

The Big Questions (Page 210).

1. What is a Constitution, and why do we need one?

Ans. A **Constitution** is a written document that lays down the **fundamental principles, structure, and laws** of a nation. It defines how the government functions, the powers of different organs, and the rights and duties of citizens.

We need a Constitution because:

- It acts as a **rulebook** that guides the government and ensures fairness.
- It **protects citizens' rights and freedoms**.
- It defines the **relationship between the government and the people**.
- It ensures that power is not misused and that **justice, equality, and liberty** are maintained.

In short, the Constitution helps a country run in an **organised, fair, and democratic** way.

2. How was the Indian Constitution prepared?

Ans. Indian Constitution prepared following as:

- The **Constituent Assembly** was formed in **1946** to frame the Constitution of India.
- It initially had **389 members**, later reduced to **299** after Partition.
- These members represented India's **diverse regions, professions, and communities**.
- The Assembly held **many discussions and debates** over a period of nearly three years.
- **Dr. Rajendra Prasad** was the **Chairman** of the Constituent Assembly.
- The **Drafting Committee**, chaired by **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**, prepared the draft of the Constitution.
- The Constitution was **adopted on 26 November 1949** and **came into effect on 26 January 1950**, celebrated as **Republic Day**.

3. How did our freedom struggle and civilisational heritage influence the Constitution?

Ans. India's **freedom struggle** and **civilisational values** deeply influenced the making of the Constitution.

- The struggle for independence taught Indians the importance of **justice, equality, and liberty**.
- Leaders like **Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and B.R. Ambedkar** emphasized **democracy, non-violence, and equality** for all.
- Ancient Indian ideas such as **"Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam"** (the world is one family) and **"Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah"** (well-being of all) inspired the spirit of **tolerance and inclusiveness**.
- The Constitution reflects these ideals through its **Preamble, Fundamental Rights, and Directive Principles of State Policy**.

Thus, the Constitution blends **modern democratic ideals** with **India's cultural and moral heritage**.

4. What are the key features of the Constitution of India? Why is it still relevant, even though it was written more than seventy years ago?

Ans. Key Features of the Indian Constitution:

- **World's Largest Written Constitution** – It has 25 parts and 12 schedules.

- **Democratic and Republican Form of Government** – The people elect their representatives.
- **Fundamental Rights and Duties** – Protect individual freedom and promote civic responsibility.
- **Directive Principles of State Policy** – Guide the government to work for social and economic welfare.
- **Secularism** – The government treats all religions equally.
- **Federal Structure** – Division of powers between the Centre and the States.
- **Independent Judiciary** – Ensures justice and protects citizens' rights.

Relevance Today:

- The Constitution remains **flexible** and can be **amended** to meet new challenges.
- Its ideals of **justice, equality, and liberty** continue to guide modern India.
- It protects democracy and ensures that **power remains with the people**.

Hence, even after seventy years, the **Indian Constitution remains a living document**—strong, adaptable, and relevant to the changing needs of society.

LET'S EXPLORE (Page 211)

1. What might have happened if there was no official rulebook that the referee and team captains could refer to?

Ans. If there was no official rulebook, the dispute could not be resolved fairly.

Each team might argue in its own favour, leading to **confusion, unfair decisions, and even fights**.

The match might end without a clear winner, and the **spirit of the game** would be lost.

A rulebook ensures that **everyone follows the same rules** and accepts the decision peacefully.

2. What is required to ensure everyone agrees to abide by the rulebook?

Ans. To ensure everyone agrees to abide by the rulebook, **all teams and players must accept the rules before the game begins**.

They must **trust the referee** to enforce the rules fairly.

This requires a **mutual understanding, discipline, and respect** for the rulebook and for each other.

3. What might happen if the team captains did not agree to refer to the rulebook at all?

Ans. If the team captains refused to follow the rulebook, there would be **no fair way to decide who is right or wrong**. The match could become **chaotic and unfair**, and players might stop cooperating.

Without a rulebook, **no proper authority** would exist to resolve disputes, and the game might not continue at all.

