

CBSE CLASS 9 SOCIAL SCIENCE

Democratic Politics – I (Political Science)

CHAPTER 2: CONSTITUTIONAL DESIGN

ULTIMATE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS BANK WITH MODEL ANSWERS

Thoroughly Verified, High-Yield Educational Resource Aligned with Current
NCERT Guidelines



HIGH-VALUE DELIVERABLES INSIDE THIS EDITION:

- **Exhaustive Question Sets:** Precise 1-Mark statements, structural 3-Mark definitions, and high-probability 5-Mark long-form answers.
- **Dual Constitution Analysis:** Deep exploration of South Africa's struggle against Apartheid and the making of India's foundational law.
- **Preamble and Value Decoding:** Comprehensive explanations of core terminology—Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, Republic, Justice, Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity.
- **Advanced Evaluation Portals:** Competency tests, source extracts, situation analysis blocks, and full Assertion-Reason logic models.

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SECTION 1: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Q1. Why do we need a Constitution for a modern democratic state? Explain its major functions. FREQUENTLY REPEATED

A constitution is the supreme law of a country, containing a set of written rules accepted by all citizens. It serves four primary functions that are vital for running a democratic state:

1. **Generates Trust and Coordination:** It creates a necessary degree of trust and coordination among different groups of people who must live together despite having contrasting interests and backgrounds.
2. **Specifies Decision-Making Authority:** It clearly outlines how the government will be formed and defines who holds the final authority to make specific political and administrative decisions.
3. **Limits Government Power:** It sets explicit limits on the powers of the government, preventing arbitrary rule and safeguarding the fundamental rights and civil liberties of individual citizens.
4. **Expresses Social Aspirations:** It expresses the collective aspirations of the people for creating a just, fair, and equitable society.



EXAM BOOSTER: CORE VALUABLE TERM

Constitutionalism: The principle that government authority is derived from and limited by a body of supreme law. A state can have a constitution but still lack constitutionalism if its leaders routinely ignore constitutional limits on their power!

Q2. Describe the unique historical context, compromises, and features that marked the creation of the South African Constitution after the end of Apartheid. ANNUAL EXAM CLASSIC

The transition of South Africa from a repressive racial autocracy to a non-racial democracy was a remarkable constitutional process:

- **Overcoming Severe Trauma:** The white minority regime had enforced **Apartheid**, a system of strict racial segregation that denied basic human rights to blacks, coloureds, and Indians.
- **The Path of Compromise:** After decades of struggle led by the **African National Congress (ANC)** and Nelson Mandela, the regime sat down with the liberation forces. Both sides agreed to mutual compromises during two years of constitutional negotiations.
- **The Terms Agreed Upon:** The black majority agreed that the new system would not seize the property of the white minority and accepted the principle of majority rule. The white minority agreed to democratic elections based on one person, one vote and accepted basic social protections for workers.
- **A Model Document:** The resulting Constitution of 1994 offered its citizens the most extensive collection of fundamental rights available in any nation, transforming a fractured country into a model of peaceful racial reconciliation.

SECTION 2: PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION COLLECTION

Q3. Explain the principal factors and historical steps that guided the making of the Indian Constitution. CBSE PAST YEAR FOCUS

The Indian Constitution was drafted under difficult conditions, during the traumatic partition of India and Pakistan. However, its creation benefited from several unique historical factors:

- **Consensus During the Freedom Struggle:** Unlike many countries, Indian leaders had already developed a consensus on what a free India should look like during the anti-colonial struggle. A key milestone was the **Motilal Nehru Report of 1928** and the 1931 Karachi Resolution of the Indian National Congress, which outlined commitments to universal adult franchise, liberty, and equality.
- **Experience with Colonial Institutions:** The legislative elections held under British rule (such as the Government of India Act 1935) gave Indian leaders valuable experience working within parliamentary institutions, which helped them design a stable legislative framework.
- **Learning from Global Models:** The authors of the constitution adapted effective elements from other global constitutions, tailoring them to Indian conditions. These included the Bill of Rights from the US, Parliamentary Democracy from Britain, Directive Principles from Ireland, and the ideals of the French Revolution.

SECTION 3: VERY SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (1 MARK)

Q4. Define the term 'Apartheid'.

The official system of racial segregation and institutionalized discrimination enforced by the white minority government in South Africa between 1948 and 1994.

Q5. For how many years was Nelson Mandela imprisoned by the white minority regime?

Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for 28 years, mostly on Robben Island.

Q6. On what exact date did South Africa officially become a new democratic nation?

At midnight on 26 April 1994.

Q7. What was the name of the autobiography written by Nelson Mandela?

Long Walk to Freedom.

Q8. In which year did Motilal Nehru and eight other Congress leaders first draft a constitution for India?

In the year 1928.

Q9. When were the first elections held for the Indian Constituent Assembly?

In July 1946.

Q10. How many members did the Indian Constituent Assembly contain after the partition of the country?

