

Sub-Saharan African Constitutional Law: Historical Milestones

Constitutional Law · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. Which Sub-Saharan African nation was the first to adopt a written constitution post-independence, establishing a parliamentary republic?

- A) Ghana**
- B) Nigeria
- C) Senegal
- D) Kenya

2. The 1964 Constitution of which country, heavily influenced by Westminster models, later underwent significant amendments leading to a shift towards a presidential system?

- A) Tanzania
- B) Uganda
- C) Zambia**
- D) Malawi

3. In the post-colonial era, the federal structure of Nigeria has been shaped by a series of constitutions. Which constitution, enacted in 1979, marked a transition from military rule to a presidential system?

- A) The Republican Constitution
- B) The Independence Constitution
- C) The 1999 Constitution
- D) The Second Republic Constitution**

4. South Africa's interim constitution of 1993, which laid the groundwork for the post-apartheid era, was characterized by a strong emphasis on which of the following?

- A) Secessionist powers for provinces
- B) Protection of minority rights and a bill of rights**
- C) The dominance of the executive branch
- D) A unicameral legislative system

5. Which Sub-Saharan African country's 1991 constitution, adopted after decades of one-party rule, established a multi-party democracy and a strong bill of rights?

- A) Mali
- B) Benin**
- C) Togo
- D) Burkina Faso

6. The constitutional crisis in Zimbabwe in the early 2000s led to significant legal and political upheaval. What was a key feature of the constitutional amendments introduced during this period?

- A) Strengthening of judicial independence
- B) Expansion of executive presidential powers and land reform provisions**
- C) Decentralization of power to regional governments
- D) Introduction of proportional representation in parliament

7. The constitution of which nation, adopted in 1960, established a presidential republic with a strong emphasis on checks and balances between the branches of government?

- A) Côte d'Ivoire**
- B) Niger
- C) Gabon
- D) Cameroon

8. In the process of decolonization, which British protectorate's 1962 independence constitution introduced a ceremonial president and a prime minister with executive powers?

- A) Uganda**
- B) Botswana
- C) Lesotho
- D) Swaziland (Eswatini)

9. The adoption of the 1992 Constitution in which Southern African nation is considered a pivotal moment in its transition to multi-party democracy and the establishment of a constitutional monarchy?

- A) Namibia**
- B) Angola
- C) Mozambique
- D) Botswana

10. Which Sub-Saharan African country's 1964 constitution, a blend of Westminster and American presidential systems, ultimately proved unstable and contributed to a coup in 1966?

- A) Sierra Leone
- B) Liberia
- C) Ghana**
- D) Gambia