NCERT Archive

SOLUTIONS BOOK

CLASS 8

Social Science · Exploring Society

CHAPTER 4

The Role of the Judiciary in Our Society

Complete Questions and Activities Solutions

In-text Questions

Questions and Activities

Contents

Class 8 Social Science · Exploring Society: India and Beyond · Chapter 4 — The Role of the Judiciary in Our Society

4.1 **In-text Questions**
9 questions · Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4 Q5 Q6 Q7 Q8 Q9 — 3

4.2 **Questions and Activities**
5 questions · Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4 Q5 — 14

Every question is followed by its answer. Question numbers above are clickable and the PDF bookmarks panel lets you jump to any exercise set or question. Figures are reproduced from the NCERT textbook (© NCERT) for educational use.

NCERT ARCHIVE

4.1

CLASS 8 SOCIAL SCIENCE · CHAPTER 4

In-text Questions

Solutions · 9 questions

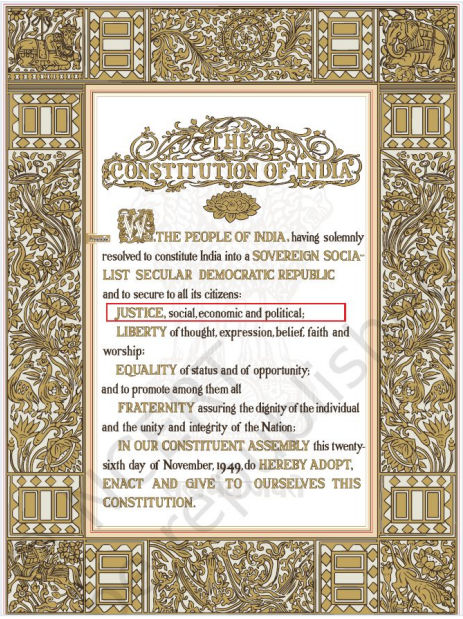
Directions (Questions 1–9): These are the questions that appear inside the chapter (The Big Questions, Let's Explore and Don't Miss Out), numbered in the order in which they appear. Some are open-ended or activity questions; model answers based on the chapter are given.

QUESTION 1 *The Big Questions · p. 125*

What is the concept of justice?

ANSWER

Justice means fair treatment of everyone: it ensures that individuals can live with equality and dignity. The Preamble to the Constitution promises all citizens social, economic and political justice.


THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC and to secure to all its citizens:

JUSTICE, social, economic and political;

LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;

EQUALITY of status and of opportunity;

and to promote among them all

FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation;

IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, do HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.

Fig. 4.2. The Preamble to the Constitution of India



Fig. 4.4. Aspects of justice

a Meaning of justice

- Societies expect fair treatment and peaceful living for everyone; the government ensures justice by framing laws.

NCERT ARCHIVE

- Laws are general rules made by the government to regulate individuals' activities and impose consequences (a fine, compensation or imprisonment) for not following them.
- The judicial system lets a person complain about a grievance and place their point of view so that justice is ensured within the framework of the law and the Constitution.

b Two aspects of justice

Aspect	Meaning
Substantive justice	Focuses on the final result or outcome: is the decision actually fair, just and reasonable?
Procedural justice	Every person involved gets a full opportunity of hearing before a decision is taken; every person is presumed innocent till proved guilty

c Laws must themselves be just

- Over 1500 colonial-era laws were repealed, such as the Criminal Tribes Act, 1871 and the Vernacular Press Act, 1878.
- Unjust laws existed elsewhere too: the 'Jim Crow laws' in parts of the United States (repealed in the 1960s) and the apartheid laws of South Africa (repealed in 1991).

Therefore, justice means fairness in both outcome and procedure, supported by just laws.

QUESTION 2 *The Big Questions · p. 125*

Why is it important for a just and harmonious Society?

ANSWER

Justice is essential for maintaining peace and harmony in any society, because it ensures that individuals can live with equality and dignity.

NCERT ARCHIVE



Fig. 4.3. Segregation of water facilities in public places based on colour and race (Jim Crow laws)

a Reasons

- **Peace and harmony:** disputes arise in all societies; fair settlement through dialogue, mediation or courts prevents conflict.
- **Equality and dignity:** everyone is treated justly and fairly; unjust laws such as Jim Crow and apartheid denied people access to public facilities and a life with dignity.
- **Fair adjudication:** the Judiciary decides disputes in accordance with the law.
- **Check on power:** the judiciary ensures laws passed by the legislature are within the Constitution and that the executive does not overstep its role.
- **Protection of rights:** citizens can approach the Supreme Court or High Court to enforce Fundamental Rights.

