

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

7th June to 13th June, 2021

HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

Centre - State Relations

Q.1) Which State Appointed Rajamannar Committee to give recommendations on Inter-State Relation?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Kerala

ANS: B

Explanation: In 1969, the Tamil Nadu Government (DMK) appointed a three-member committee under the chairmanship of Dr P V Rajamannar to examine the entire question of Centre-state relations and to suggest amendments to the Constitution so as to secure utmost autonomy to the states.

The committee submitted its report to the Tamil Nadu Government in 1971.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding Inter-State council:

1. Article 262 of Indian Constitution provisions for the establishment of an Inter-State Council.

2. Parliament can establish such a council by passing a law.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: D

Explanation: Article 263 contemplates the establishment of an Inter-State Council to effect coordination between the states and between Centre and states.

- Thus, the President can establish such a council if at any time it appears to him that the public interest would be served by its establishment.
- He can define the nature of duties to be performed by such a council and its organisation and procedure.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. The Congress government headed by P. V. Narasimha Rao established the Inter-State Council in 1990.

2. The Inter – State council is a recommendatory body on issues relating to inter-state, Centre-state and Centre-union territories relations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: B

Explanation: In pursuance of the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission, the Janata Dal Government headed by V. P. Singh established the Inter-State Council in 1990. The council is a recommendatory body on issues relating to inter-state, Centre-state and Centre-union territories relations.

It aims at promoting coordination between them by examining, discussing and deliberating on such issues. Its duties, in detail, are as follows:

- investigating and discussing such subjects in which the states or the centre have a common interest;
- making recommendations upon any such subject for the better coordination of policy and action on it; and
- deliberating upon such other matters of general interest to the states as may be referred to it by the chairman.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.4) The Punchhi Commission report was related to which among the following?

- a) Centre-State Relations
- b) Fiscal Federalism
- c) Electoral Reforms
- d) Creation of new states

ANS: A

Explanation: The Second commission on Centre-State Relations was set-up by the Government of India in April 2007 under the Chairmanship of Madan Mohan Punchhi, former Chief Justice of India.

It was required to look into the issues of Centre-State relations keeping in view the sea-changes that have taken place in the polity and economy of India since the Sarkaria Commission had last looked at the issue of Centre-State relations over two decades ago.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.5) The funds under Statutory Grants to the states are charged upon which of the following?

- a) Consolidated Fund of India
- b) Contingency Fund of India
- c) Public Accounts of India
- d) Both A & B

ANS: A

Explanation: Article 275 empowers the Parliament to make grants to the states which are in need of financial assistance and not to every state.

- Also, different sums may be fixed for different states. These sums are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India every year.
- Apart from this general provision, the Constitution also provides for specific grants for promoting the welfare of the scheduled tribes in a state or for raising the level of administration of the scheduled areas in a state including the State of Assam.
- The statutory grants under Article 275 (both general and specific) are given to the states on the recommendation of the Finance Commission.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

1. The power to make laws with respect to residuary subjects is vested in the Parliament.
2. The residuary power of legislation does not include the power to levy residuary taxes.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: B

Explanation: The power to make laws with respect to residuary subjects (i.e., the matters which are not enumerated in any of the three lists) is vested in the Parliament.

- This residuary power of legislation includes the power to levy residuary taxes.
- From the above scheme, it is clear that the matters of national importance and the matters which require uniformity of legislation nationwide are included in the Union List.
- The matters of regional and local importance and the matters which permit diversity of interest are specified in the State List.
- The matters on which uniformity of legislation throughout the country is desirable but not essential are enumerated in the concurrent list. Thus, it permits diversity along with uniformity.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.7) Consider the following statements about Finance Commission:

1. It is a quasi-Judicial body.
2. It is required to make recommendations to parliament with respect to distribution of proceeding of taxes between centre and states.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: A

Explanation: Article 280 provides for a Finance Commission as a quasi-judicial body. It is constituted by the President every fifth year or even earlier.

It is required to make recommendations to the President on the following matters:

- The distribution of the net proceeds of taxes to be shared between the Centre and the states, and the allocation between the states, the respective shares of such proceeds.
- The principles which should govern the grants-in-aid to the states by the Centre (i.e., out of the Consolidated Fund of India).
- The measures needed to augment the consolidated fund of a state to supplement the resources of the panchayats and the municipalities in the state on the basis of the recommendations made by the State Finance Commission.
- Any other matter referred to it by the President in the interests of sound finance.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.8) Consider the following statements about Sarkaria Commission:

1. It was formed to review the foreign policy of India.
2. It was in favor of structural changes with respect to foreign policy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: D

Explanation: In 1983, the Central government appointed a three-member Commission on Centre-state relations under the chairmanship of R S Sarkaria, a retired judge of the Supreme Court.

