Class 11 Political Science (Political Theory) Chapter 6: Citizenship - Notes, Important Questions and MCQs (2026-27)

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These Class 11 Political Theory Chapter 6 notes cover “Citizenship” from the NCERT textbook Political Theory (2026-27): citizenship as full and equal membership, T.H. Marshall’s idea of citizenship rights, equal rights and the struggles of disadvantaged groups, citizen and nation, refugees and stateless people, universal citizenship and global citizenship – with tables, Q&A, 10 MCQs and a free PDF.

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Chapter Overview

Citizenship means full and equal membership of a political community. Citizens enjoy rights – to vote, to protection, to equal treatment – and have obligations towards the community. Struggles of workers, women, minorities and colonised peoples have expanded citizenship to include more people and more rights.

British sociologist T.H. Marshall described citizenship as a status that gives equal rights and duties, involving civil, political and social rights. Today, issues of refugees, migrants, slum dwellers and stateless people show that equal citizenship is still incomplete, while global citizenship asks us to think beyond national borders.

Important Topics and Concepts

Citizenship: Full and Equal Membership

- Citizenship is membership of a political community with equal rights and duties.
- Citizens get political rights (vote), civil rights (freedom of speech) and protection abroad.
- Struggles like the French Revolution, anti-apartheid and anti-colonial movements fought for equal citizenship.
- Citizenship also involves obligations – obeying laws, paying taxes, participating in public life.

T.H. Marshall’s Idea

- In Citizenship and Social Class (1950), Marshall defined citizenship as a status for full members of a community, equal in rights and duties.
- Three types of rights: civil (liberty, property, justice), political (voting, participation) and social (welfare, education, security).
- Equality is the key idea: citizenship should offset inequalities of social class.

Equal Rights and Struggles

- Free movement within the country – but migrants often face hostility.
- Urban poor and slum dwellers contribute to cities but lack basic services and secure housing.
- Tribal and forest-dwelling communities struggle to protect their land and livelihood.
- Equal citizenship requires governments to address these groups’ needs.

Citizen and Nation

- Modern states link citizenship to the nation.
- Countries differ in criteria – by birth, descent, naturalisation, marriage.
- India’s Constitution offers a democratic, inclusive idea of citizenship across religion, caste, gender and language.
- Refugees and stateless people have no country’s protection – a major global concern.

Universal and Global Citizenship

- Universal citizenship: full and equal membership should be available to all residents.
- Global citizenship: belonging to an international community, concern for issues like climate, terrorism and human rights.
- Global citizenship complements national citizenship and supports cooperation across borders.

Marshall’s Three Types of Rights

Most-asked table.

Type	Includes
Civil rights	Liberty, property, equality before law
Political rights	Voting, contesting elections, participation
Social rights	Education, health, welfare, security

Challenges to Equal Citizenship

Group	Challenge
Migrants	Hostility, lack of services
Slum dwellers	Insecure housing, poor sanitation
Tribal communities	Loss of land and forests
Refugees	No state protection
Stateless people	No citizenship anywhere

Important Definitions and Terms

Term	Meaning
Citizenship	Full and equal membership of a political community
Citizen	Member with rights and duties
Civil rights	Liberty and equality before law
Political rights	Right to participate in politics
Social rights	Welfare and education rights
Naturalisation	Gaining citizenship by residence
Refugee	Person fleeing persecution or conflict
Stateless person	Person with no citizenship
Universal citizenship	Equal membership for all residents
Global citizenship	Sense of belonging to world community

Short Answer Questions

Q1. What is citizenship?

Full and equal membership of a political community with rights and duties.

Q2. Who was T.H. Marshall?

A British sociologist who defined citizenship in Citizenship and Social Class (1950).

Q3. Name Marshall’s three types of rights.

Civil, political and social rights.

Q4. Why do slum dwellers face problems of citizenship?

They lack secure housing and basic services despite contributing to cities.

Q5. What is a refugee?

A person forced to flee their country due to persecution or conflict.

Q6. What is global citizenship?

A sense of belonging to the world community and concern for global issues.

Q7. Give two ways of acquiring citizenship.

