

Unit Plan on the Constitution

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Unit: The Constitution of the Philippines

Sub-units: The Historical Background of the Philippine Constitution — Its Important Articles and Their Significance

Problems: How was the Constitution drafted and ratified? Why is the Constitution the Fundamental Law of the land? Why are the Preamble and the Important Articles of the Constitution significant?

I. General Objectives:

- A. To understand how the constitutional convention was called to make a constitution for the Philippines.
- B. To help disseminate correct information on how the Constitution was drafted and ratified.
- C. To know the significance of the pertinent articles of our Constitution.

II. Specific Objectives:

A. Knowledge and Understanding

1. To know and understand

- a. how the delegates to the constitutional convention were selected.

“On July 10, 1934, the election of 202 delegates to the convention was held. The people of the Philippines went to the polls to vote for their respective candidates.”

- b. the officers of the convention elected by the delegates.

“On July 30, 1934, the constitutional convention was inaugurated at the Legislative Building, Manila. In the inaugural session the following officers were elected by the delegates: Claro M. Recto, President; Ruperto Montinola, First Vice-President; Teodoro Sandiko, Second Vice-President; Narciso Pimentel, Secretary; and Narciso Diokno, Sergeant-at-arms.”

- c. what compose the delegates to the Constitutional Convention.

“Most of the delegates to the convention have gone to college. Many of them were educators, physicians, lawyers, writers, bus-

inessmen and scholars. One member was a Moro sultan; one was a Protestant pastor; and another was an Aglipayan bishop. Most of the delegates were Catholics.”

“The youngest member was Wenceslao Q. Vinsons, who was below 25 years old; and the oldest member was Teodoro Sandiko, who was 74 years old. Jose Alejandrino and Teodoro Sandiko were old and intimate friends of Dr. Jose Rizal. They have been members of the Malolos Congress and had been signers of the Malolos Constitution.

Among the prominent political figures of the convention were Manuel A. Roxas, who had been speaker of the House of Representatives; Jose P. Laurel, who had been senator and Secretary of the Interior; Camilo Osias, who had been Resident Commissioner to the United States; and Rafael Palma, who had been senator and Secretary of the Interior. One prominent member was Norberto Romualdez, who had been associate justice of the Supreme Court.

- d. how the draft of the constitution was made.

The draft of the constitution was made by a Sub-Committee of seven. This body was composed of Felimon Sotto (Chairman), Manuel A. Roxas, Conrado Benitez, Manuel C. Briones, Miguel Cuaderno, Norberto Romualdez, and Vicente Singson Encarnacion.

- e. how the Constitution was approved and signed by the delegates.

“On February 8, 1935, the Constitution was approved by the convention by a vote of 177 to 1, and was signed eleven days later amidst impressive ceremonies. One delegate, Gregorio Perfecto, signed it in his own blood like a Katipunero in the good old days of the Revolution.”

- f. how the Constitution was ratified.

“On March 23, 1935, the Constitution was approved by President Franklin D. Roosevelt of the United States. It was later on ratified by the Filipino people. On May 14, 1935, a plebiscite was held in our coun-

try. Our voters went to the polls to approve or reject the Constitution. The result was favorable — 1,213,046 votes were cast in favor of the Constitution and only 44,963 votes were cast against it. Our Constitution was formally approved by the people.”

g. what consists our Constitution.

Our Constitution originally consisted of a preamble and 17 articles. The Preamble which expresses the noble ideals of our nation reads as follows:

“The Filipino people, imploring the aid of the Divine Providence, in order to establish a government that shall embody their ideals, conserve and develop the patrimony of the nation, promote the general welfare, and secure to themselves and their posterity the blessings of independence under a regime of justice, liberty, and democracy, do ordain and promulgate this Constitution.”

The seventeen articles pertain to the following: (1) National Territory, (2) Declaration of Principles, (3) Bill of Rights, (4) Filipino Citizenship, (5) Suffrage, (6) Legislative Department, (7) Executive Department, (8) Judicial Department, (9) Impeachment, (10) General Auditing Office, (11) Civil Service, (12) Conservation and Utilization of Natural Resources, (13) General Provisions, (14) Amendments, (15) Transitory Provisions, (16) Special Provisions, effective upon the proclamation of the independence of the Philippines, and (17) the Commonwealth and the Republic.

h. what comprises the territory of the Philippines as embodied in our Constitution.

