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Q33

Which one of the following statements best reflects the chief purpose of the 'Constitution' of a country? (a) It determines the objective for the making of necessary laws. (b) It enables the creation of political offices and a government. (c) It defines and limits the powers of government. (d) It secures social justice, social equality and social security. Official key: C.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2023 · General Studies · 2 marks · Polity and Governance

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

Explanation

(a)

It sets objectives for law-making. A constitution does more, and this is not the chief purpose as keyed.

(b)

It creates offices and a government. Necessary, but the distinctive job is to fence power.

(c) Official key

- It defines and limits the powers of government. **Constitutionalism**: government under law.

(d)

It secures social justice. A Directive-type aim, not the core definition of a constitution.

Summary

Official key is (c). The chief purpose of a constitution, in the limited-government sense, is to define and limit public power. Creating offices, guiding future laws and promising social justice are roles; they are not the keyed essence.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Constitutionalism

Government limited by a higher law.

Constituent power

The power that makes or amends the constitution itself.

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