



**BHARTIYA SIKSHA BOARD**

**Political Science**

SYLLABUS (2026–27)

CLASS XI

SUBJECT CODE: 148

**Theory Paper + Internal Assessment Time: 3 Hrs.**

**Total Marks: 100**

## 1. Rationale

The study of Political Science in Class XI introduces students to the foundational ideas, values, and structures that shape political life in both India and the wider world. By engaging with concepts such as liberty, equality, justice, citizenship, and democracy—through Western traditions as well as India’s rich intellectual lineage—students learn to appreciate the diverse ways in which political ideas emerge, evolve, and acquire meaning across contexts. The course equips learners with the analytical tools to understand how political ideologies influence institutions, and how these ideas are adapted within the Indian experience. Alongside political theory, an exploration of the Indian Constitution enables students to grasp why societies create constitutions, how these documents organize state power, and how they protect individual rights and collective welfare. Through the study of the Constituent Assembly debates, the historical circumstances of India’s freedom struggle, and the comparative analysis of global constitutional models, students recognize the unique character of the Indian constitutional system. Ultimately, this subject empowers learners to view the Constitution not as a static legal text but as a living document that continues to evolve through democratic participation. It also encourages students to engage critically and responsibly as informed citizens in a democratic society.

## 2. Objectives of the Curriculum

The Class XI Political Science syllabus aims to achieve several academic and civic objectives.

### a. Understanding the Discipline of Political Science

The students are made aware of the nature and scope of the discipline of political science. The students are introduced to political science as a systematic study of ideas as well as institutions. The discipline is also the scientific study of how authority is managed and exercised in a society.

### b. Understanding Key Political Concepts

The students are introduced to the key concepts of liberty, equality, justice, citizenship, democracy, and rights. The students learn about the various interpretations of these concepts.

**c. Integrated Indian Knowledge tradition anchors**

- Indian lineage & categories: **Dharma–Artha–Kāma–Mokṣa**, *Rājadharma*, *Nyāya*, *Nīti*
- **Texts & references:** **Kauṭilya’s Arthaśāstra** (Bk I–IV: statecraft, law, revenue, justice), **Śāntiparva** (Mahābhārata: duties of rulers, deliberation, restraint), **Aśokan edicts** (welfare & tolerance)
- **Dharmaśāstra/Nīti**
- **Buddhist dhamma**
- **Jain anekāntavāda** (plural truths)
- **Bhakti/Sufi** (Kabir, Basava, Nizamuddin) anti-hierarchy
- Gandhi’s **Bhagavad Gītā**: *svadharma*, *niṣkāma-karma*, *lokasaṃgraha* [civil disobedience and non-cooperation as means for swaraj]
- Modern Thinkers: **Vivekananda** (Karma Yoga), **Jyotirao Phule** (Universal Education for Feminist and Caste reforms), **Tilak** (Political awakening, cultural nationalism), **Gandhi** (Five forms of Swaraj), **Ambedkar** (Grammar of Anarchy, Trinity of Justice)

### 3. Structure of the Curriculum

The Class XI Political Science syllabus is organized into **two books**, each focusing on a different dimension of the subject.

**Book A** focuses on **political theory and ideological traditions**. (108/204 Sessions)

**Book B** focuses on the **Indian Constitution and political institutions**. (96/204 Sessions)

#### Part A: Political Theory – 40 Marks

Chapter	Period/Session	Marks
Introduction to Political Theory	10	4
State, Power, and Authority	12	9
Liberty, Freedom and Rights	14	
Equality	11	7
Justice	11	
Citizenship	8	3
Democracy	16	7
Ideology	11	5
Liberalism and Conservatism	8	3
Socialism / Marxism	7	2

## Part B: Indian Constitution – 40 Marks

Chapter	Period/Session	Marks
Constitution: Why and How	10	7
Structure of the State	8	
Legislature	10	8
Executive	10	
Judiciary	9	4
Federalism	9	4
Citizenship and Fundamental Rights	16	7
Directive Principles & Fundamental Duties	9	4
Elections and Representation	8	3
Indian Constitution – Comparative Perspective	7	3