The Assembly consisted of exactly 299 members.

Q11. On what date did the Constituent Assembly officially adopt the Indian Constitution?

On 26 November 1949.

Q12. Why was 26 January selected as the official date for the enforcement of the Indian Constitution?

To celebrate the anniversary of the *Poorna Swaraj* (Complete Independence) declaration made by the Indian National Congress on 26 January 1930.

Q13. Who served as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee for the Indian Constitution?

Dr. Bhimrao Ramji (B.R.) Ambedkar.

Q14. Define the term 'Preamble'.

An introductory statement in a constitution that explains its foundational philosophies, guiding values, and core objectives.

Q15. What is meant by a 'Constitutional Amendment'?

A formal legal change or addition made to the provisions of a constitution by the nation's legislative body.

SECTION 4: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (2–3 MARKS)

Q16. Explain why the Indian Constituent Assembly can be described as truly representative of the people of India, despite not being directly elected by universal adult franchise.

Although its members were chosen by the existing provincial legislatures rather than directly by the public, the Constituent Assembly maintained a highly representative character because:

- **Diverse Social Composition:** It included representatives from all major religious groups, castes, classes, occupations, and language backgrounds across the country.
- **Broad Political Consensus:** The assembly was dominated by the Indian National Congress, which itself functioned as a broad front containing a wide range of political viewpoints.
- **Deliberative Style:** The assembly worked through open, public, and transparent debates, ensuring that all criticisms and suggestions from across the nation were carefully considered before provisions were finalized.

Q17. Explain the democratic meaning of the terms 'Sovereign' and 'Republic' as stated in the Preamble to the Indian Constitution.

These terms define the external and internal power structure of the country:

- **Sovereign:** Means that India is completely independent of external control. No foreign government can dictate terms or issue commands to the government of India regarding its internal or foreign policies.
- **Republic:** Indicates that the head of state is an elected official rather than a hereditary ruler. Power is held by citizens who choose their leaders through periodic elections, rejecting dynastic succession.



PREAMBLE KEYWORD INDEX

- **Secular:** The state has no official religion; all faiths enjoy equal freedom and protection.
- **Socialist:** Wealth is generated socially and should be shared equally by society to reduce economic disparities.

SECTION 5: LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS (5 MARKS)

Q18. Explain the values and institutional structures that the framers built into the Indian Constitution to ensure it remains a dynamic and stable document.

The authors of the Indian Constitution designed it to act as a living framework rather than a rigid, unchangeable law, using several key strategies:

1. **Institutional Balancing of Powers:** The constitution balances power across three separate branches of the state: the **Legislature** (parliament), the **Executive** (cabinet and president), and an **Independent Judiciary**. This system of checks and balances ensures that no single branch can accumulate absolute power.
2. **Amending Provisions:** The framers included clear processes for **Constitutional Amendments**. They understood that society changes over time, so they created mechanisms to update the text without requiring a completely new document, helping the law adapt to new challenges.
3. **Securing Fundamental Rights:** It includes explicit, legally binding protections for the fundamental rights of all citizens. These rights act as a shield against government overreach and protect individual freedom.
4. **Safeguarding Minorities and Disadvantaged Groups:** The constitution includes specific legal protections, reservation frameworks, and anti-discrimination laws to support women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and religious minorities, embedding the value of social justice into the state's structure.
5. **Universal Adult Franchise and Periodic Elections:** It guarantees every adult citizen the right to vote in regular, free, and fair elections. This ensures the government remains accountable to the public and allows for peaceful transfers of political power.

SECTION 6: CASE-BASED QUESTIONS

SOURCE TEXT: DR. AMBEDKAR'S VISION OF CONTRADICTIONS

"On the 26th of January 1950, we are going to enter into a life of contradictions. In politics we will have equality and in social and economic life we will have inequality. In politics we will be recognising the principle of one man one vote and one vote one value. In our social and economic life, we shall, by reason of our social and economic structure, continue to deny the principle of one man one value. How long shall we continue to live this life of contradictions? How long shall we deny equality in our social and economic life? If we continue to deny it for long, we will do so only by putting our political democracy in peril."

Q19. Based on the source text, answer the following questions:

(i) What specific contradiction did Dr. B.R. Ambedkar warn would exist in post-independence India?

He pointed out a major gap between India's political equality—where every citizen enjoyed the same voting rights—and its social and economic life, which remained deeply divided by caste hierarchies and wealth disparities.

(ii) Why did Dr. Ambedkar argue that continuing this inequality would put political democracy at risk?

He warned that if political equality did not lead to social and economic justice, marginalized groups might lose faith in democratic institutions. This frustration could undermine the social stability needed to maintain a peaceful democracy.

SECTION 7: ASSERTION AND REASON QUESTIONS

STANDARD EVALUATION DIRECTIONS

Evaluate the statements and select the correct option:

- A:** Both Assertion and Reason are true, and Reason is the correct explanation of Assertion.
- B:** Both Assertion and Reason are true, but Reason is not the correct explanation of Assertion.
- C:** Assertion is true, but Reason is false.
- D:** Assertion is false, but Reason is true.

