



Distance Learning Programme

UPSC Prelims

CSAT Reading Comprehension





drishti

CSAT READING COMPREHENSION

641, First Floor, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, New Delhi-110009

Contact No.: 011-47532596, 8448485520

Web : www.drishtiiias.com

E-mail : dlpsupport@groupdrishti.com

CONTENTS

1. Political	1-13
2. Socio-Economic & Cultural	14-37
3. Philosophical	38-46
4. Economy	47-64
5. International Affairs	65-79
6. Environment & Ecology	80-98
7. Science & Technology	99-104
8. Miscellaneous	105-106
Previous Years' UPSC Questions (Solved)	107-192
❖ 2018	107-116
❖ 2017	117-128
❖ 2016	129-139
❖ 2015	140-151
❖ 2014	152-161
❖ 2013	162-170
❖ 2012	171-182
❖ 2011	183-192

1

CHAPTER

POLITICAL

Instructions: Read the following passages carefully and answer the questions that follow.

PASSAGE – 1

An early debate in the empirical study of political democracy concerned the measurement of democracy. Initial work employed dichotomous indicators and incorporated stability into political democracy measures. Evidence accumulated showing that this approach could adversely affect analyses, particularly in the study of income inequality. At an intuitive level, it is appealing to divide the world into democracies and non democracies. And the idea that the persistence of democratic institutions should be included in any measure appears attractive. But the procedures have shortcomings.

Dichotomizing democracy lumps together countries with very different degrees of democracy and blurs distinctions between borderline cases. For example, are democratic practices entirely absent from Mexican politics? Does the return of elections to Argentina mean that it is a full-fledged democracy? Does the suppression of the Tamil separatist movement in Sri Lanka assign that country to the nondemocratic rank? The difficulty in answering these questions reflects the inherently continuous nature of the concept of political democracy. Further, labeling some countries as democratic invites insensitivity to persisting political inequalities in even these states, because it implies that they are fully democratic, democracy is specified in advance as an all-or-nothing matter.

The other pivotal measurement issue centers on the fusion of stability and democracy. This fusion in empirical

measures makes it impossible to interpret observed associations of "democratic stability" with other variables, because it is never clear whether degree of stability or degree of democracy is the operative factor at work. For example, countries that developed earlier are more democratic than late developers, net of their level of industrialization. This hypothesis is supported if one uses stable democracy index as the measure of democracy, but not if one uses a measure that excludes the stability component.

1. According to the passage, why there are certain limitations to dichotomize democracy?

1. Since, political democracy is a dynamic process.
2. Since, political democracy is an insensitive process.
3. Since, notion of political democracy varies from one country to another.

Select the correct option from the codes given below:

- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) All 1, 2 and 3
2. Which of the following is correct regarding fusion of stability and democracy?
 - (a) There can be multiple democracy index as the measure of democracy.
 - (b) Industrialized nations are ought to be more democratic and thus more stable.
 - (c) Developed countries possess greater stability factors.
 - (d) Synchronizing democracy and stability is a vague process.

PASSAGE – 2

The new path the Constitution set for itself sought to reject the colonial conception

of a divided India and replace it with a new vision for social reconstruction based on the removal of disabilities accruing from caste society. Social reconstruction on the basis of caste disability would necessarily entail the privileging and perhaps even entrenching caste identity in fashioning the new constitutional problem. Constitution's emphasis on social disability which is an undeniable necessity in a country like India. On the contrary it is the manner in which caste and identity has been incorporated into the constitutional framework of independent India that is the major concern. It is argued that the Constitution's treatment of the Indian social problem suffers from exactly the same kind of problem which the nationalists used to attack the colonial conception of a divided India. That is, in establishing the minority problem the colonial state represented India in a manner that did not resonate with Indian social experience.

To say that the constitutional resolution of the problem of caste disability was unable to capture the Indian social problem must be distinguished from the project of affirmative action even if carried on the basis of caste. Affirmative action projects designed for disadvantaged castes might be an entirely defensible form of addressing the problem of compensating inter-generational discrimination and social backwardness. However, just like the nationalists attacked the colonial state of literally conjuring up a problem to rule by division, the resolution of backwardness in the constitution must also be able to stand up to the charge that it has formulated the problem of caste society in a manner that resonates with the problem of caste as it is socially experienced.

3. In the passage, why the author is putting certain doubts on social reconstruction ability of independent India's constitution?

