



Teacher's Guide

The Indian Constitution

Period 1

Based on the NCERT curriculum for Standard VIII



JANAAGRAHA CENTRE FOR CITIZENSHIP & DEMOCRACY

Janaagraha's initiative to improve citizen engagement in India's democracy through their civic learning program

Developed in collaboration with Young Leaders for Active Citizenship (YLAC)

The Indian Constitution | Teacher’s Guide (1/3)

Period 1

Class VIII
 Board – CBSE
 Subject – Social and Political Life
 Textbook – Social and Political Life Textbook III for Class VIII (NCERT)
 Chapter 1 – The Indian Constitution
 Number of periods – 03
 Length – 60 minutes

Section I – What are we going to learn and why is it important?

Learning objectives

Students will:

- Understand what a Constitution is and why it is necessary.
- Understand how Constitutions embody certain ideals.
- Understand the difference between monarchy, dictatorship and democracy.
- Learn why there is a need for limits on power in a democratic form of government.

Learning Outcomes

Students will

- Will understand the different types of government and the key elements of each.

Key Terms

Constitution	Rules	Ideals	Monarchy	Misuse of authority
Dictatorship	Democracy	Fairness	Majority	Basic structure

Section II – How are we going to learn

1. What is a Constitution?

Time: 5 minutes

Note to the teacher:

This is a class discussion to get students to think about the need for rules. Please initiate the discussion and use the board to note down responses. Conclude the discussion with a de-brief.

Facilitation Notes:

- We'll start by understanding what a Constitution is and why it is needed.
- A Constitution is a written document that contains the set of rules and ideals that people in a society agree to live by.

Let's try to understand this by thinking about our classroom first. Are there any rules in this classroom? What are some examples of such rules? Why do you think we need these rules? *[Take a couple of responses. Likely answers:*

[\(Image Source\)](#)

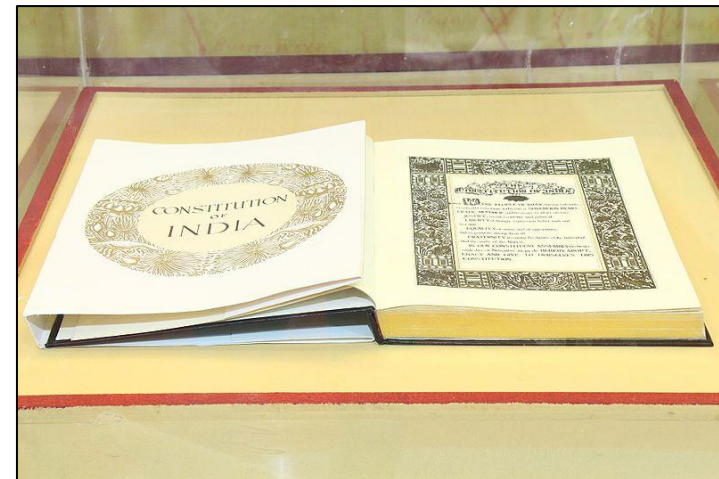
- *Rules that prevent you from running inside the class or in the corridors — to prevent students from falling and getting hurt.*
- *Raising your hand before you speak — to allow only one student to speak at a time.*
- *Silence in the classroom — to ensure that students can hear the teacher and learn.*
- *No copying in the exams — to accurately reward students who work hard.]*

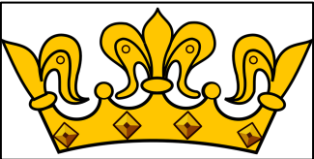


De-brief:

- Do we all agree that these rules are required? Can we run a school without these rules?
- Just like in this classroom, there are rules that are required to govern a society.
- These rules define the type of government a country has, and are formulated through an agreement among the members of the society.
- In modern countries, the most fundamental/ important rules are usually written down in a document called a Constitution.
- Let's now look at some types of governments – monarchy, dictatorship, and democracy.

2. Types of Government

Time: 10 minutes



 <p>Monarchy (Image Source)</p>	<p>A. <u>Monarchy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is a monarchy? ● It is a type of government where all authority rests with a monarch (King or Queen). Only the monarch takes decisions, and everyone else must obey. Monarchies usually pass the rule of the country from parent to child within the family. ● What are some examples of monarchies? – Bhutan, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, UAE.
 <p>Dictatorship (Image Source)</p>	<p>B. <u>Dictatorship</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is a dictatorship? ● All authority rests with the Dictator. Only the Dictator takes decisions, while everybody else obeys. In a dictatorship, it is harder to identify how authority is passed down. Usually, the most powerful person becomes the dictator. ● What are some examples of dictatorships? – North Korea.
 <p>Democracy</p>	<p>C. <u>Democracy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is a democracy? ● All authority rests with the people. People regularly elect representatives through elections who take decisions on their behalf. ● What are examples of democracies? – India, USA, Germany, France.

For the complete copy of the NCERT Lesson Plans click [here](#)