



GOA BOARD OF SECONDARY AND HIGHER SECONDARY EDUCATION

ALTO BETIM - GOA 403 521

Subject: Political Science

Std: XI (*effective from June 2017 onwards*)

Rationale:-

At the higher secondary level students who opt under the Social Sciences / Humanities stream are given an opportunity to get introduced to the diverse concerns of a Political Scientist. At this level course, also need to enable students to engage with political process that surrounds them and provide them with an understanding of the historical context that has shaped the present. The different courses introduce the students to the various streams of the discipline of political science: political theory, Indian politics and international politics. Concerns of the other two streams - comparative politics and public administration – are accommodated at different places in these courses. In introducing these streams, special care has been taken not to burden the students with the current jargon of the discipline. The basic idea here is to lay the foundations for a serious engagement with the discipline at the BA stage rather than anticipate the BA syllabi.

Objectives:-

The specific objectives of the course are indicated in the preamble to the syllabus for each year.

COURSE I (CLASS XI) : Political Theory

Course Rationale:-

This is a beginner's course in normative political philosophy that seeks to:

- Equip the student with skills of developing a rigorous political argument on ethical issues.
- Encourage them to analyse any unexamined prejudices they may have inherited;
- Inculcate a respect for some of the stated and implicit constitutional values;
- Develop an interest in political theory and a capacity for abstraction.

The course focuses on some of the key constitutional values or concerns implicit in our democratic political system. Some of these issues are not related to constitutional values in a direct way but these relate to the larger ethical frame implicit in our democracy. Instead of 'teaching' these values in a didactic manner by invoking the authority of constitution or major thinkers, the course seeks to encourage the students to arrive at these positions through critical reasoning. The main objective here is to give the student the skills and the confidence that they can and should think on their own and take positions on some of the big questions of our time.

The course is organised around some key concepts. Thus, each chapter will include:

- Analysis of the key concept and its related concepts
- Reference to the constitutional values that underlie the concept.
- Discussion of some key intellectual resources (thinkers, aims, document etc) associated with the concept; and
- Detailed discussion of one or more real life examples of debated involving that concept

It should be ensured in writing the textbooks and in classroom teaching that the emphasis should be on the reasoning skills over and above the factual/information content of the examples. Instead of handing down all the nuances of the concept to the student, the textbooks and the teacher should encourage the student to develop and use the concept on their own. The students should be discouraged from using quotations and theoretical flourishes; their argument must stand on its own legs. The success of a course like this is critically dependent on innovative ways of examination.

Learning Objectives:-

- Develop the skills for logical reasoning and abstraction
- Inculcate attention to and respect for viewpoints other than one’s own
- Introduce students to the different political thinkers in relation to a concept and in everyday social life
- Enable students to meaningfully participate in a concern of current political life that surrounds them
- Encourage the students to analyse any unexamined prejudices that one may have inherited

Course Content:-

1. Introduction to Political Theory

- What is politics? Do we find politics in seemingly non –political domains? Can political argument is resolved through reasoning. Why do we need Political theory?

2. Freedom

- What is freedom? What are reasonable constrains on individual liberty? How are the limits defined?

3. Equality

– Do all differences involve inequality? Does equality imply sameness? What are the major forms of inequality? How can equality be realized.

4. Social Justice

- Is justice all about fairness? What is the relationship between justice and equality? What are the different forms of injustice? In which ways can justice be secured? What is Social Justice, Political Justice, Economic Justice.

5. Human Rights

–What are Human Rights, significance, Characteristics, Types of Human Rights, Principles of Human Rights, Lists of Human Rights Issues and Violations, UNCHR, NHRC – functions, compositions, appointment, GSCHR- Appointment, powers.

6. Citizenship

– Who is a citizen? What are relevant grounds for inclusion and exclusion? How are new claims to citizenship negotiated. Can we have a global citizenship?

7. **Nationalism** – How are the boundaries of a nation defined? Must every nation have a state? What demands can a nation make on its citizens? What is the basis of the right to self determination?

8. Secularism

– What is secularism? Which domains of life does it relate to? What is a secular state? Why do we need secular state in modern times? Is secularism suitable for India?

