

**Class-8**

**Civics**

**Lesson-1**

**The Indian Constitution**

**D. Give short answers for the following questions. (20-30 words)**

**1. What do you understand by the word Constitution? When did the Constituent Assembly Draft the Constitution for independent India?**

**1. Constitution is a set of fundamental principles and laws according to which a country or an organization is governed. Between 9th December 1946 and 26th November 1949, the Constituent Assembly drafted the Constitution for independent India.**

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**2. Why was the Dowry Prohibition Act enacted?**

**2. The dowry prohibition act enacted to prevent the giving or receiving of a dowry.**

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**3. How can you say that Indian Constitution offers flexibility?**

**3. Indian constitution offers flexibility because laws made in the Indian constitution can be changed after passing an ordinance in the parliament and by doing so various types of amendments can be made in the Indian constitution.**

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**4. How does our Constitution ensure that there is no concentration of power?**

**4. Our constitution ensures that there is no concentration of power because power is not confined to just one body; the Constitution has divided the government into three different organs.**

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**E. Give long answers for the following questions. (50-60 words)**

**1. What are rights? Differentiate between absolute and non-absolute rights.**

**1. Rights are legal, social and moral freedom or privileges granted to us by the Constitution so that we can live our lives with dignity. The constitution has granted certain rights:-**

<b>Absolute Rights</b>	<b>Non-absolute Rights</b>
<b>These are the rights that can never be limited or restricted, whatever the circumstances are-even in a state of war or emergency.</b>	<b>The constitution provides for a suspension of fundamental rights during certain circumstances. However, such a suspension automatically ends when the situation ceases or when the President orders it.</b>
<b>For example, the right not to be tortured, or, treated in an inhuman or degrading way, regardless of circumstances, is an absolute right.</b>	<b>For example, the right to liberty,</b>

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**2. What is an amendment? Why is it necessary?**

**2. The changes or modifications made in the existing law over a period of time based on circumstances are called amendments.**

**They are necessary because:**

- Constitution can be changed according to the needs and aspirations of the people.**
- Major short comings to the constitution can be removed.**
- Give flexibility to incorporate changes from time to time for the betterment of our country and its people.**

**F. What Give very long answers for the following questions. (100-120 words)**

**1. Discuss the function played by the Constitution in a democracy.**

**1. The Constitution serves several important functions:**

- A Constitution serves as a set of rules and principles by which the country can be governed in a desired manner.
  - A Constitution tells us about the fundamental nature of our society. It also lays down the important guidelines that govern decision- making processes within the various societies of the country.
  - It safeguards the interests of minorities and prevents any kind of domination by the majority.
  - It provides rights to its citizens and protects their freedom.
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**2. Write a note on the Salt Satyagraha and the Chipko Movement.**

**2. The Salt Satyagraha**

The Salt Satyagraha was a mass civil disobedience movement initiated by Mahatma Gandhi against the salt tax imposed by the British government in India. He led a large group of people from Sabarmati Ashram on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1930 till Dandi, a coastal village in Gujarat, to break the salt law by producing salt from seawater.

**Chipko Movement**

Chipko Movement, started in 1970's, was a non-violent movement aimed at protection and conservation of trees and forests from being destroyed. The name of the Chipko moment originated from the word 'embrace' as the villagers used to hug the trees and protect them from wood cutters from cutting them.

