Class IX: Democratic Politics I

Themes	Learning Objectives
1. Democracy in contemporary world How has democracy expanded in the world in recent times? In which ways has this expansion changed the world? Is this expansion changing democracy itself? Are we moving towards global democracy?	• Develop a comparative historical sense of the spread of democracy. • Analyse the functioning of global institutions such as UN. • Skills of comparison and evaluation.
2. What is democracy? Why democracy? What are the different ways of defining democracy? Why has democracy become the most prevalent form of government in our times? What are the alternatives to democracy? Is democracy superior to its available alternatives? Must every democracy have the same institutions and values?	• Develop conceptual skills of defining democracy. • Understand how different historical processes and forces have promoted democracy. • Developing a sophisticated defence of democracy against common prejudices.
3. Designing of democracy in India How and why did India become a democracy? How was the Indian constitution framed? What are the salient features of the Constitution? How is democracy being constantly designed and redesigned in India?	• Develop a historical sense of the choice and nature of democracy in India. • Introduction to the process of Constitution making. • Develop respect for the Constitution and appreciation for Constitutional values. • Recognise that constitution is a living document that undergoes changes.
4. Electoral politics in democracy Why and how do we elect representatives? Why do we have a system of competition among political parties? How has the citizens' participation in electoral politics changed? What are the ways to ensure free and fair elections?	• Introduce the idea of representative democracy via competitive party politics. • Familiarise with our electoral system and reasons for choosing this. • Develop an appreciation of citizen's increased participation in electoral politics. • Recognise the significance of the Election Commission.
5. Institutions of parliamentary democracy How is the country governed? What does Parliament do in our democracy? What is the role of the President	• Provide an overview of central governmental structures.

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of India, the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers? How do these relate to one another?	• Sensitise to the key role of the Parliament and its procedures. • Distinguish between nominal and real executive authorities and functions. • Understand the parliamentary system of executive's accountability to the legislature.
6. Citizens' rights in democracy Why do we need rights in a Constitution? What are the Fundamental Rights enjoyed by the citizen under the Indian Constitution? How does the judiciary protect the Fundamental Rights of the citizen? How is the independence of the judiciary ensured?	• Develop a citizens' awareness of their rights. • Introduction to and appreciation of the Fundamental Rights. • Recognition of the ways in which these rights are exercised and denied in real life situations. • Introduction to judicial system and key institutions like the Supreme Court, High Courts and National Human Rights Commission.