



The Savvy Humanities

SIMPLIFYING MINDS, SHAPING THINKERS

CLASS 11 · POLITICAL SCIENCE · CBSE 2026-27 SYLLABUS

Part A — Indian Constitution at Work · Chapter 1

Constitution: Why and How?

42

pages of notes

8

marks with Ch 2, of 80

20

board questions solved

28

key terms defined

What's inside

- The five functions, in the book's order
- Three tests of a constitution's authority
- The Cabinet Mission plan and every key date
- Public reason, and how the Assembly worked
- The Objectives Resolution, point by point
- What India adopted, and from where
- MCQs, passage and long answers, all solved

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Founder & Educator, The Savvy Humanities. Class 12 CBSE boards: 95% Psychology, 95% Sociology, 97% Political Science. Teaching Humanities on YouTube since 2023.

Handwritten-style, for revision

Every page inside is handwritten-style with highlighting, boxes and a mind map — built to be read the night before, not skimmed.



Chapter at a Glance — Mind Map

Constitution: Why and How?

Why a Constitution?

- A group needs basic rules
- Rules must be known and enforceable
- Coordination and assurance
- A body of fundamental principles

Limits and Aspirations

- Fundamental rights no government may violate
- Limited only in an emergency
- Enabling a just society
- South Africa and Indonesia

Authority

- Mode of promulgation
- Substantive provisions — a reason to go along
- Balanced institutional design
- Three questions to ask

How It Worked

- Public reason and deliberation
- Universal suffrage — no debate
- Eight committees, 166 days
- Consensus, replies in writing

Who Decides?

- A monarch, one party, or the people
- In India, mostly Parliament
- The authority that constitutes government
- Second function

Identity of a People

- People become a collective entity
- Political and moral identity
- Germany ethnic, India not
- Centre and regions

Constituent Assembly

- Indirectly elected, 1935 Act
- Cabinet Mission — 292 and 93
- 299 members after Partition
- Adopted 26 Nov 1949

Roots and Borrowing

- Objectives Resolution, Nehru, 1946
- Parliamentary and federal design
- Five countries' constitutions
- Not slavish imitation



Where This Chapter Sits

This is the first chapter of *Indian Constitution at Work*, the Part A textbook of Class 11 Political Science. The book itself says what it is about: "This book is about the working of the Indian Constitution." Before you study elections, Parliament, the President or the courts, you need to understand that "the entire structure of the government and the various principles that bind the institutions of government have their origin in the Constitution of India."

The chapter answers two questions, and its title says them: **why** a society needs a constitution, and **how** India's Constitution was made.

Marks — read this once

CBSE gives **Chapters 1 and 2 together 8 marks** out of 80. It is one figure for the pair, not 8 for each. Questions from this chapter are usually short: a function, a date, the Cabinet Mission plan, the borrowed provisions — and one long answer on functions or on how the Constitution was made.

The chapter moves in four steps, which are also CBSE's four sub-topics:

1. **Why do we need a constitution?** — its five functions
2. **The authority of a constitution** — what makes one effective
3. **How was the Indian Constitution made?** — the Constituent Assembly, its procedures, its roots
4. **Provisions adapted from other countries' constitutions**

Why Do We Need a Constitution?

The book begins with a thought experiment. Imagine you belong to a "reasonably large group" whose members are diverse — "different religious allegiances", different professions, abilities, hobbies and tastes. "Some are rich and some are poor. Some are old, some young."

Such a group will disagree about many things. The book's own examples:

- How much property should one be allowed to own?
- Should every child be sent to school, or should parents decide?

**2 marks** BOARD PATTERN

How does a constitution provide coordination and assurance?

Model answer

Coordination: it provides basic rules that are publicly promulgated and known to all members, so a diverse group can live together. **Assurance:** the rules are legally enforceable, so everyone knows others will follow them, or be punished. Without that assurance, no one would have a reason to follow the rules themselves.

2 marks BOARD PATTERN

How was the Constituent Assembly elected?

Model answer

Its members were chosen by **indirect election** by members of the **Provincial Legislative Assemblies** set up under the **Government of India Act, 1935**. The composition roughly followed the **Cabinet Mission** plan: seats in proportion to population (about 1:10,00,000), shared among Muslims, Sikhs and general, elected by proportional representation with single transferable vote.

2 marks BOARD PATTERN

What is meant by "public reason" in the working of the Constituent Assembly?

Model answer

Public reason means that members placed great emphasis on **discussion and reasoned argument**. They did not simply advance their own interests but **gave principled reasons to other members** for their positions. Giving reasons moves a person away from narrow self-interest, because others must be persuaded to go along.



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