Q20. Assertion (A): The Indian Constitution has been accepted by the people of India for over seven decades without major challenges to its overall legitimacy.

Reason (R): The Constituent Assembly did not speak for the Congress alone; its members represented a wide range of social classes, castes, regions, and political perspectives, working through open and transparent debates.

Answer: A

Explanation: Both statements are true. The long-term legitimacy of the Indian Constitution is due to the inclusive and transparent way it was created by a representative Constituent Assembly, which earned broad trust from across the nation.

SECTION 8: COMPETENCY-BASED QUESTIONS

Q21. Why did the authors of the Indian Constitution include the values of secularism and minority protections from the very beginning, rather than leaving them to simple majority legislation?

The framers built these protections directly into the constitution to ensure stability and justice in a diverse society:

- **Preventing the Tyranny of the Majority:** They understood that simple majorities can shift with elections. Placing secularism and minority rights in the constitution protected these values from being easily altered or removed by a temporary legislative majority.
- **Building National Trust:** Including these protections in the supreme law helped reassure religious and linguistic minorities that they would enjoy equal citizenship after the trauma of partition, providing a secure foundation for a united nation.

SECTION 9: SOURCE AND SITUATION-BASED QUESTIONS

Q22. Imagine a newly independent nation where the largest ethnic group attempts to pass a law declaring its language as the sole official language for all government business, overriding the objections of minority groups. How does a well-designed constitution address this situation?

A well-designed constitution addresses this challenge through institutional protections:

- **Fundamental Equality Protections:** It includes non-discrimination principles that prevent a majority from passing laws that unfairly harm minority communities.
- **Minority Safeguards:** It can explicitly recognize and protect the language and cultural rights of minority groups within the text.
- **Judicial Review:** It empowers an independent judiciary to review new laws and strike down any majoritarian legislation that violates these constitutional protections, preserving social balance.

SECTION 10: MOST IMPORTANT EXAM QUESTIONS

★ **HIGHEST PROBABILITY QUESTION:** Detail the exact timeline, working style, and institutional output of the Constituent Assembly that produced the Indian Constitution.

The Indian Constituent Assembly followed a highly organized, democratic, and collaborative process to draft the constitution:

1. **Elections and Early Timeline:** Assembly members were elected in July 1946 by existing provincial assemblies, holding their first session in December 1946. Following partition, the assembly was divided, leaving 299 members in the Indian Constituent Assembly.
2. **The Role of the Drafting Committee:** A specialized Drafting Committee, chaired by **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**, prepared an initial draft of the constitution for public review and discussion.
3. **Clause-by-Clause Debate:** The draft was reviewed through an open, clause-by-clause process. Over three years, members debated the text across 114 days of active sessions, considering more than 2,000 amendments.
4. **Constituent Assembly Debates:** Every document introduced, word spoken, and choice made during these sessions was recorded and published as the *Constituent Assembly Debates* (spanning 12 large volumes), providing an important record of the values behind the text.
5. **Adoption and Enforcement:** The assembly officially adopted the constitution on **26 November 1949**, and it was put into full legal effect on **26 January 1950**, establishing the Republic of India.

SECTION 11: CHAPTER QUICK REVISION

INSTANT REVISION SUMMARIES

- **December 1946:** The first active session of the newly formed Constituent Assembly.
- **Dr. Rajendra Prasad:** Served as the official President of the Constituent Assembly.
- **Tryst with Destiny:** The famous speech delivered by Jawaharlal Nehru at midnight on 14 August 1947.
- **Constituent Assembly Debates:** The 12-volume record of the detailed discussions and arguments that shaped the Indian Constitution.

SECTION 12: COMMON MISTAKES STUDENTS MAKE

COMMON EXAM ERRORS TO AVOID:

1. **Confusing Assembly Roles:** Students frequently mix up leadership roles in the assembly. Remember that *Dr. Rajendra Prasad* was the President of the entire Constituent Assembly, while *Dr. B.R. Ambedkar* was the Chairman of the specific Drafting Committee. Mixing these up will result in lost marks on short-answer questions.
2. **Misunderstanding the Dates:** Be careful with the transition dates. The constitution was adopted on **26 November 1949**, but it came into full force on **26 January 1950**. Make sure to read the question carefully so you provide the correct date.

SECTION 13: LAST-MINUTE REVISION SHEET

THE ULTIMATE CONSTITUTIONAL DESIGN CHEAT SHEET

Core Value Rule: The Preamble serves as the philosophical key to the entire Indian Constitution. It declares that sovereignty rests with "We, the People of India," embedding the democratic values of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity into the state's foundation.

Compromise Milestone: The South African transition showed that a successful democracy requires institutional compromises, where both sides agree to protect the rights of minorities while accepting majority rule.