

# Constitutions



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# Constitution

- A **constitution** is a set of **statements describing the fundamental rules** of the **political system**.
- Constitution is the **mirror of a nation**.
- It is “a **document** that a **generation drafts** in the **light of its experience** and the **prevailing currents of thought** and which seeks to anticipate the future and to provide a framework for orderly change”

# Purpose of a Constitution

- ❑ A statement of national ideals
- ❑ Formalizes the structure of government
- ❑ Establishes the legitimacy of government
- ❑ Ensure rights of the citizens
- ❑ Allocates governmental activities
- ❑ It establishes the formal power relationships among the major political institutions
- ❑ Provide policy guidelines

# Essential/Requisites of a good Constitutions

1. **Clarity:** each clause should be written in simple language, should express clear meaning.
2. **Brevity:** constitution should not be too lengthy, it should contain only the important things.
3. **Comprehensiveness:** should be applicable for the whole country.
4. **Flexibility:** constitution should not be too rigid to hinder the process of amendment when needed.

# Essential/Requisites of a good Constitutions

5. **Declaration of Rights:** a good constitution must contain the fundamental rights of the people.
6. **Independence of Judiciary:** Judiciary should not be under the control of the executive and it should function freely and act as the guardian of the Rights of the people.
7. **Directive Principle of State Policy:** a good constitution must be made of directive of principles of state policy.

# Classification of Constitution

- **Written Constitution:** which means a constitution written in the form of a book or a series of documents combined in the form of a book. Example: Bangladesh, India.
- **Non-Written Constitution:** which is neither drafted nor enacted by a Constituent Assembly and nor even written in the form of a book. Example: Britain.

# Bangladesh Constitution

- ***23 March 1972*** - the president issued the *Constitution Assembly of Bangladesh Order, 1972*
- **404 (out of 469) took part** in the proceedings of the Constituent Assembly.
- **10<sup>th</sup> April 1972-** Constituent Assembly held its first meeting
- **11<sup>th</sup> April** Constitution Drafting Committee was formed consisting of **34 members** which chaired by **Dr. Kamal Hossain** where **Razia Banu** was only female person.
- **16 December 1972-** the constitution came into force.
- Constitution has **153 Articles** arranged under **eleven parts**.
- Number of amendments: 16

# Constitutional commitment of Public Policy

- Art.8 # Absolute trust and faith in Almighty Allah.
- Art 9 # Promotion of local government institution
- Art 10 # Participation of women in national life.
- Art 13 # Principles of ownership.
- Art 14 # Emancipation of peasants and workers.
- Art 15 # Provision of basic necessities.
- Art 16 # Rural Development and Agricultural revolution.
- Art 17 # Free and compulsory education.
- Art 23 # Separation of Judiciary from executive.



# Suggested readings

- Danziger, J. N., & Smith, C. A. (2016). *Understanding the political world: A comparative introduction to political science*. Boston :Pearson. pp. 165-167.
- Michael G. Roskin, Robert L. Cord, James A. Medeiros, Walter S. Jones. (2016). *Political Science - An Introduction*. pp. 70-84.
- Constitution of Bangladesh :  
<http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/act-367.html>

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