



BHARTIYA SHIKSHA BOARD

Political Science

SYLLABUS (2026–27)

CLASS XI

SUBJECT CODE: 161

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 in the Indian context. Alongside political theory, an exploration of the Indian Constitution enables students to grasp why societies create constitutions, how these documents organise 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 recognise 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 political science. The students are introduced to political science as the systematic study of ideas and institutions. The discipline is also the scientific study of how authority is managed and exercised in a society.

b. Understanding Key Political Concepts

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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: **Purushartha** (Dharma–Artha–Kāma–Mokṣa), *Rājadharmā*, *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)
- **Upanishads**
- **Dharmaśāstra/Nīti**
- **Buddhist dhamma**
- **Jain anekāntavāda** (plural truths)
- Gandhi's Bhagavad Gītā: *svadharma*, *niṣkāma-karma*, *lokasaṃgraha* [civil disobedience and non-cooperation as means for swaraj]
- Modern Thinkers: **Vivekananda** (Karma Yoga), **Sri Aurobindo** (Cultural Nationalism and independent thought), **Gandhi** (Five forms of Swaraj), **Ambedkar** (Fraternity, social equality, and Legal perspective on eradicating social ills)

3. Structure of the Curriculum

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

Book A focuses on **political theory and ideological traditions**. (102/204 Sessions)

Book B focuses on the **Indian Constitution and political institutions**. (102/204 Sessions)

Part A: Foundations of Political Theory – 40 Marks

Chapter	Period/Session	Marks
Introduction to Political Science	10	4
State, Power, and Authority	10	9
Liberty, Freedom and Rights	13	
Equality	10	7
Justice	10	
Citizenship	8	3
Democracy	15	7
Ideology	11	5
Liberalism and Conservatism	8	3
Socialism / Marxism	7	2

Part B: Indian Polity and Constitution – 40 Marks

Chapter	Period/Session	Marks
The Making of the Indian Constitution	9	7
Structure of the State	9	
Legislature	12	8
Executive	12	
Federalism	10	4
Judiciary	11	4
Rights	14	7
Responsibilities	10	4
Elections and Representation	8	3
Comparative Study of the Indian Constitution	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 6 marks	6
Case study-based Question (20-30 words each)	1 question x 4 marks (4 sub-questions of 1 mark each)	4

PART-B <u>Indian Constitution at Work</u>	Marks Distribution	Total (40)
MCQ	8 questions x 1 mark	8

Short Answer Questions (50-70 words each)	5 questions × 2 marks	10
Medium Answer Questions (100-120 words each)	3 questions × 4 marks	12
Long Answer Questions (180-220 words each)	1 question × 6 marks	6
Case study-based Question (20-30 words each)	1 question × 4 marks (4 sub-questions of 1 mark each)	4

<u>Internal Assessment</u>	Description	Marks
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, artefact creation	4

PROJECT WORK GUIDELINES

Requirement	Details
Word Limit	3,000–4,000 words
Format	Structured report
Sections	- Introduction & Context - Analytical Body with evidence & IKS/ITK integration - Use of primary & secondary sources (texts, data, interviews) - Conclusion with policy/normative implications - Bibliography

5. Detailed Chapter Content

Part A - Political Theory: Concepts and Foundations

Chapter 1. Introduction to Political Science

Major Themes: Politics in everyday life; nature, scope and methods of Political Science; political science, political theory, political philosophy and political thought; political process, polity and political system; interdisciplinary nature of political science; globalisation and the changing nature of politics.

Key Concepts, Theories & Thinkers: State, power, authority, justice, liberty, equality and rights; empirical and normative approaches; behavioural and post-behavioural approaches; observation, abstraction, analysis and prescription; political institutions and political behaviour.

Indian Knowledge System (IKS) Focus: Bharatiya political thought; dharma as the foundation of political life; politics as an instrument of public welfare (*Lokasangraha*); harmony between individual, society and the state.

Chapter 2. State, Power and Authority

Major Themes: Need, origin, meaning, elements and functions of the state; theories of the origin of the state; sovereignty; power, authority and legitimacy; evolution of the modern state; limits on state power; constitutionalism and rule of law.

Key Concepts, Theories & Thinkers: Divine Origin Theory; Force Theory; Social Contract Theory (Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau); Evolutionary Theory; sovereignty; legitimacy; Max Weber's types of authority; constitutionalism; separation of powers; checks and balances.

Indian Knowledge System (IKS) Focus: Rajadharma; Dharma; Dāṇḍa and Dāṇḍanīti; Matsya Nyaya; Saptanga Theory; Arthashastra; Mahabharata (Shanti Parva); Thirukkural; duties of the ruler and ethical governance.

Chapter 3. Liberty, Freedom, and Rights

Major Themes: Meaning and dimensions of liberty; freedom and self-mastery; positive and negative liberty; rights and responsibilities; Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles and Fundamental Duties; human rights; balancing liberty with social order.

