

NCERT SIMPLIFIED SERIES

- ◆ Focus on Core Concepts
- ◆ Crisp and Clear Language
- ◆ Subject-wise Organization
- ◆ New NCERT Updated Content
- ◆ Practice Questions for Assessment

POLITY **Summary Notes** **From Classes 6-12**

For UPSC & other competitive exams



Preface

Dear Aspirants,

Welcome to "**NCERT Simplified**" a comprehensive guide designed to provide a concise and focused overview of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) textbooks. This book is tailored to meet the needs of aspirants preparing for competitive examinations like SSC, UPSC, and other government-related exams. Published by **StudyIQ**, this book aims to simplify the vast NCERT syllabus and equip you with the essential knowledge to ace your exams.

In the realm of competitive examinations, NCERT textbooks are regarded as the foundation for building a strong understanding of various subjects. They are trusted by educators and students alike for their well-structured content and accuracy. However, with an ever-expanding syllabus, it becomes challenging for aspirants to cover every detail. Recognizing this need, "**NCERT Simplified**" is crafted as the ideal companion to streamline your preparation and maximize your chances of success.

Key Features of the Book:

1. **Comprehensive Summary:** We have retained the core concepts, theories, and principles while eliminating redundant details, so you can focus on mastering the essential knowledge.
2. **Subject-wise Organization:** The book is divided into distinct sections, each dedicated to a specific subject, such as History, Geography, Economics, Polity, Society and more.
3. **Crisp and Clear Language:** We understand that clarity and simplicity are crucial in the learning process. Thus, our language is crafted to be lucid and accessible, making complex ideas easier to grasp. This writing style not only aids in a quick review but also facilitates better retention of information.
4. **Practice Questions:** Alongside the summaries, "**NCERT Simplified**" includes thoughtfully selected practice questions to assess your understanding and reinforce your learning.

As you embark on your journey to crack competitive examinations, "**NCERT Simplified**" promises to be your reliable companion. We hope this book empowers you with the knowledge, confidence, and skills required to excel in your exams and achieve your dreams.

Wishing you all the best!

Team **StudyIQ**

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role includes representing the interests of the people and influencing policy-making.

- MLAs are together responsible for the work of the government.

THE GOVERNMENT

- In everyday language, the term 'government' typically refers to government departments and the ministers who lead them.
- The chief minister serves as the head of the **executive branch** which is responsible for the implementation of policies and administration.
- The MLAs who assemble in the legislative assembly collectively constitute the **Legislature**.

They hold the authority to authorise and oversee the work of the government.

- The chief minister is selected from among the MLAs to lead the executive branch.

WORKING OF THE GOVERNMENT

- Government officials, including the chief minister and ministers, are responsible for taking actions through different departments like Public Works, Agriculture, Health, Education, etc.
- They are required to address questions raised in the Legislative Assembly and ensure that appropriate measures are taken.

- The media also plays a role by discussing these issues, leading the government to respond through press conferences.
- The government can create **state-level laws regarding sanitation and health facilities**, such as mandating toilets in urban areas or appointing health workers in villages. These laws are enacted in the state Legislative Assembly, and the government departments implement them. Country-wide laws are made in the Parliament.

CONCLUSION

- In a democracy, the ultimate authority lies with the people who elect their representatives as Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs).
- The elected MLAs from the ruling party form the government, and certain members are appointed as ministers. These ministers oversee different government departments, including health in the given example.
- However, any actions or decisions taken by these departments require the approval of the members of the legislative assembly.
- Thus, the elected representatives hold the power to scrutinise and endorse the work carried out by the government departments.

Points to Remember

At times, the ruling party may not be a single party but a group of parties working together. This is called a **coalition**.

- The **Head of the State is the Governor**. She/He is appointed by the Central Government to ensure that the State Government works within the rules and regulations of the Constitution. Find out the name of the Governor of your State.

Word Index

Glossary Constituency: A particular area from which all the voters living there choose their representatives. This could be, for example, a panchayat ward or an area that chooses an MLA.

Majority: This is a situation when more than half the number in a group supports a decision or an idea. This is also called a simple majority.

Opposition: This refers to elected representatives who are not members of the ruling party and who play the role of questioning government decisions and actions as well as raise new issues for consideration in the Assembly.

Press Conference: A gathering of journalists from the media who are invited to hear about and ask questions on a particular issue and are then expected to report on this to the larger public.

Strategy of non-interference:

- To respect the sentiments of all religions and to avoid interfering with religious practises, the government makes exceptions for certain religious communities.
- Certain religious practises may be permitted so long as they do not violate the rights and well-being of others. For instance, Sikhs are not required to wear helmets because the Indian government recognises that the Pagri (Turban) is central to their religious practise.

