

CLASS VIII

SUBJECT SST (CIVICS) Chapter-1 'Our Constitution'

Federalism A political system in which powers to govern are divided between the centre and the states is called Federalism. There are three levels of government in India - The central level, the state level and the panchayat level.

Parliamentary Form of Government India has a parliamentary form of government. In this system the parliament is supreme and it represents the people. The legislature at the centre is called the parliament. The Parliament has two House - The Lower House and Upper House. The Constitution of India guarantees universal adult suffrage. In other words, all adult citizens have the right to vote to elect a representative.

Three Organs of Government The government works through three organs or branches - a legislature, which makes new laws; an executive, which gives effect to the laws, and a judiciary, which interprets the laws.

Fundamental Rights

The Constitution of India guarantees certain basic right to all its citizen.

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These are called Fundamental Rights. Nobody can violate these rights and a citizen can approach the court of law if his / her fundamental Right are violated.

Fundamental Duties

The Constitution also mentions a code of conduct for the citizens, called the Fundamental Duties. Following the Fundamental Duties helps us to become good citizens.

Laws and Dissent

The term 'dissent' or 'disobedience' means refusal to abide by law. In other words, it means the refusal to obey the law which represents authority. The goal of dissent is to bring about a change in the action, policies, laws, governments, and in the social and political systems underlying it.

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Note - Read the topic carefully and solve the following questions.

Ques 1 - Answer these questions

- (i) What do you mean by Fundamental Rights.
- (ii) What do you mean by Fundamental Duties?
- (iii) Explain the meaning of the term Federalism?
- (iv) Write the three organs of the government.

Ques 2 - Fill in the blanks.

- (i) India has a _____ form of government.
- (ii) The constitution of India guarantees _____.
- (iii) Following the fundamental Duties helps us to become _____ citizens.

Ques 3 - Write true or false

- (i) The term 'dissent' or 'disobedience' means refusal to abide by law.
- (ii) In India all adult citizens have not the right to vote to elect a representative.
- (iii) Powers and authority have been distributed between the center and the states.

Ques 4 - Choose the correct option.

- (i) In a federal structure, the government functions at _____ levels.
(a) two (b) one (c) four (d) three
- (ii) India has governments in the states and at the centre that it has
(a) A federal system of government (b) Democracy (c) Socialism