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Q5

It would have been difficult for the Constituent Assembly to complete its historic task of drafting the Constitution for Independent India in just three years, but its experience gained with the Government of India Act, 1935 .Discuss.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2015 · GS I · 12 marks · World's Physical Geography

Salient features of world's physical geography.

Core demand of the question

- It would have been difficult for the Constituent Assembly to complete its historic task of **drafting** the Constitution for Independent India in just three years, but its experience gained with the **Government of India Act, 1935**. Discuss
- Cover what 1935 already built, what the Assembly reused, and what it still had to invent
- Keep the explanation within a 12-mark length

Revision summary

The 1935 Act trained parties in provincial government and wrote a long federal statute.

The Constitution reused lists, governors, and much administrative design.

Fundamental rights, adult franchise, and a republic were new nationalist work.

Partition added problems 1935 never faced.

Three years were possible because the scaffold already existed; the soul of the text did not.

Flow diagram

GOI Act 1935 -> Provincial ministries lists

Provincial ministries lists -> Drafting speed

Rights republic franchise -> Constitution 1950

Drafting speed -> Constitution 1950

GOI Act 1935 -> not sovereignty Rights republic franchise

Conclusion

- Discuss 1935 as necessary experience and borrowed architecture, then name rights and republic as the Assembly's own historic task.
- Three years look short only if one forgets two decades of legislative practice before 1946.

Without the Government of India Act, 1935, the Assembly would have been slower and less sure with federal lists and parliamentary procedure. With it, India could still not have a free constitution until members wrote rights, adult vote, and a republic on top of that colonial frame.

Facts & figures

Government of India Act, 1935

Longest colonial constitution-like statute; provincial autonomy and a federal scheme on paper.

1937 provincial elections

Congress and others formed ministries and learned budgets, cabinets, and opposition.

Constituent Assembly, Dec 1946

Body that drafted the Constitution through committees until November 1949.

Objectives Resolution, 1946-47

Nehru's resolution that set a sovereign republic and justice aims beyond the 1935 Act.

Drafting Committee

Ambedkar as chair used 1935 machinery while inserting rights and adult suffrage.

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