Therefore, justice is the basis of peaceful, equal and dignified living, and the judiciary protects it.

QUESTION 3 *The Big Questions · p. 125*

What is the structure and role of the judiciary in India?

ANSWER

The Indian judicial system is a unified system, with a hierarchy of courts: the Supreme Court at the apex, High Courts at the State level and Subordinate Courts at the District level. The judiciary is one of the three pillars of government and is independent.

NCERT ARCHIVE



Fig. 4.1. The Supreme Court of India, New Delhi

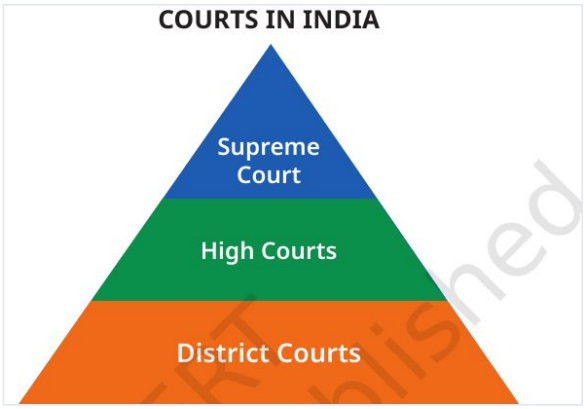


Fig. 4.5. A simplified diagram to illustrate the hierarchy of the judicial system in India



Fig. 4.6. Writ Petition



Fig. 4.9. Online access to case details (National Judicial Grid of India)

NCERT ARCHIVE

a Structure

Court	Key points
Supreme Court (Article 124)	Highest court, in New Delhi; began on 26.01.1950; final interpreter of the Constitution; Chief Justice of India and 33 judges; judges appointed by the President; retire at 65
High Courts (Article 214)	Highest court at the State level; 25 High Courts for 28 States; Chief Justice and other judges appointed by the President in consultation with the Chief Justice of India, the Governor and the Chief Justice of the High Court; retire at 62
Subordinate Courts (Articles 233–237)	District Courts, Sessions Courts, Revenue Courts, Small Causes Courts etc.; the judiciary comes into close contact with people here; District Judges appointed by the Governor in consultation with the High Court
Tribunals	Specialised bodies for specific disputes, e.g. NCLT, NGT, APTEL, Armed Forces Tribunal, Central Administrative Tribunal, Consumer Fora

b Powers of the Supreme Court

- **Writ jurisdiction** (Article 32): to enforce Fundamental Rights; High Courts do so under Article 226.
- **Original jurisdiction** (Article 131): disputes between the Centre and a State, or between States (such as river water disputes).
- **Appellate jurisdiction:** appeals from High Courts and from tribunals such as the NGT.
- **Advisory jurisdiction** (Article 143): opinion for the President on a question of public importance, heard by a bench of at least five judges.
- **Special Leave Petitions** (Article 136); law declared by it is binding on all courts (Article 141); power to pass any order for complete justice (Article 142).

c Role of the judiciary

- Ensures justice and fair settlement of disputes.
- Ensures laws are made within the framework of the Constitution; the Constitution prescribes separation of powers.
- Protects Fundamental Rights; the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) was introduced by the Supreme Court to address issues of public concern.
- Uses digital initiatives (e-Filing, hybrid hearings, live streaming, translation of judgments, National Judicial Data Grid) to be accessible.

Therefore, India has a unified three-tier judicial system, with the Supreme Court at the top, and its role is to deliver justice and protect the Constitution.

NCERT ARCHIVE

QUESTION 4 *The Big Questions · p. 125*

What are the alternative modes of dispute resolution?

ANSWER

To reduce the burden on the judiciary, courts encourage litigants to settle disputes through alternate modes of dispute resolution (ADR): arbitration, mediation/conciliation, negotiation, Lok Adalat, etc.

a Modes of ADR

Mode	Key features
Arbitration	Parties agree to refer the dispute to an independent arbitrator or panel (a retired judge, lawyer or expert), who must act fairly and impartially; the decision is final, legally binding and enforceable by a court. Governed by the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996
Mediation	The most common ADR; a neutral Mediator helps the parties reach a mutual settlement but cannot make a decision or impose a view. Governed by the Mediation Act, 2023
Lok Adalats	'People's courts' where disputes, even pending ones, can be settled amicably; sometimes parties can approach them before going to court. Under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987; they aim to reduce the backlog
Gram Nyayalayas	Mobile, village-level courts with simplified procedure and no technicalities; established under the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 to decentralise the judicial system

Therefore, arbitration, mediation, Lok Adalats and Gram Nyayalayas help settle disputes faster and reduce the burden on courts.