9. Peace

– What is peace? Does peace always require non – violence? Under what conditions is war justified? Can armament promote global peace?

10. **Development** – What is development? Is there a universally accepted model of development? How to balance the claims of present generation with claims of future generations.

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COURSE II (CLASS XI): Indian Constitution at Work

Course Rationale:-

This course seeks to deepen the understanding of the provisions and the working of the Constitution of India for students who have opted for Political Science. Deepening of understanding may require in some cases providing more detailed information about the articles and clauses of the constitution; but in most parts, the course will avoid over emphasis on legal technicalities and seek to focus instead on explaining the rationale and the real life consequences of the constitutional provisions. At this stage, the student should be initiated into thinking of the constitution as a political document that reflects the values of a society at a given point of time. The institutional structure that emanates from the constitution should be seen as one possible political arrangement that has real life political consequences. The students should also be encouraged to think of the constitution as a living document that has constantly evolved and is still in the process of further refinement. Accordingly, the course has grouped the constitutional provision under a few themes. Each thematic follows a pattern:-

- It takes up the rationale or the underlying philosophy behind that part of constitution
- It spells out the constitutional provisions in relevant details (mostly avoiding legal matters of technical interest or the wording and number of the articles and clauses of the Constitution) and
- Discusses how the provisions have actually played out in real life.
- For deepening the understanding of the constitution and its working, it is proposed to illustrate each course with one example (case law, event or political dispute) from the working of the constitution in India and,
- An example from outside India to illustrate how the institutional mechanism could have been different from what it is.

This course leads to the course on Politics in India since Independence in Class XII.

Learning Objectives;-

- Enable students to understand historical processes and circumstances in which the Constitution was drafted.
- Provide opportunity for students to be familiar with the diverse visions that guided the makers of the Indian Constitution.
- Enable students to identify the certain key features of the Constitution and compare these to other constitutions in the world.
- Analyze the ways in which the provisions of the Constitution have worked in real political life.

Course Content:-

1. Constitution : Why and How.

What are the core provisions of the constitution, what is the visions underlying these core provisions, How is this visions shaped by modern Indian political thought?

2. Rights and Duties in the Indian Constitution :

Why do we need the bill of rights in the constitution, what are the fundamental rights provided by the constitution, why was the right to property removed from fundamental rights, how have the interpretation by the courts influenced fundamental rights? How has provisions of fundamental rights provided the basis for civil liberties movement in India? What are the fundamental duties?

3. Elections and Representation in India :

What are the different methods of elections, How do these methods affect parties & politics, why was the 1st past the post system chosen in India, What have been the effects of this system, Why is there a System of reserved seats, what are the provisions to ensure free & fair elections, What does the Election commission do?

4. Executive:

Why was the parliamentary system chosen over other forms of government? Why does the parliamentary system need a constitution head ? How is the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister's elected ? What are the formal and real powers of the President of India? What are the powers of the Prime Minister or the Chief Minister and the Council of Ministers? What are the powers of the Governor ?

5. Legislature at the Central and State level

Why does the parliament of India have two Houses? How are the parliament and the State Assemblies constituted? What are the powers of the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha? How are the laws passed? How is the executive made accountable? What are the constitutional means to prevent defections?

6. Judiciary

What is Rule of Law? Why do we need an independent judiciary? What are the provisions that ensure the independence of judiciary in India? How are the judges appointed? What are the powers of the Supreme and the High Courts? How do they use their powers for public interest?

7. Civil Service- Central and Goa State.

Union Public Service Commission: historical background, constitutional provisions, duties and role under the constitution, expenses of the Union and State Public Service Commission, recruitment and appointment to various services and posts, All India Posts, Recruitment and disciplinary actions, extension of service to local bodies, Binding nature of the advice of the Commission, Goa Public Service Commission- history, composition, Secretariat, functions, budgetary provisions.

8. Federalism :

What is federalism, how does federalism ensure accommodation of diversities, in which ways is the Indian constitutional federal, In which ways does the constitution strengthen the centre, Why are there special provisions for some states & areas.

9. Local Government

Why do we need decentralization of powers? What has been the status of local government in the constitution? What are the basic features of rural and urban local governments? What have been the effect of giving constitutional status to local governments?

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