SCERT Kerala · Class 11 · Political Science

Political Science

ORIGINAL STUDY COMPANION
PADIKAM
CLASS 11 | HUMANITIES
Indian Constitution at Work and
Political Theory
Kerala SCERT / prescribed NCERT core lessons
18 chapter lessons
Quick explanations, core points, exam practice and chapter-specific notation in one
consistent format.
Padikam explanations are independently written. Official textbooks are used as the coverage map, chapter sequence and terminology
reference.

Contents
01 Constitution: Why and How? 10 The Philosophy of the Constitution
02 Rights in the Indian Constitution 11 Political Theory: An Introduction
03 Election and Representation 12 Freedom
04 Executive 13 Equality
05 Legislature 14 Social Justice
06 Judiciary 15 Rights
07 Federalism 16 Citizenship
08 Local Governments 17 Nationalism
09 Constitution as a Living Document 18 Secularism
Study rhythm
Read the quick explanation, recall the core points aloud, then answer the prompts without looking
back. Use the official textbook links for full prescribed readings, activities and diagrams.
Textbook and verification links
1. https://scert.kerala.gov.in/
2. https://samagra.kite.kerala.gov.in/
3. https://www.hsslive.in/2018/06/hss-plus-one-plus-two-text-book.html
4. https://ncert.nic.in/textbook.php

CHAPTER 01
Constitution: Why and How?
Quick understanding
See a constitution as a framework that creates government, distributes power, protects values and
gains authority through public reasoning.
Core points Check your learning
Constitutions coordinate diverse groups and limit Explain four functions of a constitution.
arbitrary power.
Assess one criticism of the Constituent
The Constituent Assembly debated competing Assembly.
visions.
Legitimacy depends on procedure, values and
continued democratic acceptance.
One-line recall Constitutions coordinate diverse groups and limit arbitrary power.

PADIKAM | KERALA CLASS 11 3

CHAPTER 02
Rights in the Indian Constitution
Quick understanding
Study Fundamental Rights, constitutional remedies and the balance between liberty, equality and public interest.
Core points Check your learning
Rights protect individuals and groups against misuse of power.
Apply a Fundamental Right to a case.
Distinguish rights from Directive Principles.
Reasonable restrictions must have constitutional justification.
Courts can enforce rights through writs.
One-line recall Rights protect individuals and groups against misuse of power.
PADIKAM | KERALA CLASS 11 4

CHAPTER 03
Election and Representation
Quick understanding
Understand how electoral systems translate votes into representation and how institutions protect fairness.
Core points Check your learning
First-past-the-post links representatives to constituencies.
Compare FPTP and proportional representation.
Reserved constituencies support political inclusion without separate electorates.
Explain delimitation, reservation and model conduct rules.
An independent Election Commission administers the process.
One-line recall First-past-the-post links representatives to constituencies.
PADIKAM | KERALA CLASS 11 5

CHAPTER 04
Executive
Quick understanding
Compare parliamentary and presidential arrangements and examine political and permanent executives in India.
Core points Check your learning
The President is constitutional head; the Council of Ministers exercises most executive authority.
Trace how a major executive decision is made.
The Prime Minister coordinates the cabinet and parliamentary majority.
Compare parliamentary and presidential executives.
Civil services provide continuity and implementation.
One-line recall The President is constitutional head; the Council of Ministers exercises most executive authority.
PADIKAM | KERALA CLASS 11 6

CHAPTER 05
Legislature
Quick understanding
Study representation, law-making, financial control and accountability through Parliament and state legislatures.
Core points Check your learning
Bicameralism gives different bases of representation.
Follow a bill from introduction to assent.
Committees examine detail beyond floor debate.
Explain one special power of each House.

Question Hour, motions and budget approval hold
the executive accountable.
One-line recall Bicameralism gives different bases of representation.
PADIKAM | KERALA CLASS 11 7

CHAPTER 06
Judiciary
Quick understanding
Understand judicial independence, review, access and the Supreme Court's constitutional role.
Core points Check your learning
Security of tenure and protected conditions support Distinguish original, appellate and
independence. advisory jurisdiction.
Judicial review tests law and executive action against Debate judicial activism and restraint.
the Constitution.
Public interest litigation widened access but raises
questions of judicial limits.
One-line recall Security of tenure and protected conditions support independence.
PADIKAM | KERALA CLASS 11 8

CHAPTER 07
Federalism
Quick understanding
Examine constitutional division of power and the negotiated working of Union-state relations.
Core points Check your learning
Legislative subjects are distributed through Union, Resolve a Union-state competence case.
State and Concurrent Lists.
Explain why Indian federalism is dynamic.
Indian federalism combines a strong Union with state
autonomy.
Language and coalition politics have reshaped
federal practice.
One-line recall Legislative subjects are distributed through Union, State and Concurrent Lists.
PADIKAM | KERALA CLASS 11 9

CHAPTER 08
Local Governments
Quick understanding
Connect democratic decentralisation with rural and urban self-government.
Core points Check your learning
The 73rd and 74th Amendments gave constitutional Compare Panchayats and Municipalities.
status to local bodies.
Audit whether a local body has
Reservation broadens participation. meaningful powers.
Real decentralisation requires functions, funds and
functionaries.
One-line recall The 73rd and 74th Amendments gave constitutional status to local bodies.
PADIKAM | KERALA CLASS 11 10

CHAPTER 09
Constitution as a Living Document
Quick understanding
Explain how amendment, interpretation and political practice allow continuity with change.
Core points Check your learning
The Constitution is neither completely rigid nor Classify amendment procedures.
completely flexible.

