**Constitutional issues**

1. Federalism

2. Representation

3. Separate or Joint Electorate

4. National Language Issue

5. Parliamentary or Presidential system

6. Islamic or Secular State

**Federalism:** Deciding how power is shared between the central government and provinces. Division of power was the most difficult part between the two wings and among the provinces. Provinces were demanding more Autonomy and Provincial Rights.

**Representation:** Determining how different regions and groups are represented in the government. Not only wings but also the provinces were diversely filled. Everyone was sensitive to their representation and provincial autonomy. To address this issue, the Basic Principle Committee was formed in 1949.

**Separate or Joint Electorate:** Choosing whether communities vote separately or together in elections. The minorities did not favor a separate electorate after independence. East Pakistan decided for Joint Electorate and West Pakistan decided for Separate Electorate.

**National Language Issue:** In 1948, Jinnah declared Urdu as the national language, but opposition arose in East Pakistan. The Language Movement in East Pakistan started in February 1952. Eventually, a two-language formula was adopted in 1954 to address the National Language Issue.

**Parliamentary or Presidential System:** The debate focused on the government's structure—whether to be led by a prime minister or a president. While there was a general agreement for a parliamentary system, some advocated for a presidential system.

**Islamic or Secular State:** The challenge involved defining the role of religion in the state—whether as a guiding principle or promoting secularism (non-religious). Initially, there was a general agreement on a close relationship with Islam, aligning national identity with Islamic heritage. However, some Congress members and secularists opposed this. The Constituent Assembly took time to specify the state's relationship with Islam. The Objectives Resolution rejected theocracy, laying down fundamental objectives for Pakistan's future constitution.

**Issues to be Addressed**

The elected Assembly had to figure out how much power it should have in making laws, decide how Islamic the laws should be, and consider the role of a Ulema Board were key concerns. Matters regarding the position of women, their voting and working rights, and the status of religious minorities required thorough discussion. Outside the Constituent Assembly, there was a demand for an Islamic political system, highlighted by leading Ulema presenting 22 points to establish a religious foundation for the future constitution.