QUESTION 5 *Let's Explore · p. 127*

Think of a time when you felt that someone had not been fair to you. How did you feel? What did you think needed to be done to make the situation right? Who could have made things right? What would you do in such a situation? Share in small groups.

ANSWER

This is a personal reflection activity. A model answer is given; write your own experience.

NCERT ARCHIVE

a Model answer

Question	Model response
Situation	A classmate took credit for a project I had done and the teacher gave only them the marks
How I felt	Hurt, angry and helpless
What needed to be done	The truth should be checked, the classmate should apologise and the marks should be corrected
Who could make it right	The teacher or the principal, after hearing both of us
What I would do	Explain calmly with proof (my notes), ask for a fair hearing, and accept the decision

b Link to the chapter

- Wanting the wrong-doer to be punished, to apologise or to pay compensation relates to **substantive justice** (a fair outcome).
- The accused being allowed to explain what happened relates to **procedural justice** (a full hearing).

Therefore, justice needs both a fair hearing for everyone and a fair final outcome.

QUESTION 6 *Don't Miss Out · p. 130*

This is the logo of the Supreme Court of India. What are the elements familiar to you? Notice the Sanskrit motto, 'yato dharmastato jayah' — 'Where there is dharma, there is victory.' (You might recall this motto from your Grade 6 textbook.)

ANSWER

The logo has a few familiar elements and a motto about dharma and victory.



Logo of the Supreme Court of India

NCERT ARCHIVE

a Elements in the logo

- The **Ashoka Chakra** (wheel), familiar from the national flag, at the top.
- The **Lion Capital of Ashoka**, the national emblem of India, below it.
- A decorative frame around them and a ribbon bearing the motto in Sanskrit.

b The motto

'*Yato dharmastato jayah*' means 'Where there is dharma, there is victory', suggesting that justice and righteousness ultimately prevail. In the context of a court, *dharma* may be understood as righteousness and duty.

Therefore, the logo combines the national emblem and wheel with a motto that stands for justice and righteousness.

QUESTION 7 *Let's Explore · p. 135*

Several High Courts mentioned in the table have more than one bench. Explore which High Courts have more than one bench with the help of your teachers.

ANSWER

A High Court usually sits at its principal seat, but some have additional benches in other cities for the convenience of people. Examples are given (verify with your teacher or the official High Court websites).

a Examples of High Courts with more than one bench

High Court	Other benches (besides principal seat)
Allahabad High Court	Lucknow
Bombay High Court	Nagpur, Aurangabad (Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar) and Panaji (Goa)
Madras High Court	Madurai
Madhya Pradesh High Court	Gwalior and Indore
Rajasthan High Court	Jaipur
Karnataka High Court	Dharwad and Kalaburagi
Gauhati High Court	Kohima, Aizawl and Itanagar
Calcutta High Court	Circuit benches at Jalpaiguri and Port Blair

NCERT ARCHIVE

b Note

This list is from general knowledge, beyond the chapter; some benches may have changed, so confirm the latest position.

Therefore, several High Courts, such as Bombay, Allahabad, Madras and Madhya Pradesh, sit at more than one place.

QUESTION 8 *Let's Explore · p. 136*

Which Subordinate Court is closest to where you live?

ANSWER

This depends on where you live. The steps to find the answer are given.

a How to answer

- Subordinate courts include District Courts, Sessions Courts, Revenue Courts, Small Causes Courts etc.; they function in each State below the High Court.
- Find your district headquarters (or the nearest town where the District Court sits) with the help of your teacher, parents or the court's website.
- Write: the name of the court, the town, and the distance or the way to reach it.

b Model sentence

The District Court of [name of district] at [town] is the Subordinate Court closest to my home, about [distance] away.

c Why it matters

It is in these courts that the judiciary comes in close contact with the people.

Therefore, the closest subordinate court is usually the District Court of your district.

NCERT ARCHIVE

QUESTION 9 *Let's Explore · p. 137*

A builder planned to start constructing a complex of flats in 2011. A family decided to buy a flat, paying an advance of almost ₹65 lakhs. The family visited the site regularly and found that even after four years, there was no sign of a building coming up where their flat was supposed to be constructed. This was a breach of the agreement with the builder. So, the family went to the National Consumer Commission to complain about the builder. After listening to both parties, the Commission ordered the builder to return the amount to the family with interest, and also to pay the cost of the litigation. (The names of the concerned parties are not mentioned to protect their privacy.)

ANSWER

This case study shows how a consumer dispute is settled by a specialised tribunal (a Consumer Forum).

