



BAL BHARATI PUBLIC SCHOOL, PITAMPURA, DELHI –110034

SOCIAL SCIENCE: CLASS VIII

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL LIFE

CH-1: THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

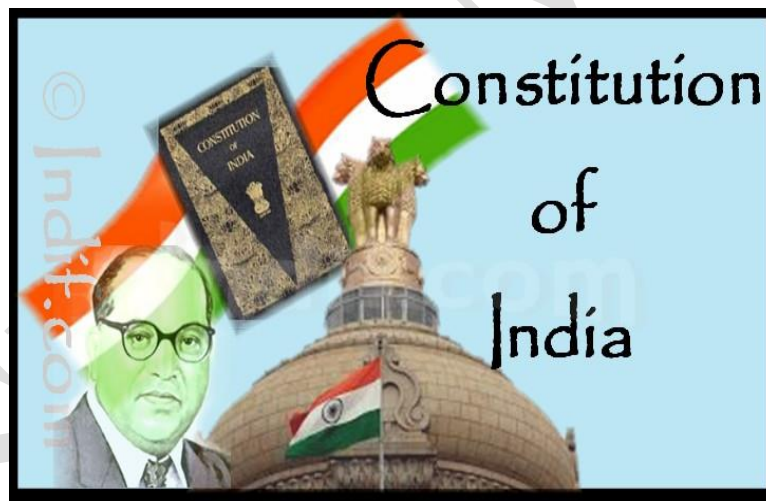
GENERAL GUIDELINES:

**E-MODULE:**

- Watch the videos related to the topic. (Link attached in the module)
- Read the content carefully. (Not to be copied in the Notebook)
- Attempt all the given question and assignment in the social science notebook.
- Do refer to the NCERT Political Science Book

**NCERT BOOK:** <http://ncert.nic.in/textbook/textbook.htm?hess3=0-10>

**Chapter:** <http://ncert.nic.in/textbook/textbook.htm?hess3=1-10>



Constitution is a set of rules and regulations by which a nation [country] functions.

It is often in the form of a written document.

It defines the fundamental political principles, establishes the structure, procedures, powers and duties of a government.

## NEED OF A CONSTITUTION IN A COUNTRY: -

Constitution is important or crucial for the working of democracy for the following reasons:

A constitution tells us about the fundamental nature of our society. E.g. It tells us whether a country is a democracy or not.

It serves as a set of rules and principles that a country can be governed by.

A constitution defines the nature of a country's political system. E.g. A constitution tells us how the government will be formed etc.

A constitution lays out certain important guidelines for the decision-making within the societies.

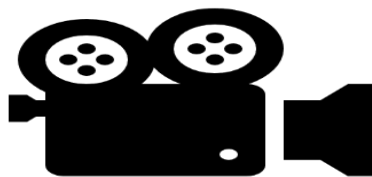
A constitution provides safeguards against misuse of authority.

It ensures that a dominant group does not use its power against other, less powerful people or groups.

In other words, it helps to prevent tyranny or domination by the majority on a minority.

Constitution does not allow the impulse or urge to change its basic structure.

So, we cannot change the democratic set up of our country.



Click on the above camera Icon (Left mouse click) to watch the related clip on “Constitution of India”.

**CASE STUDY OF NEPAL**  
**STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY AND THE FORMATION OF A CONSTITUTION**



It was ruled by monarchs till 1990, after that democracy was established there for next 12 years after a long struggle for it.

- According to Constitution of 1990, "the king of the Nepal" held the supreme authority and he could exercise all the powers as he desired.
- The executive power of the kingdom of Nepal was exercised exclusively by his Majesty. The executive power of Nepal followed the Constitution and other laws.

It did not reflect the ideals of a democratic nation.

- In October, 2002, again the king took all the powers in his hands with the help of the army by giving the reason of Maoist uprising in the country.
- King Gyanendra, became the head of the government in February 2005. The Maoist joined hands with other political parties and signed a 12-point agreement demanding peace and democracy in the country.

In 2006 the king had to accept the public demands and restore the democracy.

- According to 2007 Interim Constitution, the executive powers were now shared by a council of ministers under the leadership of prime minister.
- All the executive powers "lay in the hands of council of" ministers who would be elected by the citizens of Nepal.

## ASSIGNMENT 1

Q1) Define the following terms:

- a) Constitution
- b) Constituent Assembly

Q2) Why does a country need a constitution?

Q3) Why did people of Nepal have to Write a new constitution after 2006?

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