

Class: 8	Section:	Date:
Subject: SST		Topic: Understanding Secularism

SUMMARY SHEET		
Pedagogical Approach: Student – led		
Learner Previous Knowledge	N.A.	
Target Knowledge	The students will be able to: 1. Develop an understanding of the rule of law and our involvement with the law. 2. Understand laws as evolving and subject to change. 3. Understand the vision and the values of the Constitution. 4. Develop an appreciation of human rights guaranteed in the Constitution. 5. Appreciate our continuous involvement with the constitution as a living document. 6. Understand the Constitution as the primary source of all our laws.	
Period No.	Lesson Objectives	
1	Understanding Secularism	
2	Importance of separating religion from the state	
3	Understanding Indian Secularism	

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Lesson Plan 1

Lesson Objectives

At the end of this lesson students will be able to:

- Understand Secularism

Details of Teaching Learning Experience

Seating Arrangement: Normal

Lesson Beginning <u>Time:</u> 40 minutes <u>Purpose:</u> Introduce the topic	Begin the class by asking the following question: • What do you understand by secularism? • Tell them that secularism refers to this separation of religion from the state. • Also discuss the fact that the Indian Constitution allows individuals the freedom to live by their religious beliefs and practices.
Lesson Middle <u>Time:</u> 20 minutes <u>Purpose:</u> Develop conceptual understanding	The principles of secularism which protect and underpin many of the freedoms we enjoy are: • Separation of religious institutions from state institutions and a public sphere where religion may participate, but not dominate. • Freedom to practice one's faith or belief without harming others, or to change it or not have one, according to one's own conscience. • Equality so that our religious beliefs or lack of them doesn't put any of us at an advantage or a disadvantage.
Lesson End <u>Time:</u> 10 minutes <u>Purpose:</u> Recap students' learning	Ask the following question in the class and have a debate and discussion with the students. • All religions are the same. Can there be different views within the same religion?

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Lesson Plan 2

Lesson Objectives

At the end of this lesson students will be able to:

- Understand the importance of separating religion from the state

Details of Teaching Learning Experience

Seating Arrangement: - In groups of 4

Lesson Beginning <u>Time:</u> 20 minutes <u>Purpose:</u> Introduce the topic	• Start the class with the recap of the previous class • Then talk about how the constitution of our country inculcated the value of secularism in its Fundamental rights • Discuss how the separation of religion and state is the foundation of secularism. It ensures religious groups don't interfere in affairs of state, and the state doesn't interfere in religious affairs.
Lesson Middle <u>Time:</u> 10 minutes <u>Purpose:</u> Develop conceptual understanding	Come to the discussion of why is it important to separate Religion from the State. The three main points are- i) For proper functioning of democracy. (ii) It prohibits the domination of one religion over another. (iii) To protect the freedom of individuals to exit from their religion, embrace another religion or have the freedom to interpret religious teachings differently.
Lesson End <u>Time:</u> 10 minutes <u>Purpose:</u> Recap students learning	• Continue the discussion.

Lesson Plan 3

Lesson Objectives

At the end of this lesson students will be able to:

- Understand Indian Secularism

Details of Teaching Learning Experience

Seating Arrangement: - In groups of 4

Class: 8	Section:	Date:
Subject: SST		Topic: Understanding Secularism

Lesson Beginning <u>Time:</u> 20 minutes <u>Purpose:</u> Introduce the topic	• Start the class with the recap of the previous class discussion. • Discuss with the students what they have understood from the previous class • Ask them what do they understand by Indian Secularism?
Lesson Middle <u>Time:</u> 15 minutes <u>Purpose:</u> Develop conceptual understanding	Discuss with them the main points of Indian Secularism mentioned below: (i)The Indian Constitution mandates that the Indian state be a secular state. (ii)One religious community does not dominate another in a secular state. (iii)In a secular state, some members do not dominate other members of the same religious community. (iv)The state does not enforce any particular religion nor take away the religious freedom of individuals. (v)The government schools cannot promote any one religion. (vi)In order to respect the sentiments of all religions and not interfere with religious practices, the state makes certain exceptions for particular religious' communities. For Eg. Sikhs wear 'pugri' (turban) as a religious practice. Hence they need not to wear helmet while riding two-wheeler. (vii)The Indian secularism works to prevent the domination of majority religion over minority. (viii)In order to prevent this religion-based exclusion and discrimination of lower castes, the Indian Constitution bans untouchability. (ix) In order to end social practices, the state may have to intervene in the religion based orders. (x)The Indian state is secular and works in various ways to prevent religious domination. In India, the state can interfere in religion on the ideal laid down in the constitution. For example; Untouchability is banned by the law.
Lesson End <u>Time:</u> 5 minutes <u>Purpose:</u> Recap students' learning	Finish up the class with the following questions to be done by the students as an assignment. • Look up the annual calendar of holidays of your school. How many of them pertain to different religions? What does this indicate? • List the different types of religious practice that you find in your neighbourhood. • Can you think of a recent incident, from any part of India, in which the secular ideals of the Constitution were violated and persons were persecuted and killed because of their religious backgrounds?