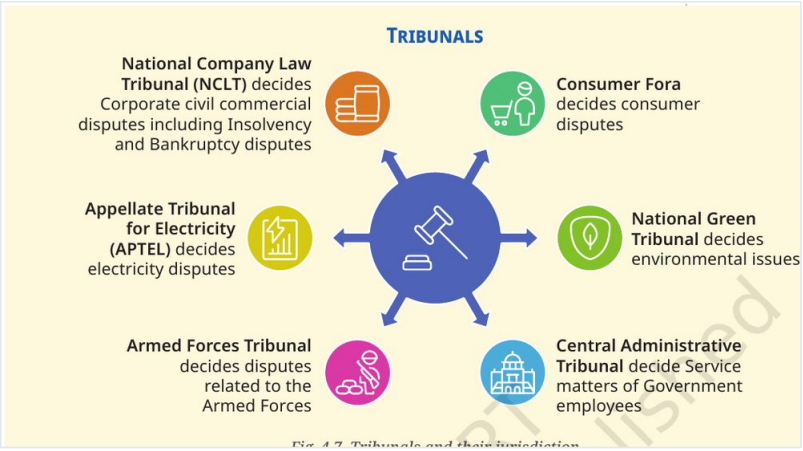


Fig. 4.7. Tribunals and their jurisdiction



Fig. 4.8

© NCERT not to be republished
NCERT ARCHIVE

a Understanding the case

Point	Details
Dispute	The builder did not start construction even after four years, breaching the agreement
Forum	National Consumer Commission (a Consumer Forum, which decides consumer disputes)
Procedure	The Commission listened to both parties (procedural justice)
Outcome	The builder was ordered to return the amount with interest and pay the cost of litigation (substantive justice)

b Lesson

Ordinary citizens can approach specialised tribunals when their rights are violated; justice includes compensation for the loss suffered.

Therefore, the family got justice through a Consumer Forum, which heard both sides and ordered a refund with interest and costs.

NCERT ARCHIVE

4.2

CLASS 8 SOCIAL SCIENCE · CHAPTER 4

Questions and Activities

Solutions · 5 questions

Directions (Questions 1–5): These are the Questions and activities at the end of the chapter (pages 141–142). Answer each in your own words using the points given.

QUESTION 1

Write a model letter to the High Court or Supreme Court about a current social issue you have observed to bring it to the notice of the judiciary.

ANSWER

The chapter says citizens can help the judicial system by bringing to its notice social concerns affecting the rights of people, animals and nature. A model letter is given; replace the details with your own.

a Model letter

From: [Your name], [Class], [School], [Address]
To: The Hon’ble Chief Justice and Judges, High Court of [State]
Subject: Request to take notice of the pollution of the [name] lake in [town]
Respected Sir/Madam, I am a student of Class 8 and I wish to bring to the Court’s notice that the [name] lake in our town is being polluted by garbage and sewage. The water has turned dirty and foul-smelling, fish are dying and residents, including children, are falling ill.
Despite complaints to the local authorities, no action has been taken. This affects the right to life and a clean environment of the people and the animals that depend on the lake (Article 21).
I request the Hon’ble Court to take notice of this matter and direct the authorities to clean the lake and stop the pollution. Thank you. Yours faithfully, [Name], [Date]

b Points to remember

- Be respectful, factual and brief; state the problem, who is affected and what you request.

NCERT ARCHIVE

- Citizens may approach the High Court (Article 226) or the Supreme Court (Article 32) through a petition (PIL) for matters of public concern.

Therefore, a model letter is polite, factual and clear about the problem and the relief sought.

QUESTION 2

Imagine that you are part of the legislature or executive. Given the large number of cases in the judicial system, what are some innovative solutions that you can devise to address the issue?

ANSWER

The chapter shows that courts handle a huge number of cases at different levels and through alternative modes. Ideas based on the chapter are given.

a Solutions

Idea	How it helps
Promote ADR (arbitration, mediation, Lok Adalats)	Settles disputes outside regular courts and reduces backlog
Strengthen Gram Nyayalayas	Brings simplified, mobile village-level justice and reduces the burden on regular courts
Expand digital technology: e-Filing, hybrid hearings, National Judicial Data Grid	Makes the system faster, more accessible and transparent
Review and repeal outdated laws; use the new criminal laws	Avoids unnecessary cases; the new laws aim at faster justice and use of digital evidence
More specialised tribunals	Quick settlement of specific disputes (consumer, environment, services)
Appoint more judges, fill vacancies, improve courts	More cases decided in less time (suggestion beyond the chapter)

Therefore, a combination of ADR, decentralised courts, technology and law reform can reduce the burden on courts.