“The Philippines comprises all the territory ceded to the United States by the Treaty of Paris concluded between the United States and Spain on the tenth day of December, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, the limits of which are set forth in Article II of said treaty, together with all the islands embraced in the territory concluded at Washington, between the United States and Spain on the seventh day of November, nineteen hundred, and in the treaty concluded between the United States and Great Britain on the second day of January, nineteen hundred and thirty, and all the territory over which the present Government of the Philippine Islands exercises jurisdiction.” — (Art. I, Sec. 1 of the Constitution).

i. the important points embodied in the “Bill of Rights”.

- (1) Due process of law
- (2) Eminent Domain
- (3) The right of the people against unreasonable searches and seizures
- (4) Liberty of abode
- (5) Privacy of Communication
- (6) Right to form associations
- (7) Freedom of Religion
- (8) Freedom of Speech
- (9) Non-acceptance and non enactment of the title of nobility.
- (10) No involuntary servitude shall exist.
- (11) Non-imprisonment for debt.
- (12) No person shall be twice put in jeopardy of punishment.
- (13) Free access to the courts.

j. who are the citizens of the Philippines.

1. Those who are citizens of the Philippine Islands at the time of the adoption of the Constitution.
2. Those born in the Philippine Islands of foreign parents who, before the adoption of the Constitution, had been elected to public office in the Philippine Islands.
3. Those whose fathers are citizens of the Philippines.
4. Those whose mothers are citizens of the Philippines and, upon reaching the age of majority, elect Philippine citizenship.
5. Those who are naturalized in accordance with law. (Art. IV, Sec. 1 of the Constitution)

k. where the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Powers are vested.

“The Legislative power shall be vested in a Congress of the Philippines, which shall consist of a Senate and a House of Representatives.” (Art. VI, Sec. 1)

“The Executive power shall be vested in a President of the Philippines.” (Art. VII, Sec. 1)

“The Judicial power shall be vested in one Supreme Court and in such inferior courts as may be established by law.” (Art. VIII, Sec. 1)

l. the important functions of the Commission on Elections, the Civil Service, the General Auditing Office.

m. how amendments to the Constitution are made.

“The Congress in joint session assembled, by a vote of three-fourths of all the Members of the Senate and of the House of Representatives voting separately, may propose amendments to this Constitution or call a convention for that purpose. Such amendments shall be valid as part of this Constitution when approved by a majority of the votes cast at an election at which the amendments are submitted to the people for ratification.” (Art. XV, Sec. 1)

- n. the important Transitory and Special Provisions embodied in Constitution. (See Articles XVI and XVII).

B. Habits and Skills:

1. To develop the ability to gather, evaluate, and organize information concerning one's problems.
2. To develop the ability to select materials related to the unit.
3. To develop skill in using reference materials.
4. To develop the ability to follow instructions.
5. To develop the ability to outline.
6. To develop the ability to interview resource persons.
7. To develop the ability to read materials with understanding.
8. To develop proficiency in raising problems about the unit.
9. To gain skill in giving reports with fluency in English.

C. Attitudes and Appreciation:

1. To appreciate the work done by the delegates to the Constitutional Convention.
2. To appreciate reading the Preamble of our Constitution.
3. To be interested in memorizing the Preamble by heart.
4. To be interested in reading the different articles and sections of the Constitution.
5. To appreciate the importance of the Constitution.
6. To develop proper attitude in the practice of cooperation.
7. To develop better attitudes of resourcefulness, tolerance, self-reliance and courtesy in group processes.

III. Possible Approach:

A. Initiation

1. Structuring the room:
 - a. Posting on the Bulletin Board pictures, cut-outs and clippings related to the unit.

2. Story-telling:

- a. Telling of stories about the framing, drafting, ratifying and signing of the Constitution.

