

CBSE Class–VIII Social Science
NCERT SOLUTION
Political Science Chapter 4
Understanding Laws

1. Write in your own words what you understand by the term the ‘rule of law’. In your response include a fictitious or real example of a violation of the rule of law.

Ans. Law is a system of rules, usually imposed through a Government or Institution and is applied to govern a group of people. It shapes politics, economics and society in numerous ways. What the 'rule of law' means is that all laws apply equally to all citizens of the country and no one can be above the law. Any crime or violation of rule of law has a specific punishment and a process by which guilt is established. The most common example of a violation of the rule of law can be seen on the roads. Motorists and pedestrians do not follow the traffic rules. Pedestrians rarely use the zebra crossing and cross the road at will causing harm not only to themselves but also to other road users. Motorists do not adhere to speed limits nor do they stop behind the line at traffic signals. By not following traffic rules, motorists are fined or may harm pedestrians or other motorists.

2. State two reasons why historians refute the claim that the British introduced the rule of law in India.

Ans. The two reasons why historians refute the claim that the British introduced the Rule of Law in India are -

(i) Colonial law was arbitrary, e.g. Sedition Act of 1870. According to the Act, any person who protested or criticized British authority could be punished without a trial.

(ii) Indian nationalists played a prominent role in the development of the legal sphere in British India. Indian lawyers began defending Indians and fighting for their rights. Indian judges also played a major role in decision-making.

3. Re-read the storyboard on how a new law on domestic violence got passed. Describe in your own words the different ways in which women’s groups worked to make this happen.

Ans. Women's groups worked hard and untiringly towards the passing of the new law on domestic violence in India. They used different forums like public protests, hearings, meetings with other organizations, press conferences and petitions to the government to introduce a new reformed bill on domestic violence to include demands like monetary relief, protection against being evicted from the shared household and protection orders against further violence. Several women's organisations and National Commission for Women made submissions to the Parliamentary Standing Committee. The new bill was introduced in the Parliament in 2005. While earlier, domestic violence only entailed "injury or harm or threat of injury or harm" by an adult male against a woman. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005 extended to include physical, economic, sexual, verbal and emotional abuse in 2006.

4. Write in your own words what you understand by the following sentence on page 44-45: They also began fighting for greater equality and wanted to change the idea of law from a set of rules that they were forced to obey, to law as including ideas of justice.

Ans. This line refers to the protests of Indian nationalists against the violation of the rule of law by British authorities and the evolution of a strong legal system supporting Indian citizens. Indians were discriminated against in their own country by the British colonists and the Sedition Act of 1870 was the most prolific example of the breach of the rule of law. According to the Act, any person protesting or criticizing British authority could be punished without a trial. This Act was remonstrated against by Indian freedom fighters in favour of a more just set of rules based on ideals of equality.

Many Indians began to practice the legal profession and used it to demand and gain equal rights for all. For example, Dadabhai Naoroji, Madan Mohan Malviya and Motilal Nehru, were moderate leaders who were lawyers who believed in the system of constitutionalism. Bal Gangadhar Tilak was a lawyer who believed in promoting self-reliance for Indians. Indian judges also played a more significant role in the decision-making process. Thus, Indians played a major role in the evolution of the rule of law during times of colonial rule.