### INTERNAL ASSESSMENT: 20 MARKS

#### 4. Term-End Examination

##### Theory: 80 Marks

PART-A <u>Political Theory</u>	Marks Distribution	Total (40)
MCQ	8 questions x 1 mark	8
Short Answer Questions (50-70 words each)	5 questions x 2 marks	10
Medium Answer Questions (100-120 words each)	3 questions x 4 marks	12
Long Answer Questions (180-220 words each)	1 question x 7 marks	7
Case study-based Question (20-30 words each)	1 question x 6 marks (3 sub-questions of 1 marks each)	3

PART-B <u>Indian Constitution at Work</u>	Marks Distribution	Total (40)
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MCQ	8 questions x 1 mark	8
Short Answer Questions (50-70 words each)	5 questions x 2 marks	10
Medium Answer Questions (100-120 words each)	3 questions x 4 marks	12
Long Answer Questions (180-220 words each)	1 question x 7 marks	7
Case study-based Question (20-30 words each)	1 question x 6 marks (3 sub-questions of 1 marks each)	3

<b><u>Internal Assessment</u></b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Marks</b>
Project Work	Research project on any module with IKS/ITK integration	8
Assignments	Two best assignments (policy memos, case briefs, analytical essays)	4
Classroom Participation	Simulations, debates, deliberations	4
Continuous Assessment	Class tests, presentations, artifact creation	4

## PROJECT WORK GUIDELINES

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Details</b>
Word Limit	3,000–4,000 words
Format	Structured report
Sections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction &amp; Context</li> <li>- Analytical Body with evidence &amp; IKS/ITK integration</li> <li>- Use of primary &amp; secondary sources (texts, data, interviews)</li> <li>- Conclusion with policy/normative implications</li> </ul>

## 5. Detailed Chapter Content

### Part A: Political Theory

No.	Chapter Title	Brief Description
1	<b>Introduction to Political Theory</b>	Introduces politics in everyday life and explains key concepts such as polity, political process, and political science. Explores power, authority, justice, and liberty, with references to Indian ideas like dharma and contemporary political concerns.
2	<b>State, Power and Authority</b>	Examines the origin and role of the state in maintaining order. Explains power, authority, and legitimacy, along with limits on power. Integrates Western theories with Indian ideas such as dharma and rajadharma.
3	<b>Freedom, Liberty and Rights</b>	Explores the meaning of freedom beyond choice, linking inner self-mastery with external liberty. Discusses rights as protections of freedom and examines conflicts, limits, and enabling conditions of liberty.
4	<b>Equality</b>	Distinguishes between factual inequality and moral equality. Examines different forms of equality and their justification. Discusses sources of inequality and constitutional provisions, integrating Indian philosophical and modern perspectives.
5	<b>Justice</b>	Defines justice as fairness in distribution of power and opportunity. Compares procedural and substantive justice and examines competing approaches. Integrates Indian ideas of dharma and modern debates on social justice.

6	<b>Citizenship</b>	Explains citizenship as legal status, participation, and moral responsibility. Traces its evolution and examines different models. Integrates Indian concepts like adhikāra and discusses citizenship in a globalised world.
7	<b>Democracy</b>	Examines democracy as a system and a value. Explains its principles, institutions, and forms. Highlights Indian democratic traditions and discusses contemporary challenges such as inequality and majoritarianism.
8	<b>Ideology</b>	Explains ideology as a framework shaping political thinking. Traces its philosophical roots and examines major ideologies like liberalism, Marxism, conservatism, and nationalism, with emphasis on debate and plurality.
9	<b>Liberalism, Capitalism and Conservatism</b>	Explores liberalism and its connection with capitalism. Examines key thinkers and principles, contrasts with conservatism, and discusses evolution towards welfare liberalism and contemporary relevance.
10	<b>Socialism and Marxism</b>	Analyses socialism and Marxism as critiques of inequality. Explains concepts like class struggle, surplus value, and alienation, and discusses Indian adaptations and contemporary debates on economic justice.

