

ST. ANDREWS SCOTS SCHOOL

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CLASS: VII	SUB: SOCIAL SCIENCE	TOPIC: CIVICS	CH-10 (THEME D)
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AN INTRODUCTION TO THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

A. Tick the correct option:

1. The Indian Constitution officially came into effect on: **26 January 1950**
2. Who was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution? **Dr B.R. Ambedkar**
3. The idea of an independent judiciary was inspired by the constitution of which country? **The USA**
4. The words Socialist and Secular were added to the Preamble in which year? **1976**
5. The Panchayati Raj System was added to the Constitution in which amendment? **73rd Amendment**
6. What is the term for a country where the head of state is an elected person, not a monarch? **Republic**
7. The original handwritten Constitution is kept in a case filled with which gas? **Helium**

B. Fill in the blanks:

1. The ideals of equality, justice, and fraternity were deeply rooted in the **Constitution**.
2. The idea of **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam** means 'The world is one family'.
3. Directive Principles of State Policy are like **guidelines** for the government.
4. The Constitution was written by hand by a calligrapher named **Prem Behari Narain Raizada**.
5. The term **Secular** means that the government treats all religions with equal respect.

6. The **Preamble** is the introduction to the Constitution.
7. The **Legislature** is the part of the government that makes laws.

C. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements:

1. The Constituent Assembly had only male members. **False**
2. The Constitution was influenced by India's ancient civilisational heritage. **True**
3. The Fundamental Duties outline the duties of citizens towards their country. **True**
4. You can go to court if the government doesn't achieve the goals in the Directive Principles right away. **False**
5. Any changes to the Constitution are seriously debated in Parliament before being accepted. **True**
6. The Right to Equality is a fundamental right. **True**
7. The Panchayati Raj System was added to the Constitution in 1992. **True**

D. Answer the following questions in brief:

1. What is a Constitution, and why does a country need one?

A Constitution is a rulebook for a country that outlines how the government works, how laws are made, and what the rights and duties of citizens are.

2. What does the Preamble of the Constitution tell us?

The Preamble is an introduction that defines India as a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, Republic and promises all citizens Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.

3. Who were the key figures involved in the making of the Indian Constitution?

The constituent assembly was formed in 1946 to write the constitution. It originally had 389 members, but after the partition of India in 1947, the number became 299. It work for almost 3 years and was led by its chairman Dr. Rajendra Prasad and the drafting committee chairman Dr. B.R.Ambedkar.

4. What is the difference between Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties?

Fundamental Rights	Fundamental Duties
These are the basic rights guaranteed to citizens by the Constitution.	These are the responsibilities of citizens towards the country.
They protect the freedom and equality of citizens.	They promote responsible and patriotic behaviour.
Citizens can approach the courts if their Fundamental Rights are violated.	Fundamental Duties are generally not directly enforceable by courts.
Example: Right to Equality and Right to Freedom.	Example: Respecting the National Flag and protecting the environment.

5. What does the term 'Republic' mean?

The head of our country (the President) is an elected person, not a someone who inherited their position (like a king or queen).

6. Why is our Constitution called a 'living document'?

The Constitution is a living document because it can be changed or amended to meet new needs.

7. What is the meaning of the term Sovereign as used in the Preamble?

India is an independent country. It has the supreme right to make its own decisions about internal and external matters. No outside power can tell the Indian government what to do.

E. Answer the following questions in detail:

1. Explain in detail how the Indian Constitution was written and what three major influences shaped it. Discuss the contributions of the freedom struggle, India's heritage, and other countries constitutions.

Though written by the Constituent Assembly, the Constitution was influenced by:

1. Influence of the Indian Freedom Movement
 - Constitution reflects key ideals & values from freedom struggle.
 - Became the foundation for independent India.

- Freedom movement leaders in the Constituent Assembly contributed their ideas including:
 1. Equality, Justice, Freedom, Fraternity
 2. Preserving India's cultural heritage
 3. Using Constitution as tool to achieve these ideals

2. India's civilisational heritage and history

- The idea of India as one country is built into the Constitution.
- Key cultural principles included:
 1. Respect for different views
 2. Nature as sacred
 3. Love for learning and knowledge
 4. Respect for women
 5. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - the world is one family.
 6. Sarve bhavantu sukhinah - may all beings be happy

3. Learning from across the world

- France - Ideals of liberty, equality, fraternity.
- Ireland - Directive Principles of State Policy
- USA - Concept of an independent judiciary
- Also referred to UK, Australia, and others.

2. Describe the main features of the Indian Constitution.

The features of the Indian Constitution are :-

1. It is the supreme law of the land.
2. It guarantees Fundamental Rights.
3. It provides Directive Principles of State Policy.
4. It establishes a democratic and secular government.
5. It provides a federal system with three levels of government—Union, State, and Local governments.
6. It allows amendments when necessary.

6. Explain the concept of the separation of powers. Describe the roles of the three main branches of the Government and why this separation is important.

The Constitution ensures a 'separation of powers', meaning the three organs of government work independently and keep each other in check, ensuring fairness and accountability.

- The Legislature (Parliament) makes the laws.
- The Executive (Prime Minister and Council of Ministers) carries out the laws.
- The Judiciary (courts and judges) ensures laws follow the Constitution and decides if laws are broken.

7. Describe the duties of citizens outline in the fundamental duties how can this duties contribute to building a better society?

Fundamental duties outline the duties or responsibilities of citizens towards our country. Just as we have rights, we also have duties. These includes :-

- (i) Following the Constitution and respecting its ideals, the National Flag, and the National Anthem.
- (ii) Defending the country when needed.
- (iii) Valuing and preserving our rich mixed culture.
- (iv) Protecting and improving the natural environment (forests, lakes, rivers, wildlife) and being kind to living creatures.
- (v) Striving for excellence in all areas to help the nation achieve more.
- (vi) For parents/guardians, providing opportunities for education to children aged six to fourteen years