Q8. Give one duty of a citizen.

Obeying laws or paying taxes.

Long Answer Questions

Q1. Explain T.H. Marshall’s idea of citizenship.

Citizenship as status of full members of a community.

Equal rights and duties.

Civil rights – liberty and justice.

Political rights – participation.

Social rights – welfare; offsetting class inequality.

Q2. Why is equal citizenship still incomplete?

Migrants face hostility.

Slum dwellers lack services.

Tribal communities lose land.

Refugees and stateless people lack protection.

Governments must address their needs.

Q3. Explain universal and global citizenship.

Universal: equal membership for all residents.

Global: belonging to world community.

Concern for climate, human rights, terrorism.

Complements national citizenship.

Encourages cooperation across borders.

MCQs with Answers

1. Citizenship and Social Class was written by(a) Rawls (b) T.H. Marshall (c) Mill (d) KantAnswer: (b) T.H. Marshall

2. Marshall’s rights include civil, political and(a) cultural (b) social (c) economic only (d) religiousAnswer: (b) social

3. Right to vote is a(a) civil right (b) political right (c) social right (d) global rightAnswer: (b) political right

4. A person with no citizenship is(a) refugee (b) stateless (c) migrant (d) citizenAnswer: (b) stateless

5. Citizenship means(a) partial membership (b) full and equal membership (c) temporary stay (d) tourismAnswer: (b) full and equal membership

6. Gaining citizenship by residence is(a) birth (b) naturalisation (c) descent (d) marriageAnswer: (b) naturalisation

8. Global citizenship concerns(a) local issues only (b) issues beyond borders (c) only taxes (d) only votingAnswer: (b) issues beyond borders

9. Marshall’s key concept was(a) liberty (b) equality (c) fraternity (d) sovereigntyAnswer: (b) equality

10. People fleeing persecution are(a) refugees (b) tourists (c) citizens (d) diplomatsAnswer: (a) refugees

Quick Revision Points

- Citizenship: full and equal membership.
- Marshall (1950): civil, political, social rights; equality.
- Struggles: migrants, slum dwellers, tribals.
- Citizen and nation; acquiring citizenship.
- Refugees and stateless people.
- Universal and global citizenship.

Chapter Summary

Citizenship is full and equal membership of a political community, bringing rights and duties. Struggles across history expanded who counts as a citizen. T.H. Marshall described citizenship as involving civil, political and social rights, with equality as its core.

Yet migrants, slum dwellers, tribal communities, refugees and stateless people still face barriers to equal citizenship. Universal citizenship seeks equal membership for all residents, while global citizenship encourages concern for humanity beyond national borders.

Exam Tips and PYQ Pattern

- Learn Marshall’s three rights.
- Use Indian examples of slum dwellers and tribals.
- Distinguish refugee and stateless person.
- Explain global citizenship with current issues.
- Mention duties along with rights.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is this chapter in the 2026-27 CBSE syllabus?

Yes. It is part of the NCERT Class 11 Political Science textbook “Political Theory”, prescribed in the CBSE 2026-27 syllabus.

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Yes. Use the free PDF link at the top of this page – no signup needed.

What did T.H. Marshall say about citizenship?

That citizenship is a status of full and equal membership involving civil, political and social

What is global citizenship?

The idea that people belong to a world community and should care about global issues like human rights and climate.

Conclusion

Citizenship explains what it means to fully belong to a political community. Learn the Marshall and challenges tables, practise the Q&A here and save the free PDF for revision.

More Notes: Class 11 Political Science (Political Theory) Chapter 5: Rights notes | Class 11 Political Science (Political Theory) Chapter 7: Nationalism notes | All Class 11 Political Science notes

Author Bio: Written and reviewed by the Nextoper Editorial Team, a group of CBSE political science educators who build chapter notes directly from the NCERT textbook and past board paper patterns.

Freshness Note: These notes follow the NCERT Class 11 Political Science (Political Theory) textbook, Political Theory (NCERT reprint 2026-27, rationalised syllabus), and the CBSE syllabus for the 2026-27 session. Last checked on 25 November 2026.