Key Concepts, Theories & Thinkers: Natural, legal, moral, civil, political, social and economic rights; Isaiah Berlin; John Locke; J. S. Mill; relationship between liberty, rights and responsibilities; constitutional limitations on rights.

Indian Knowledge System (IKS) Focus: Dharma, Kartavya and Karma; Bhagavad Gita and Karma Yoga; Thirukkural; rights emerging from duties; responsible citizenship; ethical self-restraint.

Chapter 4. Equality

Major Themes: Meaning and dimensions of equality; natural and moral equality; legal, political, social and economic equality; equality of opportunity and equality of outcome; sources of inequality; affirmative action; capability approach; harmony between liberty, equality and justice.

Key Concepts, Theories & Thinkers: Formal and substantive equality; redistributive justice; equality before law; protective discrimination; John Rawls; Amartya Sen; constitutional provisions promoting equality.

Indian Knowledge System (IKS) Focus: Equal moral worth of individuals; human dignity; social harmony; Sarvodaya; Bharatiya perspectives on justice, inclusion and welfare.

Chapter 5. Justice

Major Themes: Meaning and dimensions of justice; procedural, distributive and corrective justice; justice based on merit, need, effort and disadvantage; institutions of justice; capability approach; justice in contemporary society.

Key Concepts, Theories & Thinkers: Plato; Aristotle; John Rawls; Robert Nozick; Amartya Sen; rule of law; role of legislature, judiciary and constitution in securing justice.

Indian Knowledge System (IKS) Focus: Dharma, Rta and Nyāya; Arthashastra; Mahabharata; Gandhian conception of justice; Satya, Ahimsa and Sarvodaya; justice as harmony and moral responsibility.

Chapter 6. Citizenship

Major Themes: Meaning and evolution of citizenship; citizenship as legal status, participation and identity; models of citizenship; constitutional citizenship; rights, duties and civic responsibility; global citizenship and multiculturalism.

Key Concepts, Theories & Thinkers: Civic-Republican, Liberal, Welfare and Multicultural models of citizenship; constitutional provisions relating to citizenship; active citizenship; civic participation; constitutional morality.

Indian Knowledge System (IKS) Focus: Adhikāra and Kartavya; Śukranīti; constitutional duties; civic responsibility; citizenship as participation in the common good; community-centred citizenship.

Chapter 7. Democracy



Major Themes: Meaning, evolution and significance of democracy; democratic principles and institutions; elections, representation, participation and accountability; democracy as a way of life; contemporary challenges to democracy.

Key Concepts, Theories & Thinkers: Popular sovereignty; rule of law; political equality; constitutionalism; representation; majority rule; minority rights; democratic accountability; participatory democracy.

Indian Knowledge System (IKS) Focus: Sabha, Samiti and Gana-Sanghas; Panchayat traditions; dialogue, consultation and deliberation; Nyaya tradition; ethical foundations of democracy in Bharatiya thought.

Chapter 8. Ideology

Major Themes: Meaning, characteristics and functions of ideology; evolution of political ideologies; role of ideology in politics; relationship between ideas, institutions and political change; comparative study of major ideological traditions.

Key Concepts, Theories & Thinkers: Individualism; collectivism; liberalism; conservatism; socialism; Marxism; nationalism; ideology and political behaviour.

Indian Knowledge System (IKS) Focus: Dharma traditions; Gandhian thought; Integral Humanism; Bharatiya civilisational perspectives on society, state and ethics.

Chapter 9. Liberalism and Conservatism

Major Themes: Origins and evolution of liberalism; capitalism as an economic system; classical and welfare liberalism; conservatism; relationship between state, society and market; contemporary debates on liberty, markets and welfare.

Key Concepts, Theories & Thinkers: John Locke; Adam Smith; J. S. Mill; T. H. Green; Edmund Burke; Friedrich Hayek; laissez-faire; welfare state; market economy; individual liberty; limited government.

Indian Knowledge System (IKS) Focus: Gandhian Trusteeship; Dharma-centred economy; Integral Humanism; Bharatiya perspectives on markets, society and social responsibility.

Chapter 10. Socialism and Marxism

Major Themes: Origins and evolution of socialism; Marxism as a critique of capitalism; democratic socialism; contemporary relevance and critiques of socialism and Marxism.

Key Concepts, Theories & Thinkers: Karl Marx; Friedrich Engels; historical materialism; dialectical materialism; class struggle; surplus value; alienation; revolution; dictatorship of the proletariat; communist society; democratic socialism.

Indian Knowledge System (IKS) Focus: Gandhian Sarvodaya; Trusteeship; Ram Manohar Lohia; Jayaprakash Narayan; Deendayal Upadhyaya's Integral Humanism; Indian approaches to social and economic justice.

Part B - Indian Polity and Constitution

Political Theory: Concepts and Foundations (Class XI)

Syllabus Outline

Chapter 1. Making of the Constitution of India

Major Themes: Constitutionalism, evolution of constitutional government in India, constitution-making process, Constituent Assembly, constitutional philosophy, Preamble, salient features of the Indian Constitution.