1. Long existed caste identity in Indian Society may further be more prevalent as constitution tries to

address the caste disability in India.

2. Social reconstruction by India's constitution, like colonial conception can divide India.
3. Social reconstruction by India's constitution, like colonial conception can only address social problems of few sections of the society.

Select the correct option from the codes given below:

- (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) All 1, 2 and 3

4. In the above question, doubts raised by the author on social reconstruction ability of Indian constitution can be removed, if-

- (a) Social reconstruction should not be on the basis of caste disability.
- (b) Affirmative action is not carried on the basis of caste.
- (c) Proper mechanism is formulated to include those caste and identity in constitution that deserve to get rid of social disability.
- (d) Constitution replace or reject the colonial conception of a divided India.

5. Which of the following can be said to be true about colonial conception of a divided India?

1. Colonial idea to solve the problem of minorities was against India's social identity.
2. Colonial regime created a wrong perception of addressing minorities problem in order to rule by division.

Select the correct option from the codes given below:

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2.
(d) Neither 1 nor 2



6. According to the passage, how can constitution solve the Indian social problem of caste disability?

- (a) If project of affirmative action is carried on the basis of caste.
- (b) If social reconstruction values are firmly inculcate in the constitution.
- (c) If caste identity is neglected by the constitution.
- (d) If constitution solves the caste society problem as per Indian social experience.

PASSAGE – 3

Theoretically, though, the Judiciary is expected to adjudicate or evaluate the policies promulgated by the Legislative or Executive wing of the government, it, equally importantly, checks excesses committed by the other two branches and enforces the rights of the people in case of default or distortion by the Legislature and Executive in the discharge of duties, using the power of judicial review. The Judiciary is looked upon today, perhaps more than ever before, for removal of the maladies in public life. One reason may be the general disenchantment of people for the other limbs of government. While the Legislature and Executive in a parliamentary form of government are exposed to the pulls and pressures of the electoral forces, the judiciary well performs the entrusted task of holding the scales of justice even and aloft.

The transition from the colonial administration to the administration of a welfare state has generated onerous responsibilities for the Administration for securing and promoting the legitimate interests of the people. Today, the government has to undertake multifarious political, social and economic activities in discharge of its constitutional responsibilities and in the process exercise of a large measure of discretionary powers becomes inevitable. The increase of administrative power is fraught with the danger of its abuse. Failure to use, as well as abuse,

of its powers by the Administration is sure to disturb the heartbeat of social aspiration, thereby, necessitating appropriate correctional therapy. The judiciary operates as a mechanism of this correction and judicial activism serves as potent pacemaker to correct, as far as possible, malfunctioning in violation of the constitutional mandates and to stimulate the State organs to function in the right direction. Balanced judicial activism is, therefore, indispensable for imparting the needed vitality to the rule of law in a welfare state.

7. Today, why judiciary is expected to play other vital roles apart from providing justice?

- (a) Legislature and Executive cannot alone discharge their constitutional duties.
- (b) There is always a possibility of abuse of power by legislature and Executive.
- (c) Pressure applied by the electoral forces alone cannot check the excesses committed by the Legislature and Executive.
- (d) Administration of a welfare state involves a lot of duties to be performed and it cannot be done by Legislature and Executive only.

8. Which of the following is correct regarding Judicial Activism?

1. It acts as a pacemaker.
2. It is imperative to ensure the rule of a law.
3. It acts as a corrective measure against abuse of power by the state Machinery.
4. It acts against Executive and Legislature.

Select the correct option from the codes given below:

- (a) 2 and 3 only
- (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1 and 4 only
- (d) All 1, 2, 3 and 4

9. According to the passage, what are the challenges for administration of a welfare state?
- Political, Social and Economic activities.
 - Increase in demand for the rights of the people.
 - Balance between usage of administrative power and fulfilling the social demands of the people.
 - To synchronize the discretionary powers of Legislature, Executive and the Judiciary.
10. According to the passage, which of the following can act as an example of Judiciary removing the maladies in public life?
- A State institution ordered by Judiciary to properly carry out the development programme.
 - Judiciary taking a suo-motu action to ensure the constitutional rights of certain section of people.
- Select the correct option from the codes given below:
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2.
 - Neither 1 nor 2

