

# POLITICAL SCIENCE (+1) 2024-2025

## RATIONALE

At the senior secondary level students who opt Political Science are given an opportunity to get introduced to the diverse concerns of a Political Scientist. At this level there is a need to enable students to engage with political processes that surround them and provide them with understanding of the historical context that has shaped the present. The different courses introduce the students to the various streams of the discipline of political science: political theory, Indian politics and international politics. Concerns of the other two streams- comparative politics and public administration- are accommodated at different places in these courses. In introducing these streams, special care has been taken not to burden the students with the current jargon of the discipline. The basic idea here is to lay the foundations for a serious engagement with the discipline at the under graduation stage.

## OBJECTIVES

### Indian Constitution At Work:

- Enable students to understand historical processes and circumstances in which the Constitution was drafted.
- Provide opportunity for students to be familiar with the diverse visions that guided the makers of the Indian Constitution.
- Enable students to identify the certain key features of the Constitution and compare these to other constitutions in the world.
- Analyses the ways in which the provisions of the Constitution have worked in real political life.

## POLITICAL THEORY

- Develop the skills for logical reasoning and abstraction.
- Inculcate attention to and respect for viewpoints other than one's own.
- Introduce students to the different political thinkers in relation to a concept and in everyday social life.
- Enable students to meaningfully participate in a concern of current political life that surrounds them.
- Encourage the students to analyse any unexamined prejudices that one may have inherited

## POLITICS IN INDIA AFTER INDEPENDENCE

- Enable students to be familiar with some of the key political events and figures in the post-independence period.
- Develop skills of political analysis through events and processes of recent history.
- Develop their capacity to link macro processes with micro situations and their own life
- Encourage the students to take a historical perspective of making sense of the contemporary India.

## CONTEMPORARY WORLD POLITICS

- Enable the students to expand their horizon beyond India and make sense of the political map of contemporary world.
- Familiarize the students with some of the key political events and processes in the post cold war era.
- Equip student to be conscious of the way in which global events and processes shape our everyday lives.
- Strengthen their capacity for political analysis by thinking of contemporary developments in a historical perspective.

## Courses of Study

### PART A : INDIAN CONSTITUTION AT WORK

1. CONSTITUTION: WHY AND HOW?
2. RIGHTS IN THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION
3. ELECTION AND REPRESENTATION
4. EXECUTIVE
5. LEGISLATURE
6. JUDICIARY
7. FEDERALISM
8. LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
9. CONSTITUTION AS A LIVING DOCUMENT
10. THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE CONSTITUTION

### PART B POLITICAL THEORY

11. POLITICAL THEORY: AN INTRODUCTION
12. FREEDOM
13. EQUALITY
14. SOCIAL JUSTICE
15. RIGHTS
16. CITIZENSHIP
17. NATIONALISM
18. SECULARISM

### **COURSE CONTENT**

#### PART A : INDIAN CONSTITUTION AT WORK

##### **1. CONSTITUTION: WHY AND HOW?**

Why do we need a constitution ? What does a constitution do ? Who made our constitution ? How did the country's partition affect the working of the Constituent Assembly ? What were the sources of the constitution?

##### **2. RIGHTS IN THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION**

Why do we need bill of rights in a constitution? What are the fundamental rights provided by the constitution? Why was the right to property removed from fundamental rights? interpretations by the courts influenced fundamental rights? How has provision of fundamental rights provided the basis for civil liberties movement in India? What are the fundamental duties? How have the

##### **3. ELECTION AND REPRESENTATION**

What are the different methods of representations? How do these methods affect parties and politics? Why was the first past the post system chosen in India ? What have been the effects of this system ? Why is there a system of reserved seats ? What are the provisions to ensure free and fair elections ? What does the Election Commission do ?

##### **4. EXECUTIVE**

Why was the parliamentary system chosen over other forms o government? Why does the parliamentary system need a constitutional head? How are the prime minister and the chief ministers elected? What are the powers of the President of India ? What are the powers of the Prime Minister or the Chief Minister and the council of ministers? What are the powers of the governor ?

##### **5. LEGISLATURE**

Why does the parliament of India have two Houses ? How are the Parliament and the state assemblies constituted ? What are the powers of the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha ? How are the laws passed? How is the executive made accountable ? What are the constitutional means to prevent defection?

## **6. JUDICIARY**

What is Rule of law ? Why do we need an independent judiciary? What are the provisions that ensure the independence of judiciary in India? How are judges appointed ? What are the powers of the Supreme and the High courts? How do they use their jurisdiction for public interest.

## **7. FEDERALISM**

What is federalism? How does federalism ensure accommodation of diversities ? In which ways is the Indian constitution federal ? In which ways does the constitution strengthen the centre ? Why are there special provisions for some states and areas?

## **8. LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

Why do we need decentralization of power? What has been the status of local government in the constitution? What are the basic features of rural and urban local governments? What has been the effect of giving constitutional status to local governments?

## **9. CONSTITUTION AS A LIVING DOCUMENT**

How has the constitution changed since its inception? Why further changes are being debated? How has the working of democracy affected the constitution?

## **10. THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE CONSTITUTION**

What are the core provisions of the constitution ? What is the vision underlying these core provisions? How is this vision shaped by modern Indian political thought?

## **PART-B POLITICAL THEORY**

### **11. POLITICAL THEORY: AN INTRODUCTION**

What is politics? Do we find politics in seemingly non- political domains? Can political arguments be resolved through reasoning? Why do we need political theory?

### **12. FREEDOM**

What is freedom ? What are reasonable constraints on individual liberty? How are the limits defined?

### **13. EQUALITY**

Do all differences involve inequality? Does equality imply sameness? What are the major forms of inequality ? How can equality be realized

### **14. SOCIAL JUSTICE**

Is justice all about fairness? What is the relationship between justice and equality ? What are the different forms of injustice ? In which ways can justice be secured ?

### **15. RIGHTS**

How is a right different from any claim? What are the major kinds of right claims ? How do we resolve a conflict between individual and community rights? How does the state enable and obstruct rights ?

### **16. CITIZENSHIP**

Who is a citizen? What are relevant grounds for inclusion and exclusion? How are new claims to citizenship negotiated? Can we have a global citizenship ?

### **17. NATIONALISM**

How are the boundaries of a nation defined? Must every nation have a state ? What demands can a nation make on its citizens? What is the basis of the right to self determination?

### **18. SECULARISM**

What is secularism ? Which domains of life does it relate to? What is a secular state ? Why do we need secular state in modern times secularism suitable for India ?