Explain the basic-structure doctrine.
Parliament amends, while courts protect the basic
structure.
Some changes occur through conventions and
institutions rather than text.
One-line recall The Constitution is neither completely rigid nor completely flexible.
PADIKAM | KERALA CLASS 11 11

CHAPTER 10
The Philosophy of the Constitution
Quick understanding
Read justice, liberty, equality, fraternity, secularism and social transformation as connected
constitutional commitments.
Core points Check your learning
The Preamble summarises a moral direction. Interpret one Preamble value through an
institution.
Political democracy is linked with social and
economic democracy. Discuss procedural and substantive
achievement.
Constitutional values may conflict and require
reasoned balance.
One-line recall The Preamble summarises a moral direction.
PADIKAM | KERALA CLASS 11 12

CHAPTER 11
Political Theory: An Introduction
Quick understanding
Use political theory to clarify concepts, examine institutions and reason about collective life.
Core points Check your learning
Concepts such as freedom and equality are Turn a public dispute into a political-
contested. theory question.
Theory connects facts, values and arguments. Distinguish an assertion from an
argument.
Good political judgement considers both principle
and context.
One-line recall Concepts such as freedom and equality are contested.
PADIKAM | KERALA CLASS 11 13

CHAPTER 12
Freedom
Quick understanding
Understand freedom as absence of unjust constraint together with conditions for meaningful choice
and self-development.
Core points Check your learning
Negative liberty asks where interference should stop. Apply the harm principle to a policy.
Positive liberty concerns self-direction and enabling Compare negative and positive liberty.
conditions.
The harm principle offers one test for restrictions.
One-line recall Negative liberty asks where interference should stop.
PADIKAM | KERALA CLASS 11 14

CHAPTER 13
Equality
Quick understanding
Distinguish equal moral worth from identical treatment and examine social, political and economic

inequality.
Core points Check your learning
Different treatment may be required to correct Evaluate a reservation or accessibility
entrenched disadvantage. case.
Equality of opportunity depends on background Distinguish natural difference from social
conditions. inequality.
Affirmative action seeks substantive inclusion.
One-line recall Different treatment may be required to correct entrenched disadvantage.
PADIKAM | KERALA CLASS 11 15

CHAPTER 14
Social Justice
Quick understanding
Ask how benefits, burdens and opportunities should be distributed, especially to protect basic needs
and dignity.
Core points Check your learning
Justice includes recognition, fair procedure and Apply principles of justice to health
distribution. allocation.
Equal treatment can preserve unequal starting Explain why minimum needs have
positions. priority.
Policies must balance need, desert and broader
social goals.
One-line recall Justice includes recognition, fair procedure and distribution.
PADIKAM | KERALA CLASS 11 16

CHAPTER 15
Rights
Quick understanding
Explain rights as justified claims that protect agency and require corresponding duties and institutions.
Core points Check your learning
Rights may be moral, legal or human rights. Build an argument for a new digital right.
Rights change as societies recognise new harms Identify duty-bearers for a stated right.
and needs.
Rights are limited by the equal rights of others.
One-line recall Rights may be moral, legal or human rights.
PADIKAM | KERALA CLASS 11 17

CHAPTER 16
Citizenship
Quick understanding
Study full and equal membership, rights, duties, migration and struggles for inclusion.
Core points Check your learning
Citizenship links persons with a political community. Compare citizen, migrant and refugee
positions.
Formal status may coexist with social exclusion.
Explain one struggle that widened
Global migration raises questions about borders,
citizenship.
refugees and universal rights.
One-line recall Citizenship links persons with a political community.
PADIKAM | KERALA CLASS 11 18

CHAPTER 17
Nationalism
Quick understanding

Analyse how shared identity supports self-determination while also creating risks of exclusion.
Core points Check your learning
Nations are built through histories, symbols and Compare civic and cultural accounts of
political projects. nationhood.
Anti-colonial nationalism connected freedom with Assess a self-determination claim.
collective self-rule.
Plural nationalism must respect internal diversity.
One-line recall Nations are built through histories, symbols and political projects.
PADIKAM | KERALA CLASS 11 19

CHAPTER 18
Secularism
Quick understanding
Compare ways of protecting religious freedom, equality and peace in religiously diverse societies.
Core points Check your learning
Secularism opposes domination within and between Compare Indian and western models of
religions and by the state. secularism.
Indian secularism permits principled distance rather Analyse a case of reform or state
than strict separation. accommodation.
Intervention must be judged by freedom and equality.
One-line recall Secularism opposes domination within and between religions and by the state.
PADIKAM | KERALA CLASS 11 20