



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: IX	Department: SOCIAL SCIENCE	YEAR: 2021-22
QUESTION BANK	Topic: WORKING OF INSTITUTIONS (DEMOCRATIC POLITICS)	

1. 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.

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

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

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

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

3. Why is there a need for political institutions? [CBSE 2014,15]

- a. To take decisions : Countries need political institutions to take decisions regarding the welfare of the people. Institutions formulate various policies and programmes.
- b. Implementation : The decisions which have been taken are to be implemented. So countries need institutions to implement the decisions.

- c. To solve the disputes : Institutions are also needed to solve the disputes between various institutions.
- d. To take right decisions: Institutions help the governments to take the right decisions.

4. 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:

- a. The Parliament is the final authority for making laws in any country’.
- b. It can pass a no-confidence resolution against the government and ask it to resign.
- c. It controls the money matters of the nation. Government budget has to be evolved and passed by Parliament.
- d. It is the highest forum of discussion, debates and deliberations on public and national policies and issues.
- e. It can seek information or question the government on any matter that it has to answer.
- f. It performs the electoral function of electing President, Vice-President, speaker, deputy-speaker.
- g. It has the power to remove the president judges of Supreme Court and High Court through impeachment. (any five)

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

Lok Sabha	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 ends.	(ii) The Rajya Sabha is a permanent house. It cannot be dissolved but one-third of its members retire after every two years.
(iii) The maximum strength of the house is 543.	(iii) It cannot 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.

6. 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.	(i) These are the civil servants appointed for a longer period.
(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.

7. 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

8. 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.

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

1. Appointment of the judges:

1. 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.
2. In practice, it means the senior judges the Supreme Court select the new judges of the Supreme court and high court.
3. The seniormost judge of the Supreme Court is usually appointed as the Chief Justice of India.

2. Removal of the judges:

1. 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.
2. A judge can only be removed by the impeachment motion passed by 2/3rd members of the two houses of parliament present and voting.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. Explain the composition of the Council of Ministers. [CBSE March 2011,12,13,15]

Or

What is meant by council of Ministers? Explain the different categories of ministers. [CBSE March 2013]

The Council of Ministers is a large body, it consists all the three ranks of ministers. The Council of Ministers comprises of the three categories of ministers. These are:

- **Cabinet Ministers:** Constitute the inner ring of the council of ministers. These are the top-level leaders of the ruling party / parties who are in charge of the important ministries. They usually meet to take decisions in the name of the council of ministers.
- **Ministers of State with Independent Charge:** They are usually in charge of smaller ministries. They participate in the cabinet meetings only when they are invited.
- **Ministers of State:** They are attached to and are required to assist the Cabinet ministers.

13. Explain briefly the powers and functions of the Supreme Court.

- **Original Jurisdiction:** The original jurisdiction extends to those cases which the Supreme Court has the authority to hear and decide in the first instance.
 - Between citizens of the country;
 - Between citizens and government;
 - Between two or more state governments; and
 - Between governments at the union and state level.
- **Appellate Jurisdiction:** It is the highest court of appeal in civil and criminal cases. It can hear appeals against the decisions of the High Courts.
- **Advisory Jurisdiction :** As the highest court in the country, the Supreme Court gives legal advice to the President of India on any legal or constitutional matter referred to it. However, the advice is not binding on the Supreme Court.
- **Guardian of the Constitution:** The Supreme Court acts as the guardian and final interpreter of the Constitution. If the government passes any law or issues any order which is in violation of the Constitution, the Supreme Court has the power to declare the law or order unconstitutional.
- **Guardian of Fundamental Rights:** The Supreme Court also acts as a guardian of the fundamental rights of the citizens. When a fundamental right of any citizen is violated by the government or any individual, he can seek the protection of the Supreme Court.