Strategy of intervention:

- The State intervenes in incidences of religious dominance or discrimination in an effort to uphold the rights and equality of all citizens.

- **Untouchability**, a social practise within Hinduism that discriminates against and excludes certain inferior castes, is one example of an intervention.
- The state may also intervene in the personal laws of communities in order to guarantee equal inheritance rights and other essential safeguards.

Strategy of support:

- The Indian Constitution grants religious communities the right to establish their own institutions and colleges as a strategy of support.
- Non-preferential financial aid is provided to religious communities to support their educational initiatives.

COMPARISON BETWEEN INDIAN SECULARISM AND OTHER DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES 'SECULARISM

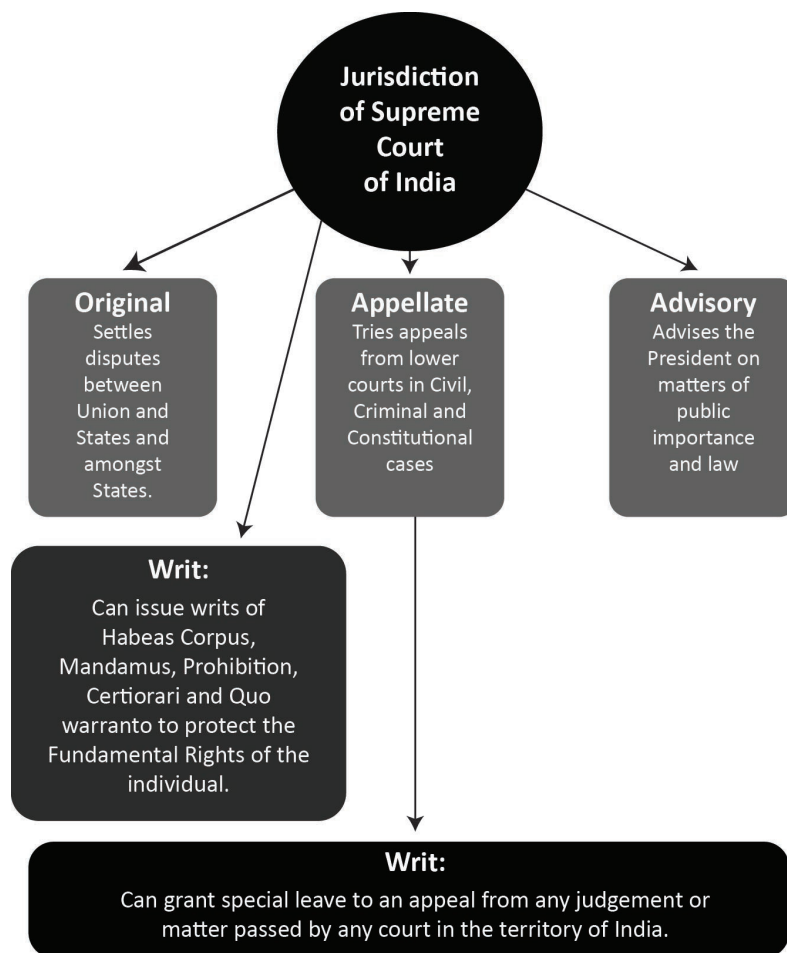
India	United States of America
No Official Religion of India.	First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution also prohibits the legislature to declare any religion as the official religion.
Allows State intervention in religious affairs, when necessary, based on constitutional ideals.	Strictly separates religion and the State, with no State intervention in religious affairs.
Maintains a principled distance between the State and religion.	Neither the State nor religion can interfere in each other's affairs.
The State can intervene in religious practices to address social issues or discrimination within a religious community (for example, abolishing Untouchability).	Does not allow State intervention in religious practices or affairs.
The Constitution serves as the standard to judge the State's adherence to secular principles.	Focuses on the absence of State involvement in religious matters as a key principle.
Fundamental Rights are guaranteed by the Indian Constitution to protect secular principles.	Constitutional provisions protect religious freedom and prohibit the establishment of an official religion or preference to any particular religion.

Points to be Remembered

- In the United States of America, most children in government schools have to begin their school day reciting the 'Pledge of Allegiance'. However, it was established more than 60 years ago that government school students are not required to recite the Pledge if it conflicts with their religious beliefs.
- In February 2004, France passed a law banning students from wearing any conspicuous religious or political signs or symbols such as the Islamic headscarf, the Jewish skullcap, or large Christian crosses.

Word Index

- **Coercion:** To force someone to do something. In the context of this chapter, it refers to the force used by a legal authority like the State.
- **Freedom to interpret:** The independence that all persons shall have to understand things in their own way.
- **Intervene:** In the context of this chapter, it refers to the State's efforts to influence a particular matter in accordance with the principles of the Constitution.



