

Civics Long Questions

(Question 1)

State Government and civil society

What is State ?

The state is a fundamental concept in political science, referring to a sovereign political entity with defined borders and the authority to govern a population within those boundaries. In the context of Pakistan, the state is the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, established on August 14, 1947, after gaining independence from British colonial rule.

The core elements of the state include:

- i. **Population:** It is the people who make the state. Population is essential for the state.
- ii. **Defined Territory:** Pakistan has internationally recognized borders, and it exercises jurisdiction over the land and people within these boundaries.
- iii. **Sovereignty:** Pakistan has full authority and control over its territory, resources, and internal affairs without external interference.
- iv. **Government:** The state is administered by a government that is responsible for maintaining law and order, protecting citizens' rights, and providing essential services.

The Government:

The government is the machinery of the state responsible for making and enforcing laws, managing public affairs, and delivering essential services to the citizens. In Pakistan, the government operates through a federal parliamentary system, which consists of several key components

Civil Society:

Civil society refers to the organized, non-governmental entities and individuals that exist outside of the government and the private sector. It plays a crucial role in providing checks and balances to the government's power and contributes to the development of a vibrant democracy. In Pakistan, civil society includes various organizations, such as nongovernmental organizations (NGOs)

Historical Context:

To understand the structure and function of the government of Pakistan, it is crucial to consider its historical background:

Independence and Formation:

Pakistan gained independence from British colonial rule August 14, 1947, under the leadership of Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The country was established a separate state for Muslims.

Constitutional Evolution:

Pakistan has gone through various constitutional changes, with different constitutions being adopted over the years. The current constitution, the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, was adopted in 1973.

Structure of the Government

The government of Pakistan comprises multiple branches and institutions, each with its own distinct roles and responsibilities:

Executive Branch

President:

The President of Pakistan is the ceremonial head of state. Elected by an electoral college composed of the members of the National Assembly, Senate, and the four provincial assemblies. The President's powers are largely symbolic, with limited influence over the day-to-day affairs of the state.

Prime Minister:

The Prime Minister is the head of government and holds the highest executive authority. Appointed by the President, but must be a member of the National Assembly. Responsible for running the country's day-to-day affairs, forming the Cabinet, and making policy decisions.

Cabinet:

The Cabinet is composed of federal ministers, advisers, and special assistants chosen by the Prime Minister. It plays a pivotal role in decision-making, policy formulation, and the execution of government policies and programs.

Legislative Branch

National Assembly:

The lower house of the Parliament of Pakistan. Comprises 342 directly elected members. Responsible for making laws, approving the budget, and representing the interests of the people. The leader of the majority party in the National Assembly typically becomes the Prime Minister.

Senate:

The upper house of the Parliament of Pakistan. Comprises 104 members elected by the provincial assemblies and the Islamabad Capital Territory. Acts as a revising chamber, reviewing legislation passed by the National Assembly. Represents the provinces and serves to balance the federal structure.

Judicial Branch

Supreme Court:

The apex judicial authority in Pakistan. Consists of a Chief Justice and several other judges. Has the power of judicial review and is responsible for interpreting the constitution. Ensures that the government operates within the boundaries of the law.

High Courts:

Each province in Pakistan has its own high court, responsible for addressing matters within territorial jurisdiction. These high courts serve as the final appellate courts for most cases originating in the provinces.

Structure of the Government

Provincial Governments:

Pakistan is a federal state with four provinces: Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan. Each province has its own government, comprising a Chief Minister and a provincial assembly. Provincial governments have authority over various subjects outlined in the constitution, including education, healthcare, law and order, and local governance.

Local Government:

Local governments are established at the district, tehsil (sub-district), and union council levels. Local governments have their own elected representatives who manage local issues, services, and development projects.

Security and Defense:

Pakistan's security and defense are managed by the military and various intelligence agencies. The Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC) serves as the highest military body for coordination and advice to the government.

Election Commission:

An independent body responsible for conducting elections at the federal and provincial levels. Ensures free and fair elections, voter registration, and monitoring of campaign financing.

Other Key Institutions:

Various other institutions such as the State Bank of Pakistan (central bank), Federal Board of Revenue (tax collection), National Accountability Bureau (anti-corruption), and many others play crucial roles in the governance and administration of Pakistan.

Function of the Government

The government of Pakistan, as a federal parliamentary republic, is responsible for a wide range of functions and duties to ensure the well-being and development of the country and its citizens. These functions can be broadly categorized into several key areas:

Legislation and Policy-Making

Lawmaking:

The government, through the Parliament, is responsible for the creation and amendment of laws.

Policy Formulation:

The government develops policies and strategies to address issues such as economic development, social welfare, education, healthcare, and infrastructure.

Executive Governance

Administration:

The executive branch, led by the Prime Minister, manages the daily administration of the country. This involves implementing policies, overseeing government departments, and ensuring that government functions efficiently.

Law Enforcement:

The government is responsible for maintaining law and order in the country. This includes overseeing law enforcement agencies, such as the police, and ensuring the safety and security of citizens.

Foreign Relations

- i. **Foreign relations:** The government formulates and executes Pakistan's foreign policy. This involves maintaining diplomatic relations with other countries, representing Pakistan's interests on the international stage
- ii. **National Security:** The government plays a key role in ensuring the country's national security. This includes the management of defense forces and intelligence agencies

Economic Management

- i. **Budgeting and Finance:** The government is responsible for budgeting and financial management, which includes revenue collection, public expenditure
- ii. **Economic Development:** Formulating strategies for economic development, trade, investment, and industrial growth is a vital function. The government also regulates economic activities and maintains economic stability.