## PART-B - Indian Constitution at Work

No.	Chapter Title	Brief Description
1	<b>Constitution: Why and How</b>	Explains the need for a Constitution and its role in guiding political order. Traces the making of the Indian Constitution, its philosophical foundations, key features, and the Preamble. Discusses constitutional morality, amendments, and the idea of the Constitution as a living document.

2	<b>Structure of the State</b>	Introduces the overall structure of the Indian state, including the division of powers and institutional framework. Explains how different organs of government interact within a constitutional system and how authority and responsibility are distributed.
3	<b>Legislature</b>	Examines the structure and functions of Parliament, including law-making, representation, and accountability. Discusses legislative procedures, committees, and budgetary powers, highlighting the role of deliberation and debate in a democratic system.
4	<b>Executive</b>	Explains the structure and functioning of the executive, including the President, Prime Minister, and Council of Ministers. Examines the relationship between nominal and real executive, and discusses accountability, governance, and administrative responsibility.
5	<b>Judiciary</b>	Explores the structure and role of the judiciary in protecting rights and interpreting the Constitution. Discusses judicial review, independence of judiciary, and public interest litigation, highlighting its role in ensuring justice and constitutional supremacy.
6	<b>Federalism</b>	Examines the division of powers between Centre and States, and the functioning of Indian federalism. Discusses fiscal relations, cooperative federalism, and local governance institutions like Panchayati Raj and urban bodies.
7	<b>Citizenship and Fundamental Rights</b>	Explains the concept of citizenship and the nature of Fundamental Rights. Discusses types of rights, their importance, and mechanisms for protection, along with the relationship between individual freedom and constitutional safeguards.
8	<b>Directive Principles &amp; Fundamental Duties</b>	Examines Directive Principles as guiding principles for governance and Fundamental Duties as moral obligations of citizens. Discusses their relationship with rights and their role in achieving social justice and responsible citizenship.

9	<b>Elections and Representation</b>	Explains the role of elections in democracy and different electoral systems. Discusses the Election Commission, electoral reforms, and representation, highlighting the importance of free and fair elections in ensuring political participation.
10	<b>Indian Constitution – Comparative Perspective</b>	Compares the Indian Constitution with other systems such as the U.S. and U.K. Examines borrowed features and unique adaptations, highlighting how India developed a distinct constitutional model suited to its diversity and historical context.

## 6. Pedagogical Approach

The curriculum emphasizes interactive learning methods. Classroom activities include discussions, debates, simulations, and project-based learning. Students engage with case studies, historical debates, and institutional examples to understand political concepts in practice.

These methods encourage students to connect theoretical ideas with real-world political processes.

## 7. Expected learning Outcomes

The Class XI Political Science curriculum provides students with a strong foundation in both political theory and constitutional studies. By examining key political concepts alongside the institutional structure of the Indian state, the syllabus enables students to understand how political ideas influence governance.

The course also promotes awareness of constitutional values and democratic participation. Through this approach, students develop the knowledge and skills necessary to understand political systems and participate responsibly in democratic life.

By the end of Class XI, students will be able to:

- Understand the Nature, Scope, Methods, and Lineage of Political Science.
- Analyze and Comprehend key political concepts like Liberty, Freedom, Equality, Justice, Citizenship, and Democracy through Western as well as the Indian lens. They should particularly be able to examine the uniqueness of these concepts within these two distinct traditions.

- Critically assess the ideological traditions of the west that have evolved to expand the meaning and scope of Political concepts. It is imperative for the students to understand the distinctive adaptations of these within the Indian context.
- Define what a “constitution” is and explain its basic functions in a society (why a constitution is needed, what it does, how it shapes the structure of government).
- Understand how the Constituent Assembly of India drafted the Constitution of India, including the historical context, sources, and motivations behind it.
- Students will be familiar with the core features and structure of the Indian Constitution — such as fundamental rights, directive principles, scheme of elections and representation, separation of powers (executive, legislature, judiciary), federalism, local governance, etc.
- Compare the Indian Constitution with other constitutions (understand similarities and differences in constitutional design, institutions, federal structure, etc.).

View the Constitution as not just a legal document, but a living document that evolves, and to reflect on their role in upholding constitutional values and strengthening democracy.