PASSAGE – 4

Law is found in all modern societies, and is usually regarded as the bedrock of civilized existence. But what distinguishes law from other social rules, and in what sense does law operate at an international or even global level? Is there such a thing as 'international law'? In the case of domestic law, it is relatively easy to identify a series of distinguishing characteristics. First, law is made by the government and so applies throughout society. Not only does this mean that law reflects the will of the state and therefore takes precedence over all other norms and social rules, but it also gives domestic law universal jurisdiction within a

particular political society. Second, law is compulsory; citizens are not allowed to choose which laws to obey and which to ignore, because law is backed up by a system of coercion and punishment. Law thus requires the existence of a legal system, a set of norms and institutions through which legal rules are created, interpreted and enforced. Third, law has a 'public' quality in that it consists of codified, published and recognized rules. This is, in part, achieved by enacting law through a formal, and usually public, legislative process. Moreover, punishments handed down for law-breaking are predictable and can be anticipated, whereas arbitrary arrest or imprisonment has a random and dictatorial character. Fourth, law is usually recognized as binding on those to whom it applies, even if particular laws may be regarded as unjust or unfair. Law is therefore more than simply a set of enforceable commands; it also embodies moral claims, implying that legal rules should be obeyed.

11. With reference to the passage, how law can be distinguished from social rules?
- Laws of one country apply to every citizen whereas social rules vary from one society to another.
 - Laws are enforceable upon the society whereas social rules are not enforceable.
 - Laws are acceptable to the political society whereas social rules are not.
 - Laws work according to the proper legal system whereas social rules do not require any system.
12. If a law is proposed by the state, then which of the following condition is necessary to make that law attain legitimacy?
- Assent of public
 - Legal standing
 - Universal jurisdiction
 - Just character

28. Which of the following can be a logical explanation of social contract theory?
1. It is a pathway for individual morality.
 2. It talks about the authority of the state over the individual in a society.
 3. It searches for the answer of an individual's moral obligations and role play of state's rules and regulations.
- Select the correct option from the codes given below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) All 1, 2 and 3
29. Hobbes, Locke, Hume and Rousseau would all agree upon–
- (a) Interference of state on individual freedom.
 - (b) Agreement between state and society for social contract.
 - (c) They were not in an agreement as each had a different take on social contract.
 - (d) Questioning requirement of a social contract for an individual's moral obligations.
30. Through out the passage, the author is trying to search the answer of which of the following questions?
- (a) Social contract whether required or not in modern times?
 - (b) Individual's freedom and government's rules and regulations.
 - (c) Whether relation between individuals can be moved by any enforced rules or not?
 - (d) How can an individual respect each other through moral obligations?
31. Which of the following issue can be considered as the biggest differentiator between those who approved social contract and those who do not?
1. Some believe social contract derives individual's morality, while others believe morality stands on its own.
 2. Some believe social contract is not required to improvise one's moral duties, while others believe that social contract can uphold individual freedom in the society.
- Select the correct option from the codes given below:
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2. (d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWERS

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (c) | 2. (d) | 3. (b) | 4. (c) | 5. (c) | 6. (d) | 7. (b) | 8. (a) | 9. (c) | 10. (c) |
| 11. (a) | 12. (d) | 13. (b) | 14. (a) | 15. (c) | 16. (a) | 17. (a) | 18. (d) | 19. (c) | 20. (b) |
| 21. (c) | 22. (c) | 23. (d) | 24. (d) | 25. (a) | 26. (a) | 27. (b) | 28. (b) | 29. (d) | 30. (c) |
| 31. (c) | | | | | | | | | |