Social Welfare and Services

- i. **Education:** The government provides educational services, including schools, colleges, and universities, to ensure access to quality education for all citizens.
- ii. **Healthcare:** Public health services are managed by the government to provide healthcare facilities, hospitals, and access to medical care for the population.
- iii. **Social Safety Nets:** Implementing social welfare programs, such as poverty alleviation, unemployment benefits, and food assistance, is essential to protect vulnerable populations.

Infrastructure Development

- i. **Transportation and Communication:** The government builds and maintains transportation infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, and airports, as well as communication infrastructure like telecommunications networks.
- ii. **Energy:** Ensuring a stable and reliable energy supply is crucial for industrial growth and quality of life, and the government is involved in energy policy and infrastructure development.

- iii. **Environmental Protection:** The government is responsible for environmental conservation and sustainability, implementing policies and regulations to protect natural resources and address environmental issues.
- iv. **Public Services and Local Governance:** Local governments, under the supervision of the provincial governments, provide essential services such as sanitation, water supply, and local development projects.
- v. **Justice and Rule of Law:** Ensuring justice, upholding the rule of law, and providing accessible and efficient judicial systems are core functions. This includes the work of the judiciary, police, and legal institutions.
- vi. **Disaster Management:** Responding to natural disasters and other emergencies is a critical role of the government.
- vii. **Human Rights Protection:** The government has a duty to protect the fundamental rights of its citizens, addressing issues related to discrimination, inequality, and social justice.
- viii. **Culture and Heritage:** Promoting and preserving the cultural heritage of Pakistan, including arts, music, and historical sites, is an important function.
- ix. **Anti-Corruption and Accountability:** Addressing corruption and ensuring accountability are fundamental functions of the government. Institutions like the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) are tasked with investigating and prosecuting corruption cases.
- x. **Challenges to government:** Pakistan's government faces several challenges, including political instability, economic disparities, security issues, and corruption. The country's depend on its ability to address these challenges, implement effective policies, and strengthen democratic institutions.
- xi. **Conclusion:** The government of Pakistan is a multi-tiered structure with various branches and institutions, each having specific roles and responsibilities. Understanding the historical context, structure, and functions of the government is crucial for comprehending Pakistan's political landscape and its role on the global stage.

(Question 2)

Government and its Organs General Functions

The government is one of the four main parts of a state and acts as its agent to serve national goals. It enforces the constitution, implements laws, and maintains law and order. Law is essential for the state's safety and for guiding citizens' behavior. A government works through three main branches: the Legislative Assembly, which makes laws; the Executive, which enforces them; and the Judiciary, which interprets them when needed.

LEGISLATIVE

The most important function of the legislative is to frame the constitution of a country or to update it through amendments, but it has also to perform some other functions as well

ORGANIZATION OF LEGISLATIVE

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: As the legislative assembly represents the whole nation, so it is essential to ensure the representation of all walks of life. But the overall number should be limited enough to make the discussions and debates practicable. So that certain decision can be made smoothly, conveniently and collectively.

DURATION (TENURE): The second most important feature of the constituent assembly is its duration or tenure. It must not be brief to an extent that the assembly cannot do any type of legislation, nor should it be so long that the objective conditions in which the representation had been elected, go changed.

PRINCIPLES OF REPRESENTATION: The principles of representation have been given preference in the modern democratic world and hence, various classes of the society have been given right of vote. According to this principle of representation, the whole population of the country is evenly distributed among various constituencies considering its population and mapping. In this way every constituency can send its representative to the legislative assembly.

FUNCTIONS OF LEGISLATIVE

Formulating constitution of the state and updating it, is the most important function of the legislative. But in the modern age, legislative has also to perform some additional functions /duties. Following functions are performed by a legislative in the modern democratized world.

LEGISLATION: Legislation is a highly sophisticated task and involves much thinking. Most of the time of legislative assembly is spent for this purpose. The members of the constituent assembly are people representative. So, they have to execute their responsibility carefully and honestly keeping the interests of people in view. Various draft laws are presented before legislative, which considers every point of the draft and approves it as a law or an act after a thorough investigation or rejects it, if it is against the norms. In addition to formulating law, it also updates all previous laws, according to the most modern and the latest needs of the society.

FUNCTIONS RELATED TO AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION: In addition to its functions of legislation, it also takes up the responsibilities of amending the constitution to make it updated. The nation, where a written constitution is available, the legislative is empowered to amend it.

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS: A legislative, in a democratic society has to perform certain executive functions too. The cabinet, in a parliamentary system of government, is answerable before legislative. Cabinet is formed by the Prime Minister, in consultation with the assembly out of the members of the legislative. In a presidential system of government, the president (head of state and government) has to consult legislative before making appointments on key posts, announcing a war or getting into some international treaties.

TO ADDRESS THE PUBLIC COMPLAINTS: The legislative the most important body of the government, is responsible for bringing public complaints into government's notice. Its members are free to communicate in the session of the assembly, about anything related to social and political aspects of life. They opt many procedures to bring public issues into government's notice. They can attract the government attention to any important public issue through a motion. They can put up a proposal and get it approved through a resolution passed by the members. In this way government can be made convinced to attend to and make decisions about the problem.

