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Q85

In the context of polity, which one of the following would you accept as the most appropriate definition of liberty? (a) Protection against the tyranny of political rulers (b) Absence of restraint (c) Opportunity to do whatever one likes (d) Opportunity to develop oneself fully Official key: D.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2019 · General Studies · 2 marks · Polity and Governance

Indian Constitution, polity, rights, governance - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a)**

(a) Protection against the tyranny of political rulers is a narrow, classical-liberal slice (Berlin's **negative liberty** against the state). The question asks the most appropriate polity definition, so this is incomplete. Not the key.

(b)

(b) Absence of restraint is **negative liberty** in one line. Indian constitutional liberty is not only that. Not the key.

(c)

(c) Opportunity to do whatever one likes is licence, not liberty. The **Preamble's** liberty is bounded by reasonable restriction. Not the key.

(d) Official key

(d) Opportunity to develop oneself fully is **positive liberty**: creating conditions for the personality to grow. That is the definition UPSC keyed as most appropriate in the Indian polity frame.

Summary

Official key is (d). In Indian polity teaching, liberty is not mere absence of restraint or a free-for-all. It is the opportunity to develop one's faculties, within constitutional limits. Anti-tyranny and "no restraint" are partial. Honour (d).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Preamble

Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship

Negative liberty

Isaiah Berlin: freedom from interference

Positive liberty

Freedom to realise one's potential; enabling conditions

Article 19-22

Constitutional liberties with reasonable restrictions

Licence vs liberty

Unrestricted will is not constitutional liberty

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