Choose the best option for each blank.

The Indian caste system (1)	society into groups of people with different
functions and status.	
Originally, the highest caste, the Brahm	nins, were the intellectual and spiritual guides, priests and
philosophers. Second were the Kshatri	yas, the caste of warriors and rulers. Then came the
Vaishyas, (2)with tra	ding and commerce, and the lowest caste were the
Shudras, who were labourers and craft	
people who ranked below all others as their position in Hir	any contact with the "untouchables", and did the dirtywork. While the higher castes managed to (4) and society the lower ones were not given any power (5) caste rules were punished severely.
During their (7), the	e British tried to give more rights to the lower castes and
abolish traditional practices, but in pra	ctice they did not succeed. Since 1949 the Constitution of
India has (8)all its c	itizens equal rights, but changes have been slow.
India's (9) develop	ment of the past decades has done a great deal to weaken
the caste system. With huge, overpopu	lated cities, caste laws can (10)be
observed. Indians can improve their so	cial status through professional and financial success. In rura
areas, however, the caste system rema	ins an influential (11) in society.
The majority of the former untouchabl	es, who now call themselves Dalits (the oppressed), are still
(12), but as their nu	mbers are strong (18-20% of the population), democracy
has provided them with more rights an	d better jobs.



1	distributes	divides	contains	shares
2	joined	united	linked	associated
3	avoid	protect	defend	promote
4	support	power up	brace	strengthen
5	at all	above all	at least	in fact
6	submitted	distracted	disobeyed	obeyed
7	rule	law	power	reign
8	offered	permitted	allowed	granted
9	economy	economics	economic	economical
10	not longer	no longer	any longer	much longer
11	factor	key	cause	reason
12	dispossessed	denied	fortunate	underprivileged
				7

