

# Civics Short Questions

## 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.

## Core elements of State ?

- Population
- Defined territory
- Sovereignty
- Government

## 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 non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

## **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.

## **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.

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## **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 discussing on matters within territorial jurisdiction. These high courts serve as the final appellate courts for most cases originating in the provinces.

# 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

## **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. An addition of formulating law, it also updates all previous laws, according to the most modern and the latest needs of the society.

## **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. In America (USA) the president has to seek approval of the senate before all such decisions.

## **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.

## **Judicial functions:**

The legislative usually performs judicial responsibilities/functions as well. For example, American (USA) senate has a power of impeachment of the President and federal judiciary. In UK a privy council, constituent upon seven members of the House of Lords (collectively) functions as the supreme (the last) court of the country.

## **Functions of Executive**

### **Judicial functions:**

The head of the executive of the country (Prime Minister) has the powers to appoint the judges of High /Supreme Courts. He has also the powers to reduce, to suspend or to remove the punishment imposed by the Supreme Court to a person, if the appeal is made in this regard.

### **Functions about legislations:**

A head of executive (The Prime Minister) the powers to call and postpone / adjourn the sessions of the legislative and even to dismiss it. He can also issue ordinances for executing some urgent and immediate responsibilities during the period when the legislative is out of sessions. In a Presidential system of government, the president can amend the law formulated by the legislative and even can disapprove/reject it.

