



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: IX	Department: SOCIAL SCIENCE (DEMOCRATIC POLITICS)	Date of submission:
QUESTION BANK	Topic: WORKING OF INSTITUTIONS	Note: 2020 -21

1. Mention the institutions which take major decisions and its implementation in a country.

The institutions which take major decisions and its implementation in a country are:

1. Legislative
2. Judiciary
3. Executive

2. What are different terms used for a national government in India?

The national level government is also called Central Government, Union Government or Government of India.

3. What do you mean by Office Memorandum?

An Office Memorandum explains the policy or decision of the government issued by an appropriate authority.

4. Which ministry comprises the Department of Personnel and Training?

The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions comprises the Department of Personnel and Training.

5. Mention one important policy decision issued in the Government of India Order of August 13, 1990.

It said that 27 per cent of the vacancies in the civil posts and services under the government are reserved for the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC).

6. Explain SEBC.

SEBC stands for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes, another name for all those who belong to castes that are considered backward by the government.

7. Who were eligible for the benefit of job reservation before the order of August 13, 1990?

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were eligible for the benefit of job reservation.

8. Who is considered as the head of the state and who is head of the government?

The President is the head of the state whereas the Prime Minister is the head of the government.

9. What major bodies constitute the Parliament?

The Parliament consists of the President and the two houses: Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

10. Who was the head of the Second Backward Classes Commission?

In 1979; it was headed by BP Mandal, hence called the Mandal Commission.

11. Who are the major functionaries in India?

The major functionaries in India are:

1. The President, who is the head of the state and the highest formal authority in the country.
2. The Prime Minister is the head of the governmental and one who usually exercises all the government powers.
3. The Parliament which consists of two houses, the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. The Prime Minister must have the support of a majority of the Lok Sabha members.

12. Why do we need the political institutions?

Or

Describe the need for political institutions in India. [CBSE 2016]

1. The government is responsible for ensuring security to the citizens and providing education and health facilities to all.
 2. It collects taxes and spends money on administration, defense and developmental programmes.
 3. It formulates and implements several welfare schemes.
- Political institutions are needed to attend to all these tasks.

13. What is the significance of Parliament in a democracy? [HOTS]

The significance of Parliament in a democratic country are as follows.

1. Parliament is the final authority in making laws in any country. It can change the existing laws, abolish them or make new laws.
2. Parliament exercises control over those who run the government. No decision can be taken without the support of the Parliament.
3. Parliament also controls the money matters.
4. Parliament is the highest forum of discussion and debate on public issues and national policy in any country. It can seek information on any matter. (Any three)

14. How is the Lok Sabha more powerful than the Rajya Sabha?

The Lok Sabha is more powerful than the Rajya Sabha in following manner.

1. An ordinary law needs to be passed in both the houses. But if there is a difference between the two houses, the final decision is taken in a joint session. Since the number of members of Lok Sabha is more than that of the Rajya Sabha, the views of the Lok Sabha are more likely to prevail.
2. The Lok Sabha exercises more powers in money matters. Once the Lok Sabha passes a law concerning the money matters, the Rajya Sabha can not reject it. It can only delay it by 14 days or suggest changes in it. It is up to the Lok Sabha to accept the changes or not.
3. The Lok Sabha controls the council of ministers. If the majority of the Lok Sabha members say they have no confidence in the council of ministers, all the ministers including the Prime minister, have to quit. The Rajya Sabha does not have this power.

15. Explain the role of the Prime Minister in a coalition government.

Or

Write any three constraints on the power of the Prime Minister of a coalition government. [CBSE 2016]

The role of the Prime Minister in a coalition government has many constraints. They are:

1. He cannot take decisions as he likes.
2. He has to accommodate different groups and factions in his party as well as the coalition partners.
3. He also has to heed to the views and positions of the coalition partners and other parties on whose support the survival of the government depends.

16. When and how does the President exercise his discretionary powers?

1. When a party or coalition of parties gets a clear majority in the elections, the President has to appoint the Prime Minister as the leader of the majority party or the coalition that enjoys majority support in the Lok Sabha.