Key Concepts, Constitutional Provisions & Thinkers: Objectives Resolution, constitutional morality, sovereignty, republic, parliamentary democracy, federalism, Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles of State Policy, B.R. Ambedkar, Jawaharlal Nehru.

Indian Knowledge System (IKS) Focus: Sabha and Samiti, Gana-Sanghas, Rajadharma, consultative traditions of governance.

Chapter 2. Distribution of Power in Government

Major Themes: Distribution of political power, organs of government, separation of powers, checks and balances, constitutional accountability, coordination among institutions.

Key Concepts, Constitutional Provisions & Thinkers: Legislature, Executive, Judiciary, separation of powers, checks and balances, limited government, constitutional accountability, Montesquieu.

Indian Knowledge System (IKS) Focus: Saptanga Theory, Arthashastra, Dharma and Danda, ministerial councils.

Chapter 3. Legislature

Major Themes: Representative government, composition of Parliament, legislative functions, law-making process, financial control, parliamentary oversight.

Key Concepts, Constitutional Provisions & Thinkers: Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, bicameralism, legislative procedure, Money Bill, Ordinary Bill, Question Hour, Zero Hour, parliamentary committees, constitutional amendment.



Indian Knowledge System (IKS) Focus: Sabha, Gana-Sanghas, Licchavi republic, village assemblies.

Chapter 4. The Executive

Major Themes: Organisation of the executive, parliamentary executive, political and permanent executive, executive powers, executive accountability.

Key Concepts, Constitutional Provisions & Thinkers: President, Vice-President, Prime Minister, Council of Ministers, Cabinet, bureaucracy, collective responsibility, nominal executive, real executive, ordinance.

Indian Knowledge System (IKS) Focus: Rajadharma, Ram Rajya, Kautilya's administrative thought.

Chapter 5. Federalism

Major Themes: Federal principle, Union-State relations, distribution of powers, cooperative federalism, decentralisation.

Key Concepts, Constitutional Provisions & Thinkers: Federal system, unitary system, Seventh Schedule, Union List, State List, Concurrent List, residuary powers, Inter-State Council, Finance Commission.

Indian Knowledge System (IKS) Focus: Mauryan provincial administration, Kushana provincial administration, Gupta political organisation, village self-government.

Chapter 6. Judiciary

Major Themes: Independent judiciary, administration of justice, constitutional adjudication, protection of rights, judicial reforms.

Key Concepts, Constitutional Provisions & Thinkers: Supreme Court, High Courts, District Courts, judicial review, writ jurisdiction, original jurisdiction, appellate jurisdiction, review jurisdiction, Public Interest Litigation.

Indian Knowledge System (IKS) Focus: Nyaya, Dharma, Dandaniti, Matsya Nyaya, ancient judicial traditions.

Chapter 7. Fundamental Rights

Major Themes: Constitutional rights, citizenship, civil liberties, constitutional safeguards, protection of rights.

Key Concepts, Constitutional Provisions & Thinkers: Citizenship Act, 1955, Universal Adult Franchise, single citizenship, Articles 14–32, Right to Equality, Right to Freedom,



Right against Exploitation, Freedom of Religion, Cultural and Educational Rights, Right to Constitutional Remedies, Article 21, Basic Structure doctrine.

Indian Knowledge System (IKS) Focus: Indian perspectives on human dignity, responsible citizenship.

Chapter 8. Responsibilities

Major Themes: Directive Principles of State Policy, Fundamental Duties, responsible citizenship, welfare state, constitutional values.

Key Concepts, Constitutional Provisions & Thinkers: Directive Principles of State Policy, Fundamental Duties, welfare state, Gandhian principles, constitutional morality, social justice.

Indian Knowledge System (IKS) Focus: Dharma, Kartavya, Karma, Rajadharma, Prajadharma, Purushartha, Panch Mahayajna, Bhagavad Gita, Thirukkural.

Chapter 9. Election System of India

Major Themes: Electoral democracy, electoral process, electoral systems, political parties, electoral reforms.

Key Concepts, Constitutional Provisions & Thinkers: Election Commission of India, electoral roll, constituency, Universal Adult Franchise, First-Past-the-Post system, proportional representation, Model Code of Conduct, delimitation, election symbols.

Indian Knowledge System (IKS) Focus: Gana-Sanghas, republican traditions, collective decision-making.

Chapter 10. Indian Constitution in Comparative Perspective

Major Themes: Comparative constitutionalism, constitutional design, forms of government, distribution of powers, constitutional adaptation.

Key Concepts, Constitutional Provisions & Thinkers: Parliamentary system, presidential system, constitutional monarchy, federal government, unitary government, parliamentary sovereignty, constitutional supremacy, judicial review, Aristotle, Montesquieu.

Indian Knowledge System (IKS) Focus: Kautilya's comparative understanding of political organisation.

6. Pedagogical Approach

The curriculum emphasises 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.
- Analyse 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 that students 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 reflect on their role in upholding constitutional values and strengthening democracy.

