

# Difference Between Written and Unwritten Constitution

A Constitution refers to a system of laws principles that act as a basis for governance in a country. There are two types of constitutions.

A Constitution that has been systematically and meticulously written down and embodied in a single document is known as a Written Constitution.

An Unwritten Constitution is the one in which no provisions or laws of the constitution are set in writing but they are documented despite not being incorporated in a single book.



This article will highlight the key differences between Written and Unwritten Constitution for the IAS Exam

The difference between Unwritten and the Written Constitution is given in the table below:

<b>Differences between Unwritten and the Written Constitution</b>	
<b>Unwritten Constitution</b>	<b>Written Constitution</b>
Unwritten constitution refers to the constitution not codified in a structured manner	Written Constitution refers to the constitution codified and compiled in a structured and cohesive manner
Unwritten Constitution evolves over a long period with a new set of laws and guidelines being added as time progresses	Written constitutions have been properly framed and compiled in a step by step matter with any subsequent changes being added almost instantaneously
Rigid, Flexible or Both	Flexible
The Parliament is supreme in a country where there is an unwritten constitution	The Constitution is supreme
The judiciary has limited powers	The Judiciary has more power in order to ensure constitutional supremacy
The Magna Carta can be considered the earliest form of the unwritten constitution. It was a charter of rights signed by King John of England on 15th June 1215. The charter promised to protect the rights of the nobility from the interference of the crown. The Magna Carter would eventually evolve into the unwritten constitution of the United Kingdom	The Constitution of the United States of America is considered as the oldest written constitution, that is still in force. It was drafted on September 17th, 1787, ratified on June 21st, 1788 and, came into effect on March 4th, 1789. James Madison, one of the founding fathers of the United States wrote the document that formed the model for the

	Constitution
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