2. When no party or coalition gets majority in the Lok Sabha, the President exercises his discretion.

3. The President chooses a leader who in his opinion can muster majority support in the Lok Sabha. In such a case he can ask the newly-appointed person to prove his majority on the floor of the house within a specified time.

17. What is the difference between the powers of the President of USA and the President of India?

1. The President of USA: He is directly elected by the people for this post for four years. He personally chooses and appoints his ministers. This is called the Presidential form of government.

2. President of India: The President of India is the head of the state. He is indirectly elected by the MPs and the MLAs. He exercises only the nominal powers. He is appointed for 5 years. This is a feature of Parliamentary form of government.

18. What does the 'Independence of Judiciary' mean?

The judiciary of India is not under the control of the legislature or the executive.

1. The judges do not act on the directions of the government or according to the wishes of the party in power.
2. This is the reason why the democracies have courts that are independent of the legislature and the executives.

19. What do you understand by Public Interest Litigation?

In the recent years, the courts have given several judgements and directions to protect the public interest and human rights.

1. Anyone, can approach the courts, if the public interest is hurt by the actions of the government. This is called Public Interest Litigation.
2. The courts intervene to protect the misuse of government's powers to make decisions. With this they check malpractices on the part of the public officials.

20. What was the Mandal Commission? Why was it set up? Mention its specific recommendation.

The Mandal Commission was appointed by the Indian government for the following reasons.

1. The Government of India had appointed the Second Backward Classes Commission in 1979. It was headed by BP Mandal. Hence, it is popularly called the Mandal Commission.

2. This commission was asked to find out some criteria to identify the socially and educationally backward classes in India and recommend steps to be taken for their advancement.
3. The commission gave a report in 1980 with many recommendations.
4. One of these was that 27% of the government jobs should be reserved for the socially and economically backward classes.

21. Why had the Mandal Commission become a debatable issue in India?

The Mandal Commission had become a debatable issue because of the following reasons.

1. Newspapers and magazines were full of different views and opinions on the issue.
2. This led to widespread protests and counter-protests, some were violent.
3. The people reacted strongly because this decision affected thousands of job opportunities.
4. Some were of the views that the existence of inequalities among people of different cases in India necessitated job reservation.
5. Others felt that this was unfair and it would deny equality of opportunities to those who did not belong to a backward community.
6. Some felt it was an obstacle to national unity. (any five)

22. Describe the powers and functions of the Indian Parliament. [CBSE 2016]

In India, a national assembly of elected representatives is called Parliament. The following are the major powers and functions of Parliament:

1. The Parliament is the final authority for making laws in any country'.
2. It can pass a no-confidence resolution against the government and ask it to resign.
3. It controls the money matters of the nation. Government budget has to be evolved and passed by parliament.
4. It is the highest forum of discussion, debates and deliberations on public and national policies and issues.
5. It can seek information or question the government on any matter which it has to answer.
6. It performs the electoral function of electing President, Vice-President, speaker, deputy-speaker.
7. It has the power to remove the president judges of supreme court and High Court through impeachment. (any five)

23. Distinguish between the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

The Lok Sabha	The Rajya Sabha
(i) The Members of Lok Sabha are elected directly by adult citizens.	(i) The Members of the Rajya Sabha are elected by the elected members of the State Legislative Assemblies.
(ii) Lok Sabha's term is only for 5 years. After 5 years, the term of all elected representatives comes to an end.	(ii) The Rajya Sabha is a permanent house. It can not be dissolved but one-third of its members retire after every two years.
(iii) The maximum strength of the house is 543.	(iii) It can not have more than 250 members.

(iv) Money bill can only be passed in Lok Sabha. It is Lok Sabha which provides money for the administration of the country.	(iv) Rajya Sabha does not exercise much power over the money bill.
(v) The Lok Sabha is more powerful than the Rajya Sabha.	(v) The Rajya Sabha has comparatively less powers.

