

DATE: 10/01/2024

PAKISTAN AFFAIRS MOCK EXAM

Q6

CONSTITUTION OF PAKISTAN.

INTRODUCTION:

The constitution of 1973 was approved on 10th April, 1973 and came into effect on 14th August 1973. According to the first article of the constitution it declared Pakistan as the Federal Republic also known as the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Islam was declared as the state religion of Pakistan. Pakistan was divided into four federating units, Punjab, Sindh, N.W.F.P and Balochistan. The constitution was parliamentary in nature. It would set up a bicameral legislature at the Center consisting of two Houses, the National Assembly and the Senate. Pakistan has a diverse cultural, linguistic and ethnic composition so the constitution must cater the postulates to promote national integration. Even though, Pakistan is an Islamic republic it provides opportunities to all ethnic and religious groups to achieve national identity. Last but not the least, Constitution always serves the backbone of a democratic nation so to protect the democratic values the supremacy of the constitution is a must.

DATE: ___/___/___

→ Lessons Learned on completion of 50 years of the Constitution of Pakistan.

- a) Challenges in National Integration: Pakistan has a diverse cultural, linguistic and ethnic composition and has always faced challenges in achieving national integration. The lesson learned is that fostering unity amidst diversity requires continuous efforts, policies promoting inclusivity and equitable distribution of resources among all regions and ethnic groups. As a result in the 18th amendment a joint and equal ownership of Gas and mineral oil by the center and the respective province were given.
- b) Need of representation in the federation by all the provinces. To maintain the national integration amongst the regions the officials and political representatives should be taken from all the regions and ethnicities in order to know the problems and the requirements of the people of that area.
- c) Striving for a common National Identity: Over the period of 50 years, the importance of shared national identity has revealed to transcend over ethnic, linguistic and religious differences. Efforts to build this identity must focus on promoting a sense

of belonging and pride in being Pakistani while respecting the cultural richness and diversity within the nation.

d) Democratic Values and Constitutional Stability.

The constitution forms the backbone of any democratic nation. Over the past 50 years, Pakistan has experienced periods of constitutional instability, including military interventions and amendments. The lesson learned underscores the need for upholding the supremacy of the constitution, ensuring its protection and strengthening democratic institutions to maintain stability and uphold democratic values.

e) Balancing Federalism and Provincial Autonomy.

Pakistan's Federal structure has often faced challenges in striking a balance between federalism and provincial autonomy. The lesson here is the importance of ensuring a fair distribution of power and resources between the federal and provincial governments, respecting the autonomy of provinces while maintaining the unity and integrity of the nation. To balance this, 18th amendment came with the solution by abolishing the concurrent list and devolving the subjects to the provinces. In the similar manner, Article 167(4) provides provinces empowered to raise domestic or international issues.

DATE: ___/___/___

Lastly, the sales tax on services are granted to the provinces instead of the federation.

f) Promoting Civic Education and Awareness:

Enhancing civic education and awareness among the populace is critical for the development of democratic values.

Educating citizens about their rights and responsibilities and the democratic process fosters active participation and a sense of ownership in the nation's progress. Again the 18th amendment granted right to education to children of age 5-16 the responsibility of the state.

g) Social and Economic Equality:

Addressing social and economic disparities remains crucial for national integration.

Policies aimed at reducing inequalities, providing equal opportunities, and promoting social justice are essential for creating a more cohesive and unified society.

h) Role of Leadership and Political Stability:

Strong and visionary leadership is pivotal in steering the country towards unity, upholding democratic values and fostering a common national identity. Political stability ensures continuity in policies and contributes to sustainable development.

DATE: ___/___/___

CONCLUSION:

Analysing the 50 years since the implementation of the constitution of Pakistan offers insights into the nation's achievements, challenges and the ongoing journey towards strengthening national integration, identity and democratic values. 18th Amendment addressed a few of the problems but the complete implementation over those postulates is still under debate. If these articles are implemented wholly then they can guide the future endeavors of the country, ^{towards a} more unified, inclusive and a democratic Pakistan.