



CSE REVIEWER · STUDY GUIDE

General Information

The Constitution · Ethics & Accountability · Government & Society

VOLUME IV

A complete, self-contained study guide to the general information block of the Philippine Civil Service Exam — Professional level. Built to be the only material you need for this section.

WHAT THIS GUIDE TEACHES

Understand it. Don't just memorize it.

The general information exam rewards understanding the framework of Philippine government and public ethics. This guide explains the reasoning behind the facts, so the facts hold together.



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TOPIC 1.1

Foundations of the 1987 Constitution

The General Information section of the CSE expects familiarity with the 1987 Philippine Constitution — the country's fundamental law. Every other statute, regulation, and government act must conform to it; when a law conflicts with the Constitution, the Constitution prevails. Understanding its foundations is therefore the natural starting point.

This topic covers what the Constitution is, the principles it declares about the State, and the structure that organizes its provisions. The aim is not to memorize article numbers but to understand the framework — because understanding makes the facts far easier to recall under exam conditions.

Lesson

What the Constitution is

A constitution is the supreme law of a nation. It is the document from which the government draws its authority and within whose limits the government must operate. The 1987 Constitution was drafted by a Constitutional Commission and ratified by the Filipino people in a plebiscite, making it an expression of the people's will. It replaced the 1973 Constitution after the events of 1986.

Because it is supreme, no law, executive act, or government decision may contradict it. A law that violates the Constitution can be struck down as unconstitutional by the courts. This principle — constitutional supremacy — is the single most important idea in this part of the exam.

How the Constitution is organized

The Constitution is divided into Articles, each covering a broad subject. Knowing what each major Article addresses lets you place any question quickly.

Article	Subject
Preamble	The statement of the people's purpose and ideals
Article II	Declaration of Principles and State Policies
Article III	The Bill of Rights — the rights of the people
Article VI	The Legislative Department — Congress

Article	Subject
Article VII	The Executive Department — the President
Article VIII	The Judicial Department — the courts
Article IX	The Constitutional Commissions
Article XI	Accountability of Public Officers

The Preamble

The Preamble is the Constitution's opening statement. It is not a source of rights or powers by itself, but it declares the purposes for which the Filipino people established their government — to build a just and humane society, and to secure for themselves and their posterity the blessings of independence and democracy under the rule of law and a regime of truth, justice, freedom, love, equality, and peace. It sets the spirit in which the rest of the document should be read.

Key principles of the State

Article II declares the principles on which the State rests. Several recur on the exam because they define the character of the Philippine government.

- The Philippines is a democratic and republican State. Sovereignty resides in the people, and all government authority comes from them.
- Civilian authority is supreme over the military at all times.
- The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights.
- The separation of Church and State is inviolable.
- The State adopts the generally accepted principles of international law as part of the law of the land.

THE CONSTITUTION IS THE SUPREME LAW

The one idea to hold above all others: the Constitution outranks every other law and government act. When any statute, order, or decision conflicts with it, the Constitution controls, and the conflicting act can be declared unconstitutional.



END OF FREE PREVIEW

You've seen a sample. Get the full guide.

This is a short, free preview of “General Information” — the complete guide is a full, self-contained study book with in-depth lessons, worked examples, strategy, and practice sets with a complete answer key.

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