NCERT ARCHIVE

QUESTION 3

Create a moot court and enact the following cases. What are the considerations that the judge might need to take into account to arrive at a just outcome?
(i) Anita and Sameer worked in a factory that produced different types of screws. They had both completed an Industrial Training Institute diploma and joined the factory together. One day, Anita discovered that she was getting paid less than Sameer for the same job. After many appeals to her boss and no change in her salary, she decided to go to court. Enact this scene from the litigants' perspective, showcasing their respective points of view. What might be the outcome of the case?
(ii) The people of a village living next to a river used its water for drinking and irrigation purposes. Gradually, they began to notice that the clear water was turning a brownish colour and had begun to smell too. Many people were falling sick. They figured that this was due to the effluents that were being discharged by a factory upstream. What are the steps that the residents of the village could take to ensure that the water is clean again?

ANSWER

A moot court is a mock court. Roles and considerations are given for both cases; remember that the judge must hear both sides before deciding.

i Case 1: Anita and the factory

Role	Point of view
Anita (petitioner)	We did the same job, have the same qualification (ITI diploma) and joined together, yet I am paid less; my appeals to the boss were ignored
Factory owner/boss (respondent)	Any difference in pay is due to some reason (for example, experience, duties or performance), if such a reason exists
Sameer (witness)	States the work both do and the pay he receives
Lawyers and judge	Present arguments; the judge hears both sides and examines the evidence

i-a Considerations for the judge

- Do both do the same work, with the same qualifications and joining date? Is there any genuine reason for the difference in pay (proof, salary records)?

NCERT ARCHIVE

- Equality: a woman should not be treated less favourably without a valid reason (equality is a Fundamental Right and a promise in the Preamble).
- Procedural justice: Anita and the boss both get a full hearing.
- Substantive justice: a fair outcome that corrects the wrong.

i-b Likely outcome

If there is no valid reason for the difference, the court is likely to order the factory to pay Anita equal pay for the same job, including the unpaid difference, and possibly the costs of the case.

ii Case 2: The polluted river

Step	Action by the villagers
1	Collect evidence: photographs, water samples, records of illness
2	Complain in writing to local authorities and the pollution control authorities
3	Approach a specialised tribunal for environmental issues, the National Green Tribunal
4	File a Public Interest Litigation in the High Court (Article 226) since the right to life (Article 21) includes clean water; the courts have taken up environmental issues such as the cleaning of the Ganga
5	Ask for immediate safe drinking water and medical help, and that the factory treat its waste before discharge
6	Act together as a community and spread awareness

Therefore, the judge must hear both sides and weigh the evidence, and the villagers can seek remedy through authorities, tribunals and the High Court.

QUESTION 4

Many eminent individuals from across India have served as Supreme Court or High Court judges. Write an essay about one such individual from your state or district, talking about their contributions as a judge of the Supreme Court or High Court.

ANSWER

This is a research and writing task. A structure and a short model are given; choose a judge from your own state or district.

a Structure of the essay

- **Introduction:** who the judge is and where they come from.

NCERT ARCHIVE

- **Early life and career:** education, work as an advocate or judge, and the courts served.
- **Contributions:** important judgments or work, and the values they stood for.
- **Conclusion:** what we can learn from them.

b Short model (verify details from reliable sources)

M. Fathima Beevi, from Kerala, was the first woman judge of the Supreme Court of India (appointed in 1989). She had earlier served as a judge of the Kerala High Court. Her career opened the door for women in the higher judiciary and showed that merit and perseverance can break barriers. We learn from her the value of hard work and of equal opportunity for all.

Therefore, a good essay presents the judge's life, contributions and values with accurate facts.

QUESTION 5

Have an interaction with anyone you know who is a part of the judicial system. Try to understand their work, the challenges they face, and what gives them satisfaction. Create a small presentation and share it with the class. You can do this in small groups.

ANSWER

This is a group activity. Questions and a presentation outline are given; record the real answers of the person you interview.

a Questions to ask

- What is your role (judge, lawyer, court staff) and what does a normal day look like?
- What are the biggest challenges in your work?
- What gives you the most satisfaction?
- How can citizens help the judicial system?

NCERT ARCHIVE

b Presentation outline

Slide	Content
1	Title and the name and role of the person interviewed (with permission)
2	Their work and the level of court (District, High Court or Supreme Court)
3	Challenges (for example, the huge number of cases)
4	Sources of satisfaction (for example, helping people get justice)
5	Our learning and conclusion

Therefore, the interview helps you understand the work, the challenges and the rewards of the people who deliver justice.

NCERT ARCHIVE