

Class 1 Worksheet: Introduction to the Constitution

Name: _____

Date: _____

Batch: _____

Instructions

1. Read each passage carefully before answering.
2. Answer only on the basis of the information given in the passage and the concepts discussed in class.
3. Do not rely only on memorised facts.
4. For application-based questions, identify the **constitutional principle** → **facts** → **application**.
5. Each question has **one best answer**.

PART A — PASSAGE-BASED QUESTIONS

Passage 1

A Constitution is the fundamental framework according to which a country is governed. It establishes the structure of government, distributes powers among different institutions, places limitations on governmental authority and protects certain rights and freedoms of individuals.

In a constitutional democracy, the government does not possess unlimited power merely because it has been elected. The Constitution determines the manner in which governmental power may be exercised. Therefore, even a government enjoying considerable popular support must act within constitutional boundaries.

Question 1

Which of the following best describes the primary function of a Constitution according to the passage?

- A. To give the government unlimited authority to govern efficiently.
- B. To establish and regulate governmental power while placing constitutional limits upon it.
- C. To ensure that all citizens agree with every government decision.
- D. To replace ordinary laws enacted by the legislature.

Question 2

According to the passage, which of the following statements is most accurate?

- A. An elected government can exercise any power as long as it has majority support.
- B. Constitutional limitations apply only to governments that are unpopular.

- C. Electoral legitimacy does not make governmental power unlimited.
- D. Constitutional limitations are applicable only to the judiciary.

Question 3

Suppose a government has been elected with an overwhelming majority. It then passes a law that violates a constitutional limitation.

Based on the passage, which statement is most appropriate?

- A. The law must automatically be valid because the government has majority support.
- B. The law cannot be questioned because elections provide unlimited governmental authority.
- C. The law may be challenged because governmental power remains subject to constitutional limitations.
- D. The law becomes constitutional merely because it was passed by the legislature.

Passage 2

The Indian Constitution was framed by the Constituent Assembly. The Constituent Assembly first met on 9 December 1946. A Drafting Committee was subsequently constituted on 29 August 1947, with Dr. B. R. Ambedkar as its Chairman.

The Constitution was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26 November 1949 and came into force on 26 January 1950.

The distinction between the Constituent Assembly and the Drafting Committee is important. The Constituent Assembly was the broader constitution-making body, while the Drafting Committee was responsible for preparing and refining the draft Constitution on the basis of decisions taken in the constitution-making process.

Question 4

Which of the following correctly identifies the role of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar?

- A. President of the Constituent Assembly
- B. Chairman of the Drafting Committee
- C. First President of India
- D. Constitutional Adviser to the Constituent Assembly

Question 5

Which of the following pairs is correctly matched?

- A. 9 December 1946 — Constitution came into force

B. 29 August 1947 — First meeting of Constituent Assembly

C. 26 November 1949 — Constitution adopted

D. 26 January 1950 — Drafting Committee constituted

Question 6

A student says:

“Dr. B. R. Ambedkar personally created the entire Constitution, while the Constituent Assembly merely approved his work.”

Which of the following is the best response?

A. Correct, because Ambedkar was the President of the Constituent Assembly.

B. Correct, because the Drafting Committee and Constituent Assembly were the same body.

C. Incorrect, because the Constituent Assembly was the broader constitution-making body and the Drafting Committee worked on preparing and refining the draft.

D. Incorrect, because Ambedkar had no role in drafting the Constitution.

PART B — SITUATIONAL / APPLICATION-BASED QUESTIONS

Question 7 — Government Power

The Union Government passes a law stating:

“Any person who publicly criticises the government may be arrested without any legal procedure.”

The government argues that since it was elected by the people, it has the authority to enact any law necessary for maintaining its popularity and political stability.

Which of the following is the strongest constitutional objection?

A. Elected governments can never make laws affecting citizens.

B. Governmental authority is subject to constitutional limitations and cannot be treated as unlimited.

C. Only the judiciary can make laws.

D. The Constitution applies only to citizens and not to the government.

Question 8 — Majority Rule

A political party wins 90% of the seats in Parliament. Its leaders argue:

“Because we have an overwhelming majority, the Constitution cannot prevent us from passing any law we want.”

Which of the following is the best response?

- A. Correct, because democracy means that the majority can do anything.
- B. Correct, because Parliament is superior to the Constitution.
- C. Incorrect, because democratic government operates within constitutional limitations.
- D. Incorrect, because Parliament has no power to make laws.

Question 9 — Republic

Country X has a system in which the position of Head of State automatically passes from a monarch to their eldest child.

Country Y has a Head of State who is elected according to its constitutional system.

Which statement is most consistent with the meaning of “Republic” discussed in class?

