

CIVICS

Chapter 2: Understanding Laws



Important Questions

Multiple Choice questions-

Question 1. According to which law, sons, daughters and their mothers can get an equal share of family property?

- (a) Sedition Act 2005
- (b) Family Protection Act 2007
- (c) Hindu Succession Act 2005
- (d) Sedition Act 1870

Question 2. When did the Rowlett Act come into effect?

- (a) 13th April 1919
- (b) 10th Feb 2020
- (c) 14th March 1921
- (d) 10th Mar 1919

Question 3. When did the Standing Committee submitted its recommendation to the Rajya Sabha and also tabled in the Lok Sabha regarding the implementation Domestic Violence Act?

- (a) In December 2002
- (b) In October 2005
- (c) In October 2006
- (d) In May 2002

Question 4. "To find fault with or disapprove of a person or thing" for which term this definition is used in Glossary.

- (a) Sedition
- (b) Evolution
- (c) Criticise
- (d) Repressive

Question 5. One example of the arbitrariness that continued to exist as part of British law is the sedition Act of

- (a) 1870
- (b) 1890
- (c) 1919
- (d) 1921

Question 6. What were lay down by Hindu Succession Amendment Act 2005?

- (a) Sons, daughters and their mother can get equal share of family property
- (b) Only sons can get a share in the property
- (c) Only sons and daughters can get a share in the property
- (d) Only sons and mother can get a share in the family property

Question 7. What do you mean by the Domestic violence?

- (a) Injury and abuse
- (b) Threat of injury
- (c) Physical beating
- (d) All of these

Question 8. What do you mean by the rule of law?

- (a) All are equal before law.
- (b) Same laws are applicable to all
- (c) No one is above law
- (d) All of these.

Question 9. When was the Rowlatt Act was passed?

- (a) 10 March, 1919
- (b) 8 March, 1919
- (c) 12 March, 1919
- (d) 3 March, 1919

Question 10. What do understand by Sedition Act of 1870?

- (a) A person could be arrested and deported.
- (b) Any person criticizing or protesting the British government could be arrested without a trial.
- (c) The arrested person could not engage an advocate.
- (d) Arrested person could be detained in police custody for an indefinite period of time.

Question 11. Who introduced the rule of law in India?

- (a) Mahatma Gandhi
- (b) Mughals
- (c) British colonialists
- (d) None of these

Question 12. Who was General Dyer?

- (a) English officer
- (b) Indian officer
- (c) Congress head
- (d) None of these

Question 13. What is violation of law?

- (a) Crime against the law
- (b) To make new law
- (c) To remove one law
- (d) None of these

Question 14. What are criminal cases?

- (a) Related to taxes
- (b) Related to property
- (c) Related to criminal
- (d) None of these

Question 15. Who made the law?

- (a) Laws are made by president
- (b) Laws are made by prime minister
- (c) Laws are made by sovereign power
- (d) None of these

Very Short:

1. Who introduced the rule of law in India – the British or the Indians?
2. How can you say that the Sedition Act of 1870 was arbitrary?
3. How was the Rowlatt Act an arbitrary law?
4. Is the Protection of women from Domestic Violence Act a civil law or a criminal law?
5. Why do people not accept some laws passed by the Parliament?
6. What do people do to criticise unfair laws of the Parliament?
7. What is controversial law?
8. What does the court do if it finds that laws don't adhere to the Constitution?

Short Questions:

1. In ancient India, there was no rule of law'. Explain.
2. How was the Rowlatt Act protested by the Indian nationalists? What was its consequence?

3. How did the Indian legal profession develop by the end of the 19th century?
4. What role do citizens play in the evolution of a new law?
5. Give one example to show that British law was arbitrary.
6. What did the Indian nationalists do against the arbitrary laws of British?
7. Why were the new laws against domestic violence introduced?

Long Questions:

1. How are unpopular and controversial laws opposed by the people?
2. What are the advantages to foreign companies in setting up production in India?
3. Do you think the victims of the Bhopal gas tragedy got justice? Discuss.
4. What do we mean when we speak of law enforcement? Who is responsible for enforcement? Why is enforcement so important?
5. Explain the various roles played by the government?

Answer Key:

MCQ:

1. (c) Hindu Succession Act 2005
2. (d) 10th Mar 1919
3. (a) In December 2002
4. (c) Criticise
5. (a) 1870
6. (a) Sons, daughters and their mother can get equal share of family property
7. (d) All of these
8. (d) All of these
9. (a) 10 March, 1919
- 10.(b) Any person criticizing or protesting the British government could be arrested
- 11.(c) British colonialists
- 12.(a) English officer
- 13.(a) Crime against the law
- 14.(c) Related to criminal
- 15.(c) Laws are made by sovereign power

Very Short Answer:

1. The Indians introduced the rule of law in their country.

2. The Sedition Act of 1870 was arbitrary because under this Act any person protesting or criticising the British government could be arrested without trial.
3. This Act allowed the British government to imprison people without trial.
4. The Protection of women from Domestic Violence Act is a civil law.
5. It is because they feel that the intention behind such laws is unfair and harmful.
6. They hold public meeting, write about it in newspapers, report to TV news channels, etc.
7. The law that favours one group and disregards the other is known as controversial law
8. The court has the power to modify or cancel such laws.

Short Answer:

Ans: 1. In ancient India there were several and often overlapping local laws. Different communities enjoyed different degrees of autonomy in administering these laws among their own people. In some cases, the punishment that the two persons received for the same crime varied judgement depending on their caste backgrounds. The lower castes in such circumstances were more harshly penalised than the upper castes.