- However, **individuals** whose rights have been violated can choose to **either approach the High Court or directly approach the Supreme Court**.
- These writs allow the Court to give orders to the executive branch, directing them to take or refrain from taking specific actions.

Appellate Jurisdiction

- **Appellate jurisdiction** refers to the power of the Supreme Court to review and reconsider a case, including the legal issues involved.
 - If the Supreme Court determines that the lower courts have interpreted the law or the Constitution differently than intended, it has the **power to change the ruling** and provide a new interpretation of the provisions in question.
- **Supreme Court is the highest court of appeal:** Individuals have the right to appeal to the Supreme Court against the decisions made by the High Court.

- However, for an appeal to be considered by the Supreme Court, the High Court must certify that the case involves a significant matter of law or constitutional interpretation.

- **In criminal cases** where the lower court has sentenced a person to death, an appeal can be made to either the High Court or the Supreme Court.
 - The **Supreme Court has the authority** to decide whether to admit appeals, even if the High Court does not allow them.
- Similarly, the **High Courts also have appellate jurisdiction** over the decisions made by courts below them, allowing them to review and reconsider such cases.

Advisory Jurisdiction

- Under advisory jurisdiction, the **President of India has the authority to seek the advice** of the Supreme Court on matters that are of public importance or involve the interpretation of the Constitution.

- **Alien to Indian Culture:** Some critics argue that the Indian Constitution is entirely **alien to Indian culture** as it borrowed elements from **western constitutions**.
 - This concern is based on the perception that the Constitution may not align entirely with the **cultural ethos and traditions of the Indian people**.

Responses to the Criticisms:

- **Selective Adaptation:** While the Indian Constitution indeed borrowed elements from various sources, it was not a blind borrowing. The process involved **selective adaptation and innovative incorporation** of various principles to suit the specific needs and challenges of India.
- **The Emergence of Alternative Modernity:** Indian society witnessed the emergence of a **hybrid culture** that blended western modernity with local cultural systems. This resulted in a different, **alternative modernity**, where Indians creatively adapted modern ways of thinking, using them to address questions of dignity and justice. The Constitution reflects this amalgamation of values.
- **Representation and Inclusivity:** Though the Constituent Assembly might have lacked universal adult franchise, it did represent a **wide range of opinions and concerns**. The debates and discussions in the assembly covered a vast array of issues and reflected the interests and concerns of different social sections.
- **Reflecting Aspirations of the Marginalized:** The Indian Constitution has come to symbolize the **aspirations of marginalized communities**, particularly Dalits. The statue of Dr. Ambedkar holding a copy of the Constitution in many town squares signifies their belief that the Constitution reflects their aspirations.

LIMITATIONS

- **Centralised Idea of National Unity:** The Indian Constitution adopts a **centralized approach** to national unity, concentrating significant powers at the **federal level**.
 - While this design was intended to foster a strong and united nation, it has led to challenges in addressing the diverse needs and aspirations of the states and regions.
 - Critics argue that a more **decentralized system** might better accommodate the country's cultural, linguistic, and regional diversity.

- **Gender Justice within the Family:**
 - The Constitution has been criticized for not adequately addressing **gender justice issues** within the family.
 - It is argued that certain traditional practices and customs that discriminate against women have not been explicitly dealt with.
 - Despite some provisions for gender equality, there remains a need to address deeply ingrained social attitudes and practices that perpetuate discrimination within the family.
- **Directive Principles vs. Fundamental Rights:**
 - The Constitution distinguishes between **Directive Principles of State Policy** and **Fundamental Rights**.
 - While **Fundamental Rights** are justiciable and enforceable by courts, **Directive Principles** are non-justiciable and serve as guiding principles for the government.
 - Critics contend that certain essential **socio-economic rights**, crucial for a developing nation, were placed under the Directive Principles rather than being made legally enforceable fundamental rights.
- **Addressing the Limitations:**
 - **Decentralization and Federalism:** To address the centralization concern, there could be more **devolution of power** to the states, allowing them greater autonomy in decision-making within their respective domains. This might involve revisiting the **division of powers** between the center and the states to empower regions to handle regional issues better.
 - **Strengthening Gender Justice:** To promote gender justice within the family, the Constitution can be amended to explicitly address **gender-related discrimination and inequalities**. Additionally, legislation and awareness campaigns may be implemented to challenge and change regressive social norms and customs.
 - **Ensuring Socio-economic Rights:** To ensure socio-economic rights are adequately protected, a reevaluation of the status of **Directive Principles** could be undertaken. Critical socio-economic rights could be elevated to the status of **justiciable fundamental rights**, ensuring their enforcement through the legal system.