- The commission was asked to examine and review the working of existing arrangements between the Centre and states in all spheres and recommend appropriate changes and measures.
- It was initially given one year to complete its work, but its term was extended four times.
- The Commission did not favour structural changes and regarded the existing constitutional arrangements and principles relating to the institutions basically sound.
- But, it emphasized on the need for changes in the functional or operational aspects. It observed that federalism is more a functional arrangement for co-operative action than a static institutional concept.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.9) Which among the following is not a constitutional body?

- a) Finance Commission
- b) Inter-State Council
- c) Zonal Council
- d) Election Commission

ANS: C

Explanation: The Zonal Councils are the statutory (and not the constitutional) bodies.

- They are established by an Act of the Parliament, that is, States Reorganisation Act of 1956.
- The act divided the country into five zones (Northern, Central, Eastern, Western and Southern) and provided a zonal council for each zone.
- While forming these zones, several factors have been taken into account which includes: the natural divisions of the country, the river systems and means of communication, the cultural and linguistic affinity and the requirements of economic development, security and law and order.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding Zonal Councils:

1. Zonal Councils was established under the State Reorganization Act, 1956.
2. The Act divided the country into five zones namely, northern, central, eastern, western, and southern.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: C

Explanation: The Zonal Councils are the statutory (and not the constitutional) bodies. They are established by an Act of the Parliament, that is, States Reorganisation Act of 1956.

- The act divided the country into five zones (Northern, Central, Eastern, Western and Southern) and provided a zonal council for each zone.
- In addition to the above Zonal Councils, a North-Eastern Council was created by a separate Act of Parliament—the North-Eastern Council Act of 1971.
- Its members include Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Arunchal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Tripura and Sikkim. Its functions are similar to those of the zonal councils, but with few additions.

Source: Laxmikanth

President, Vice President, Prime Minister and Council of Ministers

Q.1) With reference to the president's oath, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. President swears to execute the office faithfully.
2. President devotes himself to the service and well-being of the people of India.
3. President devotes himself to defend the Constitution and the law of the nation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

ANS: D

Explanation: Before entering upon his office, the President has to make and subscribe to an oath or affirmation to faithfully execute the office.

- President swears to devote himself to the service and well-being of the people of India.
- President swears to preserve protect and defend the Constitution and the law.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.2) With reference to the executive powers of the President, which of the following statements is/are NOT correct?

1. All executive actions of the Government of India are formally taken in his name.
2. He appoints the comptroller and auditor general of India and determines his salary and tenure.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: B

Explanation: The Indian President is the head of the state and he is also called the first citizen of India.

- He is a part of Union Executive, provisions of which are dealt with Article 52-78 including articles related to President (Article 52-62).
- All executive actions of the Government of India are formally taken in his name.
- The President appoints the comptroller and auditor general of India and he does not determine his salary and tenure.
- The salary and other conditions of service of the CAG are determined by the Parliament of India through "The Comptroller and Auditor-General (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971".

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.3) With reference to the Union Executive, which of the following are consists of Union Executive?

1. The President
2. The Prime Minister
3. The Council of Ministers

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

ANS: D

Explanation: The Union executive consists of the President, the Vice- President, the Prime Minister, the council of ministers and the attorney general of India. Articles 52 to 78 in Part V of the Constitution deal with the Union executive.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.4) With reference to the Veto power of President, which of the following veto power/powers is/are NOT enjoyed by President of India?

1. Absolute Veto
2. Pocket Veto
3. Suspensive Veto
4. Qualified Veto

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 4 only
- b) 3 and 4 only
- c) 4 only
- d) 1, 2 and 4 only

ANS: C

Explanation: When a bill is introduced in the Parliament, Parliament can pass the bill and before the bill becomes an act, it has to be presented to the Indian President for his approval. It is up to the President of India to reject the bill, return the bill or withhold his/her assent to the bill. The choice of the President over the bill is called the veto power. The veto power enjoyed by the executive in modern states can be classified into the following four types:

- Absolute veto, which is, withholding of assent to the bill passed by the legislature.
- Qualified veto, which can be overridden by the legislature with a higher majority.
- Suspensive veto, which can be overridden by the legislature with an ordinary majority.
- Pocket veto, which is, taking no action on the bill passed by the legislature.

