

SYLLABUS 2024-2025

Class : XII
Subject : POLITICAL SCIENCE
Book : ISC POLITICAL SCIENCE [11] BY K.K. GHAI
Publisher : KALYANI PUBLICATIONS

Term 1

Forms of Government: Meaning and features of Totalitarian State, Authoritarian State and Liberal Democratic State. Comparison between Totalitarian and Authoritarian States. Historic and contemporary examples of each. Meaning and features of Unitary and Federal States with reference to U.K. as a Unitary state, U.S.A. as a Federal State and India as a federal state with subsidiary unitary features, comparison between unitary and federal state.

Constitution: Meaning; kinds: Written and Unwritten, Rigid and Flexible, Enacted and Evolved: merits, demerits of each. Is the difference between Written and Unwritten, Rigid and Flexible a real one? Amending procedures of the Constitutions of U.K., U.S.A and India. Conventions: meaning and examples with reference to U.K., U.S.A. and India. The importance of Conventions in U.K.

Franchise and Representation: Universal Adult Franchise - meaning, reasons for widespread acceptance. Methods of Election: Direct and Indirect – meaning with examples. Meaning of Constituency, Single member and Multi-member with examples. First Past the Post System – meaning, merits and demerits. Minority Representation - meaning, rationale (Why is it important for minorities to be represented properly). Methods of Minority Representation: Proportional Representation (List system and single transferable vote system), Cumulative Vote System, Nomination and Reservation. Political Parties - meaning, definition and functions. Kinds – Single party, Biparty, Multiparty system - meaning, merits and demerits.

The Legislature: Meaning and functions of Legislature. Meaning of Unicameral and Bicameral legislature. The legislatures in India and U.S.A.- Composition (strength, method of election and tenure) and functions: legislative, constituent, executive (ways in which the legislature controls the executive), judicial, electoral and financial. Composition and powers of the House of Representatives and the Senate, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha (including special powers). Unique powers of the Senate, why is the Senate considered the world’s most powerful second chamber? Comparison of the Rajya Sabha and the U.S. Senate; Lok Sabha with the U.S. House of Representatives.

Holiday Homework PROJECT WORK:

- (i) A case study.
- (ii) Survey study with a questionnaire.
- (iii) Research based project with in-depth analysis.

Contact Us

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(iv) Local/ national/ global political issue.

(v) Book review/ film review/ documentaries/ posters/ newspapers/ advertisements/ cartoons and art.

List of suggested topics for Project Work:

1. Judicial Activism – two case studies in which the Judiciary has safeguarded the environment or human rights.
2. Party System in India – changing phases.
3. Examine one Supreme Court case dealing with Fundamental Rights. Identify the issues of the case and analyse the final ruling.
4. Role of Local Self Government institutions in women empowerment.
5. Explore the controversies around the development of a Uniform Civil Code mentioned in the Directive Principles.
6. Identify and explain the electoral reforms that are urgently needed in India.
7. Discrimination faced by a girl child.
8. Right to Education: To what extent has it benefited the slum children?
9. Role of National Human Rights Commission in safeguarding the rights of the under-privileged.

Term 2

The Executive: Meaning, and functions of the Executive. Meaning and role of Civil Services. Difference between the Political and Permanent Executive in India. Political Executive in India and U.S.A. - a comparative study. Powers and functions of executive heads of India (President and Prime Minister), and U.S.A. (President). Constitutional limitations on the powers of the President of the USA. Changing role of the Indian Prime Minister with reference to the past two decades.

The Judiciary: Meaning and functions of judiciary; conditions of independence of judiciary with reference to India and U.S.A. The Judiciary in India and U.S.A. – composition and powers of Indian Supreme Court and American Supreme Court. Judicial Review- meaning, principles (maxims) and critical evaluation with special reference to U.S.A. and India. Meaning of Judicial Activism and Judicial Restraint. Comparative study of Indian and US Supreme Courts - Which is most powerful and why?

(i) Preamble: Preamble and its importance. Meaning of the key words contained in the Preamble.

(ii) Salient features of the Indian Constitution: Written and Comprehensive; a Constitution drawn from several sources; Federal structure with Unitary spirit; Partly rigid and Partly flexible; Fundamental Rights and Duties; Directive Principles of State Policy; Parliamentary form of Government; Single Citizenship; Bi-cameral legislature; Universal Adult Franchise; Single Integrated and Independent Judiciary; Judicial Review; Emergency powers; Special provisions for Schedule castes and Schedule tribes.

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Term 3

Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles: Fundamental Rights: meaning and importance of Fundamental Rights; detailed study of all Fundamental Rights in India. Directive Principles of State Policy: meaning and purpose; classification, importance and implementation. Relationship between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy.

Local self-government: 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts. Key features of the 73rd and 74th Amendments. 11th and 12th schedules in brief. Three tier systems of Panchayati Raj; Rural and Urban local bodies - their composition. Challenges and solutions.

Democracy in India – meaning and role of caste in Indian Politics. Communalism: meaning and effects on the functioning of Indian democracy. Regionalism: meaning and causes; kinds of regional aspirations (language issues, sons of-the-soil policies, river water disputes, demand for new states, secessionist demands); responding to regionalism. Political Violence: meaning, forms, causes and effects. Strengthening Indian Democracy: measures to overcome the challenges faced by Indian Democracy.

Term 4 Revision

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