24. What is the difference between Political Executive and Permanent executive?

Political Executives	Permanent Executives
(i) These executives are elected by the people for a specific period of time.	(i) These are the civil servants appointed for a longer period of time.
(ii) These include Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and Council of Ministers.	(ii) Persons working in civil services such as IAS, IPS, IFS etc.
(iii) They remain in office only for a fixed tenure.	(iii) They remain in office even when the ruling party changes. Their tenure in office is fixed.
(iv) They are answerable to the people for their actions.	(iv) They are not answerable to the people.
(v) They take all the final decisions and are more powerful.	(v) They are less powerful. They do not take decisions. They assist the political executives in day-to-day administration.

25. Prime Minister is the head of the government." Justify the statement. [CBSE 2016]

Prime Minister is the head of the government. The statement can be justified in the following ways:

1. He leads the majority party in the Parliament.
2. He summons and presides over the meetings of the cabinet.
3. All the decisions by his cabinet are taken under his leadership, consent and authority.
4. He acts as an adviser to the president over the appointment of his ministers, judges of Supreme Court and high courts.
5. He is free to choose his ministers and can change their portfolios.

26. State the powers of the President.

In India the President is the head of the state and has the following powers.

1. All government activities take place in the name of the President. He exercises only the nominal powers.
2. He supervises the overall functioning of all the political institutions in the country so that they operate in harmony to achieve the objective of the state.
3. All the laws and major policy decisions of the government are taken in his name.
4. All major appointments are made in his name i.e. the appointment of the Chief Justice of India, the judges of the Supreme Court and the High Court of the states, the Governors of the states, the Election Commission, ambassadors to other countries etc.
5. All international treaties and agreements are made in his name.
6. He is the supreme commander of the defence forces of India.

27. How are the judges of Supreme Court and High Court appointed? How can they be removed?

1. Appointment of the judges:

- a. The judges of the Supreme Court and High Court are appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
- b. In practice, it means the senior judges the Supreme Court select the new judges of the Supreme court and high court.
- c. The seniormost judge of the Supreme Court is usually appointed as the Chief Justice of India.

2. Removal of the judges:

- a. Once a person is appointed as the judge of the Supreme Court or the High Court, it is nearly impossible to remove him/her from that position. It is as difficult as in the case of the President of India.
- b. A judge can only be removed by the impeachment motion passed by 2/3rd members of the two houses of parliament present and voting.

28. How can you say that the judiciary in India is the most powerful?

In the following manner judiciary in India is considered as the most powerful:

1. The judiciary in India is independent. It means it is not under the control of the legislature or the executive.
2. The Supreme Court and the High Courts have the power to interpret the constitution of the country.
3. They can determine the validity or declare invalid any law and action of legislature or any of the executive in the country when it is challenged before them. This is called the judicial review:
4. The Supreme Court of India has also ruled that the core or the basic principles of the Constitution cannot be changed by the Parliament.
5. The powers and the independence of the judiciary allows it to act as a guardian of the fundamental rights of the citizens. The citizens can approach the Supreme Court in case of any violation of their rights. The courts intervene or prevent the misuse of the government's powers to make decisions. They check the malpractices on the part of the public officials.

29. Explain the Emergency Powers of the President.

• Of all the powers vested in the President of India, the Emergency Powers are the most important. The President of India has three types of Emergency Powers which has a direct bearing on that State.

• **1. Emergency caused by War, Foreign Aggression or/and Internal Disturbances** and its effects on that state. If the president declares a state of emergency then the Parliament can enact laws for the whole country. The Fundamental Rights of Citizens stand suspended and the administration takes a Unitary Form of Government.

• **2. Emergency caused by the Constitutional Breakdown** and its Effects on the State. If the Governor of a State reports to the President that continuation of a Government according to the provisions of the Constitution is not possible, the President can declare emergency in that state. In such a situation, the Council of Minister and the legislature are dissolved and the administration is carried on by the Governor as per directive of the President.

• **3. Financial Emergency and its Effects on the state.** If here is an imminent danger to the financial stability of the country, the President can proclaim Financial Emergency. Consequent to this proclamation the president can reduce the pay and allowances of the government servants. He can also exercise control over the finances of the State.