Explanation

1. In second paragraph of the passage it is written that there is a continuous nature of the concept of political democracy and author is also giving the sense that it is difficult to compare political democracy standard of different countries. Thus, 1 and 3 are correct. Passage is showing us that dichotomy of political democracy is a difficult process not an insensitive one. Thus, 2 cannot be correct. Hence, (c) is the correct answer.
2. Although there can be so many stability index of democracy but it will not answer the relation between or process of fusion between stability and democracy. Thus, (a) is incorrect. As in last paragraph it is written that it is impossible to interpret "democratic stability" with other variables. Therefore, there cannot be any co-relation between developed or industrialized country with democratic stability. Hence, (d) is the correct answer.
3. In first paragraph, it is written that constitution's emphasis on social disability is an undeniable necessity but the problem is related to the manner of recognition of those social disability. 2 is incorrect as it says that constitution will divide India. 1 is correct as in the passage it is written that caste identity may further get entrench by addressing social disability. 3 is correct as colonial regime created a wrong perception of solving minorities problem. Hence, (b) is the correct option.
4. Author's doubt is related to the manner in which caste and identity got inducted in constitution in the name of social reconstruction. Author also consolidated his view by comparing it with colonial conception treatment of minorities. Thus, if a holistic methodology is developed to address the social disability in a way that meets the aspirations of social reconstruction values of constitution would remove the doubts of author. Hence, (c) is the correct option.
5. Towards the end of first paragraph it is written that colonial conception was to divide India but it did not resonate with Indian social experience or colonial idea of handling minorities problem was against Indian social experience and as a result nationalist disapproved it. Thus, both 1 and 2 are correct. Hence, (c) is the correct option.
6. Towards the end of second paragraph of the passage, it is written that constitution should stand up to the problem of caste society but in a manner that resonates with social experience. Hence, (d) is the correct option.
7. Towards the end of last paragraph it is written that judicial activism is necessary for the rule of law in welfare state it does not mean that judiciary itself will look after administration of welfare state. Thus, (d) is incorrect. Similarly, (a) is incorrect as passage is nowhere mentioning that legislature and executive are unable to fulfill their constitutional duties and they need a help of judiciary. Legislature and executive are subtitled to electoral forces pressure but that does not mean that these pressures are checking excesses by legislature and executive. Thus, (c) ruled out. Hence, (b) is the correct option.
8. Pacemaker used as a symbol but not to define the judiciary. Thus 1 is not correct. Judiciary checks the excesses by legislature and executive, it cannot be inferred that judiciary is against it. Thus 4 is also incorrect. Hence, (a) is the correct option.

9. In the second paragraph, it is written that administration should meet the demand of the people and if any abuse happened it should be checked properly by judiciary. Hence, (c) is the best option.
10. Judiciary checks the excesses, committed by legislature and executive and enforces the rights of the people and as written in the second paragraph ending that judiciary stimulate the state organs to function in the right direction. Thus, judiciary can be proactive towards people's right and it can order state institutions as well. Hence, (c) is the correct option.
11. Since, Law is made by the government thus it applies throughout the society. Passage is nowhere mentioning that social rules do not require any system. Thus, (d) is incorrect. Similarly, Nowhere from the passage we can infer that social rules are not acceptable to the political society or they are not enforceable. Hence, (a) is the correct option.
12. According to passage, Law in any society can have legitimacy if it is made by the government, if it is made compulsory, it should have a codified and recognized rules, it should have a binding character that may be just or unjust. Thus, except 2, all are incorrect. Hence, (d) is the correct option.
13. With reference to passage, 'Public' quality of law consists of codified, published and recognized rules and punishments handed down for law breaking are predictable and anticipated. Hence, (b) is the correct option.
14. Any law can have legitimacy if it is made by the government and it should have precedence over all norms including social norms. Thus 1 and 2 are correct and 3 is incorrect. Hence, (a) is the correct option.
15. In first para it is written that democratic can run to its utmost potential when there is a wide participation which is not possible without getting informed. Hence, (c) is the best option.
16. As per second paragraph India media disregarded their obligation for social responsibility and post liberalisation transnational media corporations pose new challenges for India media. Thus, 1 and 2 are correct. 3 is incorrect as media is not supposed to supervise government functions. Hence, (a) is the correct option.
17. In first paragraph it is written that democracy and democratic system can reach its true potential when there is a wide participation of general mass. Thus, (a) is correct. Democratic system is not supposed to talk about media infact it's vice-versa. Thus, (b) is incorrect, and option (c) is more idealistic. Hence, (a) is the correct option.
18. First paragraph does talk about Constitutional government as a set of rules or 'basic laws' that establish the functions of government and define the relationship between state and individual. Thus, all 1, 2 and 3 are correct. Hence, (d) is the correct option.
19. Roots of constitutionalism can be traced back to 18th century enlightenment which eventually laid the foundation of constitutional government. It also organize the public life for assessing the sustainability of a political system. Hence, (c) is the correct option.
20. In the passage it is given that a military build up by one nation is interpreted by other states as aggressive leading to military build up by other and thus makes a dilemma of international politics. 1 and 2 are correct. Military security is definitely a step to safe from international threats. 3 is incorrect. Hence, (b) is the correct option.
21. In the passage it is discussed that collective security leads to a united action taken by a number of states and