Of the above four, the President of India is vested with three– absolute veto, suspensive veto and pocket veto. There is no qualified veto in the case of Indian President; it is possessed by the American President.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.5) With reference to the Ordinance making power of President, which of the following Article is related to Ordinance?

- a) Article 112
- b) Article 117
- c) Article 123

d) Article 132

ANS: C

Explanation: Article 123 of the Constitution empowers the President to promulgate ordinances during the recess of Parliament. These ordinances have the same force and effect as an act of Parliament, but are in the nature of temporary laws.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.6) With reference to the qualifications of the Vice President, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. He should be a citizen of India.
2. He should have completed 30 years of age.
3. He should be qualified for election as a member of the Lok Sabha.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

ANS: A

Explanation: To be eligible for election as Vice-President, a person should fulfill the following qualifications:

- He should be a citizen of India.
- He should have completed 35 years of age.
- He should be qualified for election as a member of the Rajya Sabha.
- He should not hold any office of profit under the Union government or any state government or any local authority or any other public authority.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.7) With reference to the Prime Minister of India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The term of the Prime Minister is not fixed and he holds office during the pleasure of the president.
2. The salary and allowances of the Prime Minister are determined by the President from time to time.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: A

Explanation: The term of the Prime Minister is not fixed and he holds office during the pleasure of the president.

- However, this does not mean that the president can dismiss the Prime Minister at any time.
- So long as the Prime Minister enjoys the majority support in the Lok Sabha, he cannot be dismissed by the President.
- The salary and allowances of the Prime Minister are determined by the Parliament from time to time.
- He gets the salary and allowances that are payable to a member of Parliament.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.8) “There shall be a council of ministers with the Prime Minister at the head to aid and advise the President who shall, in the exercise of his functions, act in accordance with such advice” – is related to which of the following article of Indian constitution?

- a) Article 57
- b) Article 74
- c) Article 75
- d) Article 77

ANS: B

Explanation: Article 74 - There shall be a council of ministers with the Prime Minister at the head to aid and advise the President who shall, in the exercise of his functions, act in accordance with such advice.

However, the President may require the council of ministers to reconsider such advice and the President shall act in accordance with the advice tendered after such reconsideration.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.9) The total number of ministers, including the Prime Minister, in the Council of Ministers shall not exceed 15% of the total strength of the Lok Sabha – provision is added to Constitution by which amendment?

- a) 65th Amendment
- b) 86th Amendment
- c) 89st Amendment
- d) 91st Amendment

ANS: D

Explanation: The total number of ministers, including the Prime Minister, in the Council of Ministers shall not exceed 15% of the total strength of the Lok Sabha. This provision was added by the 91st Amendment Act of 2003.

Source: Laxmikanth.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the legislative powers of the President:

1. He can summon or prorogue the Parliament and dissolve the Lok Sabha.
2. He can appoint any member of the Lok Sabha to preside over its proceedings when the offices of both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker fall vacant.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: C

Explanation: The President is an integral part of the Parliament of India, and enjoys the following legislative powers.

- He can summon or prorogue the Parliament and dissolve the Lok Sabha. He can also summon a joint sitting of both the Houses of Parliament, which is presided over by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.
- He can address the Parliament at the commencement of the first session after each general election and the first session of each year.

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- He can send messages to the Houses of Parliament, whether with respect to a bill pending in the Parliament or otherwise.
- He can appoint any member of the Lok Sabha to preside over its proceedings when the offices of both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker fall vacant. Similarly, he can also appoint any member of the Rajya Sabha to preside over its proceedings when the offices of both the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman fall vacant.
- He nominates 12 members of the Rajya Sabha from amongst persons having special knowledge or practical experience in literature, science, art and social service.
- He can nominate two members to the Lok Sabha from the Anglo-Indian Community.

Source: Laxmikanth

Parliament & State Government

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. The process of summoning the Parliament has clearly mentioned in the Constitution.
 2. According to rules of business of Parliament, India has a fixed Parliamentary calendar.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: A

Explanation: The summoning of Parliament is specified in Article 85 of the Constitution. Like many other articles, it is based on the provision of Government of India Act, 1935.

