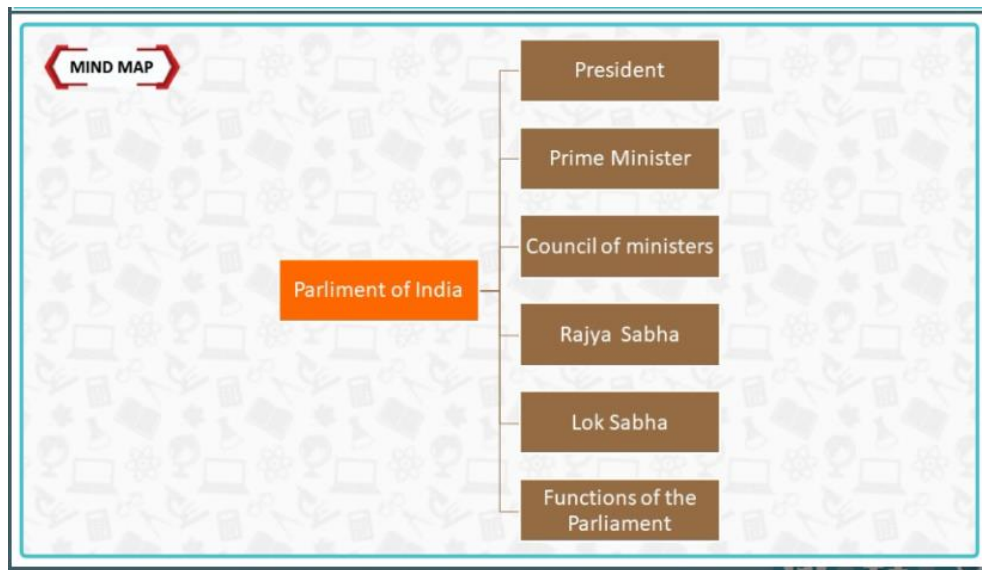


DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, MANDLA ROAD, JABALPUR
CLASS NOTES ON CIVICS

CHAPTER 24 - PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT

BASIC CONCEPTS



I. CHOOSE THE CORRECT OPTION.

1. b. President
2. c. President
3. c. Vice-President
4. b. 552
5. a. 5

II. WRITE WHETHER TRUE OR FALSE.

1. True
2. True
3. False
4. True
5. False

III. FILL IN THE BLANKS.

1. President, Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha
2. ex-officio chairperson

3. Anglo-Indian
4. question hour
5. no confidence motion

IV. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN ONE OR TWO SENTENCES.

1. Who appoints the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers?
The President appoints the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers.
2. When can the President declare emergency in India?
The President can declare emergency in India under special circumstances such as when the security of India is threatened by war, external aggression or internal revolt.
3. What is the term of the Upper House of the Parliament?
The term of the Upper House of the Parliament is six years.
4. Who is the presiding officer of the Lok Sabha and the ex-officio chairperson of the Rajya Sabha?
The Speaker is the presiding officer of the Lok Sabha and the Vice-President is the ex-officio chairperson of the Rajya Sabha.
5. How many people can the President nominate to Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha?
The President can nominate a maximum of two members (from the Anglo Indian community) to the Lok Sabha.

V. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN BRIEF.

1. Discuss the powers of the President.
Some of the important powers of the President of India are:
 - i. The President appoints the Prime Minister of India and also the Council of Ministers on the advice of the Prime Minister.
 - ii. The President summons each House of the Parliament for its sessions and can also terminate a session.
 - iii. Every bill passed by the Parliament needs the assent of the President before it becomes an Act.

- iv. The President's recommendation is required before a money bill can be introduced in the Parliament.
- v. Wars with foreign states are declared by the President and peace treaties are also concluded by her/him.
- vi. All treaties and agreements with other countries are signed in her/his name.
- vii. The President may grant pardon, suspend or commute the sentence of any person in cases of court martial and death sentence.
- viii. The President has the power to issue a proclamation of emergency under some special circumstances.

2. Write a brief note about the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha mentioning their term, composition, strength and relative power.

The Rajya Sabha aka Upper House or the Council of States is a permanent body and one-third of its members retire every 2 years. Its maximum strength is 250 members. The Vice-President of India is the ex-officio chairperson. A bill passed by the Lok Sabha has to be approved by the Rajya Sabha before it can become a law and thus, plays a crucial role in reviewing and revising laws introduced by the Lok Sabha.

The Lok Sabha, aka Lower House or the House of the People, is composed of the representatives of the people chosen by direct election on the basis of universal adult franchise. The term of the Lok Sabha is 5 years, after which it is automatically dissolved. Its maximum strength is 552 members. The presiding officer of the Lok Sabha is the Speaker. It plays a more significant role in the functioning of the parliamentary government in India.

3. What role does the Parliament play in the selection of the national government?

One of the most important functions of the Lok Sabha is to select the national government, which consists of the Prime Minister and a Council of Ministers.

- i. The President appoints as the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers on the advice of the Prime Minister.

- ii. Each minister is then given charge of a particular ministry such as health, defence, education, and so on.
- iii. Together, the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers help and advise the President in carrying out her/his duties.

4. How does the Indian parliament ensure the accountability of the government to the people of India?

The government of India is accountable to the people of the country for its actions. It is the Parliament which enforces this accountability.

- i. The policies and programmes of the government are debated upon and questioned in the Parliament during the question hour. This helps the government in becoming aware of the problems in its work and also informs it about the opinions of the people through their representatives.
- ii. The government cannot make laws and pass the annual budget of the country without the approval of the Parliament.
- iii. The Prime Minister and his/her Council of Ministers are collectively responsible to the Parliament for their actions. The Parliament may remove them from power by expressing a no confidence motion against them.

5. Why did the framers of our Constitution decide on parliamentary form of government instead of a presidential form of government?

There are numerous reasons why India chose a parliamentary form of government post-independence, instead of a presidential form of government.

- i. In a presidential form of government, the president is the real head of the executive and is not responsible to the legislature.
- ii. In a parliamentary form of government, the real executive power lies with the Prime Minister and his Council of Ministers. Together, they are responsible to the legislature. It ensures a better representation of the different sections of society in the government.
- iii. The parliamentary form of government also ensures that the people of the country and the Parliament have direct control over the government. This reduces the chances of misuse of power by the government.

HOMEWORK ACTIVITY

- (a) Find out the current composition of the Parliament. Why do you think there are fewer women in our parliament?
- (b) Our country is a democratic republic and every citizen has certain rights. Imagine a day when all your rights have been taken away. How would you feel? Write a report describing your feelings.