- A. Country X is necessarily a republic because it has a written Constitution.
- B. Country Y reflects the republican principle because its Head of State is not a hereditary monarch.
- C. Both countries are republics because both have governments.
- D. Neither country can be a republic unless it has a parliamentary system.

Question 10 — Federalism

The Union Government and a State Government both exist in India. A dispute arises regarding which government has authority over a particular constitutional subject.

A student argues:

“The State Government is merely an administrative branch of the Union Government, so it has no constitutionally recognised sphere of authority.”

Which of the following is the best response?

- A. Correct, because India has only one government.
- B. Correct, because federalism exists only in countries with two Presidents.
- C. Incorrect, because India's constitutional system distributes powers between the Union and the States.
- D. Incorrect, because States are completely independent sovereign countries.

Question 11 — Constitution vs Ordinary Law

Parliament passes an ordinary law that directly contradicts a constitutional provision.

The government argues:

“Parliament enacted the law, so the Constitution must give way to the new law.”

Which principle from the class most directly contradicts this argument?

- A. Parliamentary supremacy over the Constitution
- B. Supremacy of the Constitution
- C. Supremacy of the Executive
- D. Supremacy of ordinary legislation

Question 12 — Judicial Review

Parliament passes a law that allegedly violates a Fundamental Right. A citizen approaches the court challenging the constitutional validity of the law.

The government argues:

“Courts cannot examine laws passed by Parliament because Parliament represents the people.”

Based on the concepts discussed in class, which is the best response?

- A. Courts may examine governmental action and legislation for constitutional validity through judicial review.
- B. Courts can never examine legislation passed by Parliament.
- C. Only the President can decide whether legislation is constitutional.
- D. A law can never be unconstitutional if it has been passed by Parliament.

PART C — CONCEPTUAL UNDERSTANDING

Question 13

Which of the following is **NOT** a primary function of a Constitution?

- A. Establishing institutions of government
- B. Distributing governmental powers
- C. Placing limitations on government power
- D. Ensuring that the government can never be challenged

Question 14

Consider the following statements:

1. India has a written Constitution.
2. India has a parliamentary form of government.
3. India has an independent judiciary.
4. India has a federal system with a strong Centre.

Which of the above are features of the Indian constitutional system?

- A. Only 1 and 2
- B. Only 2 and 3
- C. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- D. Only 1, 3 and 4

Question 15 — Preamble

The Preamble describes India as a:

- A. Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic
- B. Sovereign, Federal, Socialist, Monarchical Republic
- C. Socialist, Unitary, Secular, Democratic Monarchy
- D. Sovereign, Capitalist, Secular, Democratic Republic

Question 16

A student says: “Democracy means that whatever the majority wants must always be legally valid.”

Which of the following best explains why this statement is incomplete?

- A. Democracy has no relationship with the Constitution.
- B. Constitutional democracy also requires respect for constitutional limitations, rights and the rule of law.
- C. In a democracy, only judges can make decisions.
- D. Democracy means that minorities have greater political power than the majority.

PART D — CLAT-STYLE MINI PASSAGE

Passage 3

A Constitution is sometimes described as a mechanism for controlling power. The government needs sufficient authority to make laws, administer the country and respond to public needs. At the same time, unrestricted governmental authority can threaten individual liberty and constitutional values.

A constitutional system therefore attempts to create a balance. It gives institutions enough power to govern effectively while establishing legal and constitutional boundaries that those institutions cannot ordinarily cross.

Consider a hypothetical country called **Navadesh**. The elected government of Navadesh passes a law stating that all citizens must obtain government permission before expressing criticism of the

government. The government argues that the law is valid because it was elected by the people.

Question 17

The central constitutional idea in the passage is:

- A. Government must have unlimited authority.
- B. Government power must coexist with constitutional limitations.
- C. Elections have no role in democracy.
- D. Citizens cannot criticise the government.

Question 18

The government's argument in Navadesh is weakest because:

- A. Elections automatically become invalid when criticism is restricted.
- B. An elected government is still required to operate within constitutional boundaries.
- C. Governments have no authority to regulate citizens.
- D. Only unelected governments can restrict individual liberty.

Question 19

Suppose the Constitution of Navadesh expressly protects freedom of expression. The government nevertheless argues that its law is valid because it was enacted by the legislature.

Which principle would provide the strongest basis for challenging the law?

- A. Supremacy of ordinary legislation
- B. Supremacy of the Constitution
- C. Supremacy of the executive
- D. Parliamentary privilege

Question 20

Which of the following best captures the lesson that a CLAT aspirant should take from the passage?

- A. Memorise every constitutional provision without considering its purpose.
- B. Assume that every government decision is unconstitutional.
- C. Identify the constitutional principle given in the passage and apply it to the facts.
- D. Select the option containing the most complicated legal terminology.