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Q90

Which one of the following factors constitutes the best safeguard of liberty in a liberal democracy? (a) A committed judiciary (b) Centralization of powers (c) Elected government (d) Separation of powers Official key: D.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2021 · General Studies · 2 marks · Polity and Governance

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

Explanation

(a)

Committed judiciary. 'Committed' is the opposite of independent.

(b)

Centralization. A threat to liberty, not a safeguard.

(c)

Elected government. Necessary but can still be elective tyranny.

(d) Official key

- **Separation of powers. The liberal-democratic check:** legislature, executive, judiciary not fused.

Summary

Official key is (d). In a liberal democracy the best listed safeguard of liberty is separation of powers - not a 'committed' court, a concentrated executive, or elections alone.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Montesquieu

The classical separation text.

Checks and balances

The US/Indian working form.

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