- India does not have a fixed parliamentary calendar. By convention (i.e. not provided by the Constitution), Parliament meets for three sessions in a year.
- The longest, Budget Session (1st session) starts towards the end of January and concludes by the end of April or first week of May.
- The session has a recess so that Parliamentary Committees can discuss the budgetary proposals.
- The second session is the three-week Monsoon Session, which usually begins in July and finishes in August.
- Winter Session (3rd session) is held from November to December.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.2) With reference to the Parliament of India, which of the following consists of Parliament?

1. The President
2. The Lok Sabha
3. The Rajya Sabha

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

ANS: D

Explanation: Under the Constitution, the Parliament of India consists of three parts viz, the President, the Council of States and the House of the People.

- In 1954, the Hindi names 'Rajya Sabha' and 'Lok Sabha' were adopted by the Council of States and the House of People respectively.
- The Rajya Sabha is the Upper House (Second Chamber or House of Elders) and the Lok Sabha is the Lower House (First Chamber or Popular House).
- The former represents the states and union territories of the Indian Union, while the latter represents the people of India as a whole.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the Rajya Sabha:

1. The representatives of states in the Rajya Sabha are elected by the elected members of state legislative assemblies.
2. All states are equally represented in Rajya Sabha.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: B

Explanation: The representatives of states in the Rajya Sabha are elected by the elected members of state legislative assemblies.

- The election is held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.
- The seats are allotted to the states in the Rajya Sabha on the basis of population. Hence, the number of representatives varies from state to state.
- For example, Uttar Pradesh has 31 members while Tripura has 1 member only.
- However, in USA, all states are given equal representation in the Senate irrespective of their population.
- USA has 50 states and the Senate has 100 members –2 from each state.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.4) Which Constitutional Amendment reduced the age of voter from 21 to 18?

- a) 35th Constitutional Amendment
- b) 42nd Constitutional Amendment
- c) 48th Constitutional Amendment
- d) 61st Constitutional Amendment

ANS: D

Explanation: The election is based on the principle of universal adult franchise.

- Every Indian citizen who is above 18 years of age and who is not disqualified under the provisions of the Constitution or any law is eligible to vote at such election.
- The voting age was reduced from 21 to 18 years by the 61st Constitutional Amendment Act, 1988.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. Rajya Sabha is a continuing chamber and not subject to dissolution.
2. Lok Sabha is not a continuing chamber and subjected to dissolution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: C

Explanation: The Rajya Sabha (first constituted in 1952) is a continuing chamber, that is, it is a permanent body and not subject to dissolution. However, one-third of its members retire every second year.

- Their seats are filled up by fresh elections and presidential nominations at the beginning of every third year. The retiring members are eligible for re-election and renomination any number of times.
- Unlike the Rajya Sabha, the Lok Sabha is not a continuing chamber. Its normal term is five years from the date of its first meeting after the general elections, after which it automatically dissolves.
- However, the President is authorised to dissolve the Lok Sabha at any time even before the completion of five years and this cannot be challenged in a court of law.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.6) Article 112 of Indian Constitution deals with which of the following?

- a) Qualifications of Members of Rajya Sabha
- b) Quorum
- c) Annual Financial Statement
- d) Ordinance passed by President

ANS: C

Explanation: The Constitution refers to the budget as the 'annual financial statement'.

- In other words, the term 'budget' has nowhere been used in the Constitution.
- It is the popular name for the 'annual financial statement' that has been dealt with in Article 112 of the Constitution.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.7) Part VI of Indian Constitution is deals with which of the following?

- a) Union Territories
- b) State Legislature
- c) Scheduled Languages
- d) Citizenship

ANS: B

Explanation: Articles 168 to 212 in Part VI of the Constitution deal with the organisation, composition, duration, officers, procedures, privileges, powers and so on of the state legislature. Though these are similar to that of Parliament, there are some differences as well.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.8) Which of the following state does NOT have bicameral legislature?

- a) Telangana
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Karnataka
- d) West Bengal

ANS: D

Explanation: There is no uniformity in the organisation of state legislatures. Most of the states have an unicameral system, while others have a bicameral system. At present (2019), only six states have two Houses (bicameral). These are Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and Karnataka.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

1. The maximum members of state legislature are fixed at 500 and minimum strength at 50.
2. The Constitution ensures that there is uniformity of representation between different constituencies in the state.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: B

Explanation: The legislative assembly consists of representatives directly elected by the people on the basis of universal adult franchise.