Ans: 2. The Rowlatt Act came into effect on 10 March, 1919. This Act allowed the British government to imprison people without due trial. Indian nationalists began to protest this arbitrary Act. In Punjab, the protest was more intensely carried out. On April 10, two leaders of the movement, Dr. Satyapal and Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew were arrested. To protest these arrests, a public meeting was held on 13 April at Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar. General Dyer entered the park with his troops and after closing the only exit ordered them to fire on the gathering. As a result several hundreds of people were killed and many more were wounded.

Ans: 3. By the end of the 19th century, the Indian legal profession developed enough to demand respect in colonial courts. They began to use law to defend the legal rights of Indians. Indian judges also began to play a greater role in making decisions. In due course, the rule of law evolved during the colonial period.

Ans: 4. The Parliament plays an important role in making laws. There are many ways through which this takes place, and it is often different groups in society that raise issue begins to take root, it is brought to the attention of the Parliament which in due course makes a law to crush it. Thus, the role of citizens is important in helping Parliament frame different concerns that people might have into laws. From establishing the need for a new law to its being passed, at every stage of the process the voice of the citizen is an important element.

Ans: 5. One example of arbitrary that continued to exist as part of British law is the sedition act of 1870. The idea of sedition was understood within this act. Any person protesting or criticizing the British government could be arrested without due trial.

Ans: 6. (a) Indian nationalist began protesting and criticizing this arbitrary use of authority by the British.

(b) They 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.

(c) By the end of 19th century, Indian legal profession also began emerging and demanded respect in colonial courts.

Ans: 7. (a) The law recognizes the right of women to live in a shared household, protection against violence women can get monetary relief to meet their expense including medical costs.

(b) Women wanted protection against being beaten, and the right to continue living in a shared household. Thus, the law against domestic violence was introduced to address these issues.

Long Answer:

Ans: 1. Sometimes the Parliament passes laws that turn out to be very unpopular even though they are constitutionally valid. People do not accept unpopular laws because they feel that the intention behind these laws is unfair and harmful. Hence, they criticise such laws, hold public meetings, write about them in newspapers, report to TV news channels etc.

In a democratic country like India, citizens can express their unwillingness to accept laws which, they think, are repressive. When a large number of people begin to feel that a wrong law has been passed, then the Parliament has to change it.

We can cite here an example. Various municipal laws on the use of space within municipal jurisdiction often declare hawking and street vending illegal. No one will dispute the necessity for some rules to keep the public space open. At the same time, one also cannot deny that hawkers and vendors provide essential services to the people. This is their means of livelihood. Hence, if the law favours one group and disregards the other it will be controversial leading to conflict. People who think that the law is unfair can approach the court to decide on the issue.

Ans: 2. Advantages to foreign companies in setting up production in India are:

Cheap labour- Wages that the companies pay to workers say in the U.S.A. are far higher than what they have to pay workers in India.

For lower pay- Companies can get longer hours of work.

Additional expenses such as housing facilities for workers are also fewer. Thus, companies can save costs and earn higher profits.

Cost cutting can also be done by other more dangerous means.

Lower working conditions including lower safety measures are used as ways of cutting costs.

For Example-

At West Virginia (U.S.A.) computerized working and monitoring systems were in place, whereas the UC plants in Bhopal relied on manual gauges and the human senses to detect gas leaks. At the West Virginia plants, emergency evacuation plan were in place, but non-existent in Bhopal.

Ans: 3. The victim of the Bhopal gas tragedy didn't get justice.

1. Despite the overwhelming evidence, pointing to UC as responsible for the disaster, it refused to accept responsibility.
2. In the ensuing legal battle, the government represented the victims in a civil case against UC. It filled a \$3 billion compensation case in 1985 but accepted a lowly \$470 million in 1989.
3. Survivors appealed against the settlement, but the Supreme Court ruled that the settlement amount would stand. Even if the UC pays the full compensation set, the lives of the innocent would not come back, or they won't come back.
4. Money cannot be everything or compensation against a life. Neither the government nor UC has provided the survivors safe drinking water for health care facilities and the jobs. The contaminated water is still the same after 24 yrs.

Ans: 4. 1. Law enforcement means that to make sure a law or rule is obeyed. If there is a certain law, it is meant for being obeyed and followed.

2. As a lawmaker and enforcer, the government is supposed to ensure that safety laws are implemented.

3. It is also the duty of the government to ensure that the Right to life guaranteed under Article 21 of the constitution is not violated. Enforcement is so important because as seen in the example of the UC plant in Bhopal-

- Government officials refused to recognize the plant as hazardous and allowed it to come up in a populated locality.
- When some municipal officials in Bhopal objected that the installation of an MIC production unit in 1978 was a safety violation, the position of the government was that the state needs the continued investment of the Bhopal plant, which provides jobs.
- It was unthinkable, according to them, to ask UC to shift to cleaner technology or safer procedures.
- Government inspectors continued to approve the plant, even when repeated incidents of leaks from the plant made it obvious to everybody that things were seriously wrong.
- Instead of protecting the interests of the people, their safety was being disregarded both by the government and by private companies.

Ans: 5 . 1. The government has to ensure that all the laws are implemented. This means that the law must be enforced. Enforcement becoming even more important when the law seeks to protect the weak from the strong.

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

3. As the lawmaker and enforcer, the government is supposed to ensure that safety laws are implemented.

4. It is also the duty of the government to ensure that the Right to life guaranteed under Article

21 of the Constitution is not violated.

5. A major role of the government, therefore, is to control the activities of private companies by making, enforcing and upholding laws so as to prevent unfair practices and ensure social justice.

6. This means that the governments has to make appropriate laws and also has to enforce the laws.

7. Laws that are weak and poorly unforced can cause serious harm as the Bhopal gas tragedy showed. While the government has a leading role in this respect, people can exert pressure so that both private companies and the government act in the interests of society.



Swotters