4. Think of a game that you play often and list some rules you follow.

Ans. (Example: Football):

- Only the goalkeeper can touch the ball with hands.
- A goal is scored when the ball completely crosses the goal line.
- Offside rule prevents unfair advantage.
- Fouls result in free kicks or penalty kicks.
- The team with the most goals wins.

These rules make the game **fair, disciplined, and enjoyable** for all players.

5. What challenges might you face in reaching a consensus on rules that everyone agrees with?

Ans. When deciding rules together, players may have **different opinions or preferences**. Some may want rules that benefit their team, while others may disagree. It takes **discussion, compromise, and cooperation** to reach an agreement that is fair to all. This process is similar to how leaders in a country discuss and agree on the **Constitution**.

6. What could be the 'rulebook' for a country? How would it be made?

Ans. The **'rulebook' for a country is its Constitution**.

It defines how the government will function, what rights and duties citizens have, and how disputes will be resolved. It is made through discussions and agreements among representatives of the people — just like the **Constituent Assembly** in India, which debated and decided the laws and principles to guide the nation.

DON'T MISS OUT (Page 212)

1. Just as your textbook has many sections and chapters, the Constitution of India has 25 parts and 12 schedules. Each part has sections within it. It is the world's largest written constitution. When it came into effect, it had 22 Parts and 8 schedules. You don't need to remember these numbers, but can you guess why they have increased since 1950?

Ans. The number of parts and schedules in the Constitution has increased since 1950 because **many amendments have been made** to include new provisions and changes as the country developed. New laws and sections were added to address **social, political, and economic changes**, such as the inclusion of **Panchayati Raj (73rd Amendment)** and **Municipalities (74th Amendment)**.

This shows that the **Constitution is a living document** that can be updated to meet the changing needs of society.

LET'S EXPLORE (Page 215)

1. In small groups, try to find out the names of people from your region who may have participated in the making of the Constitution. What sources can you use to gather this information?

Ans. To find out the names of people from our region who participated in the making of the Constitution, we can use several **sources of information**, such as:

- **Books and records** available in the school or local library about the freedom movement and the Constituent Assembly.
- **Discussions with teachers, parents, and elders** who may have knowledge about regional leaders.
- **Internet resources**, especially the official Parliament website — <https://sansad.in/ls/about/constituent-assembly> which provides the list of all **members of the Constituent Assembly**.

Through these sources, we can identify **representatives from our state or region** who helped in **framing the Indian Constitution** and learn more about their contributions.

LET'S EXPLORE (Page 221)

1. Read the quotation given below. Which article of the Constitution do you think she was referring to? Why do you think she said that the equality of women was not a new concept for India? Discuss in the class.

“Sir, the women of India are happy to step into their rightful heritage of complete equality with men in all spheres of life and activity. I say so because I am convinced that this is no new concept which has been postulated for the purposes of this Constitution, but is an ideal that has long been cherished by India, though social conditions for some time had tragically debased it in practice. This Constitution affirms that ideal and gives the solemn assurance that the rights of women in law will be wholly honoured in the Indian Republic.”

— Begum Aizaz Rasul, 22 November 1949, during the Constituent Assembly's debates

Ans. Begum Aizaz Rasul was referring to **Article 14 of the Constitution of India**, which guarantees equality before law and equal protection of the laws to all citizens, and also to Article 15, which prohibits discrimination on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth.

She said that the **equality of women was not a new concept for India** because Indian culture and ancient traditions have always respected and valued women. In earlier times, women had important roles in education, administration, and society. However, over time, **social customs and practices reduced their status**.

The Constitution, therefore, **restored and reaffirmed this ancient ideal** of equality, ensuring that women in modern India have the same rights and opportunities as men in every sphere of life.

LET'S EXPLORE (Page 223)

1. There was a time when people were not allowed to fly the national flag at their homes. This changed in 2004 when a citizen felt it was his right to express pride in his country and challenged the rule in court. The Supreme Court agreed, saying that flying the flag is part of the Fundamental Right to Freedom of Expression. We can now fly the tricolour with pride, keeping in mind that it should never be dishonoured. We studied the Panchayati Raj System in Grade 6. This was not a part of the original Constitution; it was integrated in it in 1992 with the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act.

