

READING MATERIALS

SUBJECT: POLITICAL SCIENCE

CLASS: IX

BOOK: DEMOCRATIC POLITICS PART-I

CHAPTER: CONSTITUTIONAL DESIGN (PART-PREAMBLE)

CONCEPTS

CONSTITUTION:

A Constitution is primarily a set of rules and principles specifying how a country should be governed, how power is distributed and controlled, and what rights citizens possess. It is usually written down and contained within a document. The Constitution of India is like a form of a book.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY:

A constituent assembly is a body composed for the purpose of drafting or adopting a constitution...A constituent assembly is usually set up for its specific purpose, which it carries out in a relatively short time, after which the assembly is dissolved.

WE THE PEOPLE OF INDIA:

Constitution has been drawn up and enacted by the people through their representatives, and not handed down to them by a king or any outside powers.

SOVEREIGN:

People have the supreme right to make decisions on internal as well as external matters. No external power can dictate the Government of India.

SOCIALIST:

Wealth is generated socially and should be shared equally by society. The government should regulate ownership of land and industry to reduce socio-economic inequalities.

SECULAR:

Citizens have complete freedom to follow any religion. But there is no official religion. The government treats all religious beliefs and practices with equal respect.

DEMOCRATIC:

A form of government where people enjoy equal political rights, elect their rulers and hold them accountable. The government is run according to some basic rules.

REPUBLIC:

The head of the state is an elected person and not a hereditary position.

JUSTICE:

Citizens cannot be discriminated against on the grounds of caste, religion and gender. Social inequalities have to be reduced. The government should work for the welfare of all, especially of the disadvantaged groups.

LIBERTY:

There are no unreasonable restrictions on the citizens in what they think; how they wish to express their thoughts and the way they wish to follow up their thoughts in action.

EQUALITY:

All the citizen of India is equal before the law. The traditional social inequalities have to be ended. The government should ensure equal opportunity to all.

FRATERNITY:

All of us should behave as if we are members of the same family. No one should treat as fellow citizen as inferior.