B. Possible Problems:

1. Historical Background of the Constitution

- a. How were the delegates to the Constitutional Convention selected?
 - (1) When was the election for the selection of the delegates held?
 - (2) How many delegates were elected?
- b. Who were the officers of the Convention?
- c. What compose the delegates to the Constitutional Convention?
 - (1) Who was the youngest member of the Convention?
 - (2) Who was the oldest member?
 - (3) Who were the prominent figures of the convention?
- d. How was the draft of the Constitution made?
 - (1) Who composed the Sub-Committee of Seven?
- e. When was the Constitution approved and signed by the delegates?
- f. How was the Constitution ratified?
 - (1) When was it approved by the President of the United States?
 - (2) When was it formally approved by the Filipino people?

2. Important Articles of Our Constitution.

- a. What consists our Constitution?
 - (1) What does the Preamble express?
 - (2) What are the seventeen articles of the Constitution?
- b. What comprises the territory of the Philippines?
- c. What are the important points embodied in the “Bill of Rights”?
- d. Who are the citizens of the Philippines according to the Constitution?
- e. To whom are the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Powers vested?
- f. According to the Constitution, what are the important functions of the Commission on Elections, the Civil Service, the General Auditing Office?
- g. How are the amendments to the Constitution made?

- h. What are the important Transitory and Special Provisions embodied in our Constitution?

IV. Suggested Activities

A. Gathering Data Activities

1. Reading from resource materials
 - a. Constitution of the Philippines
 - b. Government of Our Republic, Zaide
 - c. A Brief History of the Philippines, Leandro Fernandez
 - d. Philippine Government, Alip
 - e. Stories of Our Country, Agorilla
2. Taking notes from lectures
3. Interviewing resource persons:
 - a. The Municipal Mayor
 - b. The Justice of the Peace
 - c. The Provincial Governor
 - d. The Congressman
 - e. The Provincial Fiscal
 - f. Other government officials.
4. Studying reports of former Grades V and VI pupils and compiled data by teachers.
5. Collecting pictures, stories and poems about the Constitution.

B. Self-expression Activities:

1. Construction and Collection Activities
 - a. Making Projects about the unit:
 - (1) Album of collected pictures, poems and stories about the Constitution.
 - (2) Scrapbook of cut-outs of pictures and clippings from newspapers and magazines.
 - b. Drawing pictures about the rights of every Filipino citizen as described in the "Bills of Rights".
2. Appreciation and Expressional Activities:
 - a. Reciting poems and rhymes.
 - b. Reading stories and poems about the Constitution.
 - c. Studying and singing songs about the unit.
 - d. Writing letters to resource persons, of invitation, of thanks, requesting information.
3. Reporting Activities
 - a. Making oral written reports based on researches made, lectures and talks of resource persons, and observations.

- b. Group reports on topics and problems chosen.

C. Evaluation

1. Teacher-Pupil Evaluation of the attitudes, skills, and habits acquired during the study of the unit.
2. Teacher-made Tests.
3. Evaluation of work done by members of the different groups.

D. Culminating Activities:

1. Holding programs and exhibits
2. Writing an informal theme on this subject: "Why Is The Constitution The Fundamental Law of the Land?"

V. Expected Outcomes:

A. Reading: Growth in the:

1. Knowledge of the sources of literature and other references for research work.
2. Ability to assemble facts from different sources to answer questions and to solve problems.
3. Knowledge of the different parts of a newspaper.
4. Ability to evaluate the relative importance of the materials read in the references and newspapers.
5. Greater efficiency in the use of the library.

B. Language:

Increased proficiency in the correct use of English in oral and written expressions:

1. Oral expression: Growth in the ability to:
 - a. Speak with correct pronunciation, enunciation and articulation.
 - b. Speak clearly and distinctly in a natural pleasing tone voice.
 - c. Select words to express the exact meaning one has to convey.
 - d. Participate in class discussions, in group activities and in reporting.
 - e. State problems clearly and correctly.
 - f. Discuss topics and questions intelligently.
 - g. Desire to ask questions for clarification.
 - h. Give and accept criticisms properly.

C. Arithmetic — Growth in the ability to:

1. Solve practical problems concerning the expenses incurred by the different departments and offices of the government, the salaries of government officials as stated in the Constitution and others.
2. Use the fundamental processes.