

The Parliamentary System

A. Tick (✓) the correct option:

1. The Parliament of India is composed of: (ii) President, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
2. The Lok Sabha members are: (iii) elected directly by the people.
3. Rajya Sabha is called a permanent house because: (ii) It can never be dissolved.
4. The real executive authority in India is the: (iii) Prime Minister
5. The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the: (iii) Lok Sabha
6. A Money Bill can be introduced only in the: (iv) Lok Sabha
7. Judicial Review allows the courts to: (iii) strike down unconstitutional laws.

B. Fill in the blanks

1. According to Article 79, Parliament consists of the President, **Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha**.
2. Members of the Rajya Sabha are elected **indirectly** by MLAs.
3. The Lok Sabha has a maximum strength of **552** members.
4. The Prime Minister is the **Head** of the Council of Ministers.
5. A proposed law is called a **Bill**.
6. The first hour of a parliamentary sitting is known as **Question Hour**.
7. Judicial Review protects citizens from **arbitrary state actions/ unfair** or unconstitutional laws.

C. Write 'T' for True and 'F' for False

1. The President must give assent to a Bill after it is passed a second time by Parliament. — T
2. Rajya Sabha has greater financial powers than Lok Sabha. — F
3. The Council of Ministers must resign if a No-Confidence Motion is passed. — T
4. The Lok Sabha is a permanent house and can never be dissolved. — F
5. Question Hour helps hold the Executive accountable. — T
6. The Prime Minister is appointed by the President. — T
7. Money Bills can originate in either House of Parliament. — F

D. Answer the following questions in brief

1. What is the composition of the Indian Parliament?

Answer: According to Article 79 of the Indian Constitution, the Parliament consists of the President, the Lok Sabha (House of the People) and the Rajya Sabha (Council of States).

2. Why is Lok Sabha considered more powerful than Rajya Sabha in financial matters?

Answer: Lok Sabha is more powerful because Money Bills including the union budget can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha. Rajya Sabha can only recommend changes and cannot reject or amend a Money Bill.

3. What is meant by Collective Responsibility?

Answer: Collective Responsibility is a principle that the Council of Ministers must stand and fall together, accountable to the Lok Sabha.

4. What is the role of the Prime Minister?

Answer: The role of the Prime Minister are:

- The PM is the leader of the majority party (or coalition) in the Lok Sabha.
- The PM controls the functioning of the government and leads the country in policy-making.
- The PM serves as the link between the President and the Council of Ministers.

5. What is Judicial Review?

Answer: Judicial Review is the power of the Supreme Court and High Courts to examine laws passed by the legislature. They can declare a law invalid if it violates the Constitution.

6. What is Question Hour and why is it important?

Answer: Question Hour is the first hour of a parliamentary sitting during which Members of Parliament ask questions to Ministers and scrutinise the executive.

The significance of Question Hour:

- It is considered the most powerful instrument of accountability.
- Ministers are required to give clear and factual answers.
- It helps reveal weaknesses, delays, or corruption in government work.
- It keeps citizens informed and strengthens trust in democracy.

7. What is the difference between the Head of State and the Head of Government?

Answer: Head of State: The President of India is the constitutional head of the executive and represents the unity and integrity of the nation.

Head of Government: The Prime Minister is the real head of the government and the most powerful executive authority in the country.

E. Answer the following questions in detail:

1. Explain the major functions and powers of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Role and Powers of Lok Sabha:

- Represents the people of the entire country.
- Controls the Council of Ministers (Government). The Government stays in power only as long as it enjoys the support of the majority in the Lok Sabha.
- Has special powers over Money Bills and the Budget.
- Can remove the government through a No-Confidence Motion.

Role and Powers of Rajya Sabha:

- Represents the interests of the states in the Union Parliament.

- Reviews and suggests improvements in laws passed by the Lok Sabha.
- Protects the rights of the states and prevents the central government from becoming too powerful.
- Can approve laws even when the Lok Sabha is dissolved.

2. Explain the steps involved in the process of how a Bill becomes a Law.

The steps involved in the process of Law making are:

- (i) Introduction: A Bill can be introduced in either House of Parliament—Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha (except for Money Bills, which can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha). This stage is called the First Reading.
- (ii) Passage and Debate: Members debate the Bill, suggest changes, and examine its impact. The Bill must be passed by both Houses after voting. This ensures that different viewpoints from the people and the states are considered.
- (iii) Presidential Assent: After being approved by both Houses, the Bill is sent to the President, who may give assent, making it an Act (a law), or return it once for reconsideration (except in the case of Money Bills).

After reconsideration, if Parliament passes it again, the President must give assent.

3. Discuss the importance of the No-Confidence Motion in strengthening democracy.

Importance of No-Confidence Motion in strengthening democracy are:

1. Checks Government Power: It prevents the ruling party from becoming dictatorial by forcing them to show they still have the support of the majority in Parliament.
2. Ensures Accountability: It requires the government to answer for its policies, decisions, and mistakes publicly on the floor of the House.
3. Protects Democratic Choice: If the government loses the majority's trust (loses the vote), it must resign, opening the door for a new, representative leadership.

4. Explain how the Parliament holds the Executive accountable.

The Parliament holds the Executive accountable by:

1. Question Hour & Zero Hour: MPs directly ask ministers tough questions about government actions, policies, and issues of public concern.
2. Financial Control: The government cannot spend a single rupee of public money without Parliament approving the annual Budget.
3. Motions and Debates: Members use tools like No-Confidence Motions or Adjournment Motions to criticize mistakes or bring urgent public issues to immediate debate.

5. Compare the Legislature and Executive at the Union level and the State level.

Aspects	Legislature	Executive
Composition	The Parliament of India is the supreme law-making body of the country. It consists of the President, the Lok Sabha, and the Rajya Sabha.	The Executive consists of the President, the Vice President, and the Council of Ministers, which is headed by the Prime Minister.

Main Role	To make laws and supervise the functioning of the Executive.	To implement and enforce the laws passed by the Legislature.
Law-making Role	Can introduce and debate Bills in Parliament (except Money Bills, which are introduced only in the Lok Sabha).	Most Bills are introduced in Parliament by ministers on behalf of the Executive.
Control and Accountability	Exercises control over the Executive by asking questions, seeking explanations, and holding debates in Parliament.	Provides information and explanations to the Legislature regarding its decisions and actions.