

SYLLABUS 2021-22

Class : XII

Subject : Political Science

Book : ISC Political Science for class 12 by K.K. Ghai

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Term 1

- 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. Meaning and features of Parliamentary and Presidential forms of government (U.K. and U.S.A.). Comparison between Parliamentary and Presidential forms of government.
- 2. 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.
- 3. 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

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functions. Kinds – Single party, Bi-party, Multi- party system - meaning, merits and demerits.

4. **Indian Constitution:** (i) 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.
5. **PROJECT WORK – 20 MARKS** Candidates will be required to undertake one project which may be any one of the following:
- (i) A case study (ii) Survey study with a questionnaire (iii) Research based project with in depth analysis (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.

- Reason for selection of the topic.
- Framing the Research Question.
- Hypothesis.
- Define Judicial Activism and the need for Judiciary to intervene in the work of Legislature and Executive and other matters of social concerns.
- Positive role played by Judiciary in this direction to be highlighted with the help of two case studies based on environmental protection or safeguarding human rights.
- Student's perception of the concept.

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- Valid suggestions for reforms in Judiciary.

2. Public accountability of Civil Servants in India – Is it a myth or a reality?

- Reason for selection of the topic.
- Framing the Research Question.
- Hypothesis.
- Meaning of Public accountability of Civil Servants to be explained.
- Positive and crucial role of public servants in a democracy.
- Loopholes in the existing bureaucratic set up.
- Inferences can be drawn about Public accountability being a myth or reality from various sources like print/electronic media, film review, documentaries.

3. Party System in India – changing phases.

- Reason for selection of the topic.
- Framing the Research Question.
- Hypothesis.
- A brief timeline of Party Systems since independence to be prepared.
- Strengths and limitations of different systems to be highlighted.
- Success and failure of various systems to be analysed with reference to the role of regional parties in coalition era.
- Few examples to be explained with the help of statistical information.
- Student's vision of rapidly evolving Party system in India.

4. Examine one Supreme Court case dealing with Fundamental Rights. Identify the issues of the case and analyse the final ruling.

- Reason for selection of the topic

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- Framing the Research Question.
- Hypothesis.
- Nature and reasons of violation of Fundamental Rights to be explained.
- A case study of violation and protection of Fundamental Rights in the light of the ruling given by the apex court to be analysed.
- Remedial steps to be taken to prevent this problem to be suggested.

5. Role of Local Self Government institutions in women empowerment.

- Reason for selection of the topic.
- Framing the Research Question.
- Hypothesis.
- Need for women empowerment to be explained with reference to a few examples.
- Positive role played by local self-governments to be stated.
- Collection of data based on statistics and analysis.
- The project could be in the form of a case study for example - a film review, book review, advertisements, T.V. serials, documentaries, newspaper articles, journals.
- Student's suggestions for more active participation of women in Indian electoral politics.

Term 2

- 1. The Legislature:** Meaning and functions of Legislature. Meaning of Unicameral and Bi-cameral 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

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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.

- 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.
- 3. 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?

Term 3

- 1. Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy:** 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.
- 2. Local self-government:** Key features of the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts. 11th and 12th schedules in brief. Three tier systems of Panchayati Raj: Rural and Urban local bodies - their composition. Challenges and solutions.
- 3. Democracy in India** – (i) Challenges faced by the Indian Democracy: Caste: meaning, 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

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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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