Can you find out the amendments made to the Constitution in the past ten years?

Ans. In the past ten years, several important amendments have been made to the **Constitution of India** to address the changing needs of the country. Some of them include:

- **101st Amendment (2016):** Introduced the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**, creating a single indirect tax system across India.
- **102nd Amendment (2018):** Granted constitutional status to the **National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)**.
- **103rd Amendment (2019):** Provided **10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)** in education and government jobs.
- **104th Amendment (2020):** Extended the reservation for **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes** in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies for another ten years.
- **105th Amendment (2021):** Restored the power of **state governments** to identify and maintain their own list of **Other Backward Classes (OBCs)**.

These amendments show that the **Constitution is a living document**, capable of changing and adapting to new social, economic, and political realities.

LET'S EXPLORE (Page 226)

1. Below is the list of features given in the Preamble. Read them closely and write down examples of the application of these values in daily life around you. Two have been completed to help you with the exercise.

Features of the Preamble	How we see them in our daily lives
Sovereign	_____
Secular	A person does not have to take permission from the State to practice the rituals of their religion if the practice does not interfere with anyone else's day-to-day life.
Republic	_____
Justice	The State provides equal opportunity to all in jobs, regardless of gender, caste, religion, etc.
Liberty	_____
Equality	_____
Fraternity	_____

Ans.

Features of the Preamble	How we see them in our daily lives
Sovereign	India makes its own laws and decisions without interference from any other country. For example, our government decides national policies independently.
Secular	A person does not have to take permission from the State to practice the rituals of their religion if the practice does not interfere with anyone else's day-to-day life.
Republic	The President and leaders are elected by the people, showing that the head of the State is not hereditary.
Justice	The State provides equal opportunity to all in jobs, regardless of gender, caste, religion, etc.
Liberty	Citizens have the freedom to express their thoughts, choose their occupation, and live anywhere in India.
Equality	All citizens are equal before the law. No one gets special treatment because of wealth, gender, or caste.
Fraternity	People celebrate festivals of different religions together, showing unity and brotherhood in society.

Questions and activities (227-228)

1. “The Constituent Assembly had representatives from diverse backgrounds in India.” Why do you think it was important to have a diverse set of representatives from all over India?

Ans. It was important to have a diverse set of representatives so that every section of Indian society—different regions, cultures, languages, castes, religions, and professions—could have a voice in making the Constitution.

This ensured that the Constitution reflected the needs, hopes, and interests of all Indians, not just a few.

A diverse Constituent Assembly helped create a Constitution that was fair, inclusive, and acceptable to the entire country.

2. Read the statements below carefully and identify which key features / values in the Constitution of India are reflected in each statement.

Statement	Key Feature / Value
(a) Sheena, Rajat, and Harsh are standing in a line. They are excited to cast their first vote in the general elections.	Democracy / Republic (People choose their leaders by voting.)
(b) Radha, Imon, and Harpreet study in the same class in the same school.	Equality (All children have equal access to education.)
(c) Parents must make arrangements to ensure their children’s education.	Fundamental Duty (Duty of parents/guardians to provide education.)
(d) People of all castes, genders, and religions can use the village well.	Justice and Equality / Fraternity (No discrimination; shared resources show brotherhood.)

3. It is said that ‘All citizens in India are equal before the law’. Do you think this is a fact? If yes, why? If not, why not? Formulate your arguments.

Ans. Yes, this is a fact in principle, because the Constitution of India guarantees equality before law (Article 14). This means:

All citizens are treated equally by the legal system, regardless of caste, religion, wealth, or gender.

The same set of laws applies to everyone — from ordinary citizens to powerful leaders.

However, in practice, inequality sometimes still exists due to social discrimination, economic differences, or corruption.

So, while the Constitution ensures legal equality, it is our responsibility as citizens and institutions to make sure this equality is also experienced in daily life.

4. You have learnt that ‘India is the only country that provided universal adult franchise to its citizens from the beginning.’ Can you explain why India did it?

