the important guidelines that govern decision making within the various societies of the country.
- It lays down the ideals that form the basis of the kind of country that its citizens aspire to live in.
- It serves as asset of rules and principles as the basis by which the country has to be governed.
- It provides rules to safeguard the interests of minorities and prevent any kind of domination by the majority on minorities.
- It lays down rules that guard against the misuse of power by any politician leader.
- It also provides rights to its citizens and protects their freedom.

2. 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 interim Constitution of Nepal.

1990 Constitution of Nepal Part 7: Executive	2007 Interim Constitution Part 5: 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 37: Executive Power: the executive power of Nepal shall be vested in the council of Ministers.

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

Answer

The difference in who exercises "Executive Power" in the given two Constitutions of Nepal is that in the 1990 Constitution, this power was vested in the King and his Council of Ministers, while in the 2007 Interim Constitution of Nepal, "Executive Power" changed hands to being vested only in the Council of Ministers, thereby making Nepal a democracy from being a monarchy.

Nepal needs a new Constitution today because it is no longer a monarchy. The older Constitution vested power in the King, but when the country is now a democracy, a new Constitution is needed to reflect the "democratic" ideals of Nepal that the peoples' movement desired and fought for. In order to achieve this, all its constitutive rules must be changed.

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

Answer

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

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.

Answer

(a) Female teachers are in minority. The female teachers must be allowed space to voice their opinion so that their efforts at teaching are not hindered by their minority status.

(b) Buddhists are in minority. Every individual has the right to follow the religion of his/her choice. People of other faith must respect the religion other than their own.

(c) Non-vegetarians are in minority. Food choice is personal wish so he/she should have the freedom to eat what he/she wants.

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

5. 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 Feature	Significance
Federalism Separation of Powers Fundamental Rights Parliamentary Form of Government	

Answer

Key features

1. Federalism: It ensures national unity and at the same time allows individual progress. A federal government allows the Centre to hold supreme power but its Constituent States have some power as well.
2. Separation of Powers: This serves two purposes: firstly, tyrannical use of power is avoided since it does not vest power in any single authority. Secondly, the 3 organs of power also work as a check on each other, thereby maintaining a good balance.
3. Fundamental Rights: These are important because they conform to a humane society. They also protect citizens against arbitrary and absolute use of power by the State.
4. Parliamentary Form of Government: It upholds universal adult franchise. This entails the fact that the people of a country play a direct role in electing their representatives to run the state as well as the nation.

Ch 1 Resources

Page No: 6

Exercises

1. Answer the following questions.

(i) Why are resources distributed unequally over the Earth?

Answer

The distribution of resources depends upon a number of physical factors like terrain, climate and altitude. Since these factors differ so much over the Earth, the distribution of resources is unequal.

(ii) What is resource conservation?

Answer

Using resources carefully and giving them time to get renewed is called resource conservation.

(iii) Why are human resources important?

Answer

People are human resources and human resources are important because people can make the best uses of nature to create more resources by applying knowledge, skill and technology.

(iv) What is sustainable development?

Answer

Balancing the need to use resources and also conserve them for the future is called sustainable development. In other words, carefully utilizing resources so that besides meeting the present requirements it also takes care of the need of future generations is what is known as sustainable development.

2. Tick the correct answer.

(i) Which one of the following does not make a substance a resource? (a) Utility
(b) Value (c) Quantity

▶ (c) Quantity

(ii) Which one of the following is a human-made resource?

(a) Medicines to treat cancer

(b) Spring water (c) Tropical forests

▶ (a) Medicines to treat cancer

(iii) Biotic resources are

(a) Derived from living things

(b) Made by human beings

(c) Derived from non-living things

▶ (a) Derived from living things

3. Differentiate between the following.

(a) Potential and actual resources (b) Ubiquitous and localised resources

Answer

Potential resource	Actual resource
A resource whose entire quantity is not known	A resource whose quantity is known

Not being used at present, but could be used in the future	Being used in the present
The present level of technology is not advanced enough to utilise it	The present level of technology is advanced enough to utilise it
Example: The uranium found in Ladakh, which could be used in the future	Example: The dark soils of the Deccan plateau in Maharashtra

Ubiquitous resource	Localised resource
A resource which is found everywhere	A resource which is found only in certain places
Example: The air we breathe	Example: Copper