

**POLITICAL SCIENCE · CHAPTER 1**

# Constitution: Why and How?

A 1-page guide for parents · 90-second read.

**EXPECTED MARKS**

**A well-prepared student should comfortably score 7-8 out of 8 on this chapter. Below 4 usually means the child is memorising stray dates without understanding the four functions or the making of the Constitution.**

**TIME TO MASTER****6-8 hrs****HELPLINE****70330 05444****WHAT THIS CHAPTER IS, IN PLAIN ENGLISH**

This is the opening chapter of your child's Class 11 Political Science book 'Indian Constitution at Work'. It answers two simple questions: WHY does any country need a constitution, and HOW did India get its own? Your child learns that a constitution is the supreme rule-book of a nation — it decides who holds power, sets limits so that the government cannot do whatever it likes, expresses the dreams and identity of the people, and gives everyone a shared framework to live together with trust. The chapter then tells the story of how Indians themselves wrote our Constitution through the Constituent Assembly between 1946 and 1949, with Dr B.R. Ambedkar leading the drafting. It is a foundation chapter — usually 6 to 8 marks — and everything later in the book builds on it.

**5 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD**

- What are the four main functions of a constitution? Give one Indian example of each.
- Who 'gave' India its Constitution — the British, or Indians themselves? Explain.
- What is the difference between 26 November 1949 and 26 January 1950?
- Who was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, and who was President of the Constituent Assembly?
- Why should we accept the Constitution as supreme instead of changing it like any ordinary law?

**WEAK-SPOT INDICATORS**

- Says the Constitution was 'given by the British' — a fundamental misunderstanding the chapter exists to correct.
- Swaps the adoption date (26 Nov 1949) and the commencement date (26 Jan 1950).
- Can only name 'rights' as the job of a constitution, missing the other three functions.
- Lists functions as bare phrases without being able to explain or illustrate any of them.

**WHEN TO WORRY — AND WHAT TO DO**

If your child cannot explain the FOUR functions of a constitution in their own words with one example each, they will lose 4-6 marks here and struggle with every later chapter, because the whole book is about these functions in action. The fix is to make them WRITE the answers out, not just read the chapter — Political Science marks come from structured, point-wise writing.

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