Ans. India adopted universal adult franchise (the right of every adult citizen to vote) from the very beginning because:

- The freedom struggle taught us that everyone’s voice matters.

- Our leaders wanted a true democracy where all people — rich or poor, men or women, from any caste — could participate in electing their government.
- It helped promote equality and social justice in a country with deep historical divisions.

Unlike many other democracies where only some citizens could vote at first (like property-owners or men only), India trusted its people fully from Day One.

5. How did the freedom struggle inspire the making of the Constitution of India? How did India's civilisational heritage inspire some of the key features in the Constitution of India? Explain.

Ans. The **freedom struggle** inspired the Constitution by teaching the values of:

- **Justice** (fighting against unfair British laws)
- **Liberty** (freedom of speech and expression)
- **Equality** (removal of discrimination)
- **Democracy** (rule of the people)

India's **civilisational heritage** also shaped the Constitution. Ancient Indian ideas such as:

- **"Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam"** (the world is one family) inspired **Fraternity and Secularism**
- **"Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah"** (may all be happy) inspired **welfare policies and Directive Principles**

These cultural values made the Constitution **compassionate, inclusive, and humanistic**, combining **modern democracy** with **Indian tradition**.

6. Do you think we, as a society, have achieved all the ideals of the Constitution? If not, what can we each do as citizens to move our country closer to these ideals?

Ans. No, we have **not fully achieved** all the ideals of the Constitution yet.

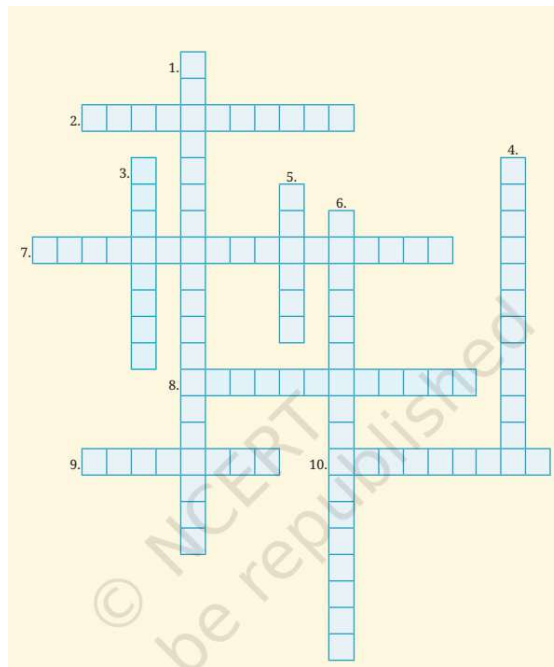
There are still issues like **inequality, discrimination, poverty, corruption, and lack of awareness about rights and duties**.

To move closer to Constitutional ideals, we can:

- **Follow Fundamental Duties** (respect the Constitution, protect public property, promote harmony)
- **Treat everyone equally**
- **Stand against injustice**
- **Be responsible citizens** (vote honestly, stay informed)
- **Help others without discrimination**
- **Promote unity and respect diversity**

When each citizen practices these values in daily life, society becomes **fairer, more inclusive, and closer to the vision of the Constitution**.

7. Read the clues carefully to solve the crossword on the next page to uncover important concepts from the Indian Constitution.



Across

- 2. The branch of government that makes laws.
- 7. The part of the Constitution that outlines the duties of citizens towards the country.
- 8. The highest court in India that protects the Constitution.
- 9. A system where the head of state is elected, not hereditary.
- 10. The process by which the Constitution can be changed over time.

Ans.

Across

- 2. Legislature
- 7. Fundamental Duties
- 8. Supreme Court
- 9. Republic
- 10. Amendment

Down

- 1. The group of people who wrote the Indian Constitution.
- 3. The statement at the beginning of the Constitution that tells us the values it upholds.
- 4. The document that lays out the rules and laws of a country.
- 5. The gas used to preserve the original Constitution safely.
- 6. Basic rights given to every citizen, like freedom and equality.

Down

- 1. Constituent Assembly
- 3. Preamble
- 4. Constitution
- 5. Helium
- 6. Fundamental Rights