- Its maximum strength is fixed at 500 and minimum strength at 60.
- For the purpose of holding direct elections to the assembly, each state is divided into territorial constituencies.
- The demarcation of these constituencies is done in such a manner that the ratio between the population of each constituency and the number of seats allotted to it is the same throughout the state.
- In other words, the Constitution ensures that there is uniformity of representation between different constituencies in the state.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.10) Consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution lays down the following qualifications for a person to be chosen a member of the state legislature.
2. The member of a state legislature must be not less than 35 years of age in the case of the legislative council and not less than 30 years of age in the case of the legislative assembly.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: A

Explanation: The Constitution lays down the following qualifications for a person to be chosen a member of the state legislature.

1. He must be a citizen of India.
2. He must make and subscribe to an oath or affirmation before the person authorized by the Election Commission for this purpose.

In his oath or affirmation, he swears

- To bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India
 - To uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India
3. He must be not less than 30 years of age in the case of the legislative council and not less than 25 years of age in the case of the legislative assembly.
 4. He must possess other qualifications prescribed by Parliament.

Source: Laxmikanth

Executive (Union and State)

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. The council of ministers is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.
2. When the Lok Sabha passes a no-confidence motion ministers from both Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha resigns.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: C

Explanation: The fundamental principle underlying the working of parliamentary system of government is the principle of collective responsibility.

- Article 75 clearly states that the council of ministers is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.
- This means that all the ministers own joint responsibility to the Lok Sabha for all their acts of omission and commission. They work as a team and swim or sink together.
- When the Lok Sabha passes a no-confidence motion against the council of ministers, all the ministers have to resign including those ministers who are from the Rajya Sabha.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.2) With reference to the Cabinet, which of the following role/roles is/are played by Cabinet?

1. It is the highest decision-making authority in our politico-administrative system.
2. It is an advisory body to the president and its advice is binding on him.
3. It is the chief coordinator of Central administration.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

ANS: D

Explanation: The role of Cabinet:

- It is the highest decision-making authority in our politico-administrative system.
- It is the chief policy formulating body of the Central government.
- It is the supreme executive authority of the Central government.
- It is chief coordinator of Central administration.
- It is an advisory body to the president and its advice is binding on him.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.3) Which of the following Cabinet Committee deals with all policy matters pertaining to domestic and foreign affairs?

- a) The Political Affairs Committee

- b) The Cabinet Committee on Security
- c) The Economic Affairs Committee
- d) The Appointment Committee

ANS: A

Explanation: The following four are the more important cabinet committees:

- The Political Affairs Committee deals with all policy matters pertaining to domestic and foreign affairs.
- The Economic Affairs Committee directs and coordinates the governmental activities in the economic sphere.
- Appointments Committee decides all higher level appointments in the Central Secretariat, Public Enterprises, Banks and Financial Institutions.
- Parliamentary Affairs Committee looks after the progress of government business in the Parliament.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.4) Which of the following cabinet committees are headed by Prime Minister?

1. The Political Affairs Committee
2. The Economic Affairs Committee
3. The Parliamentary Affairs Committee
4. The Appointment Committee

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

ANS: C

Explanation: The following four are the more important cabinet committees:

- The Political Affairs Committee deals with all policy matters pertaining to domestic and foreign affairs.
- The Economic Affairs Committee directs and coordinates the governmental activities in the economic sphere.
- Appointments Committee decides all higher level appointments in the Central Secretariat, Public Enterprises, Banks and Financial Institutions.
- Parliamentary Affairs Committee looks after the progress of government business in the Parliament.

The first three committees are chaired by the Prime Minister and the last one by the Home Minister. Of all the Cabinet Committees, the most powerful is the Political Affairs Committee, often described as a "Super-Cabinet".

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.5) "Part V" of Indian Constitution deals with which of the following?

- a) Citizenship
- b) Fundamental Rights
- c) Parliament
- d) Directive principles of State Policy

ANS: C

Explanation: Articles 79 to 122 in Part V of the Constitution deal with the organisation, composition, duration, officers, procedures, privileges, powers and so on of the Parliament.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

1. The maximum strength of the Rajya Sabha is not fixed and it can be changed after every delimitation.
2. The Fourth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the allocation of seats in the Rajya Sabha to the states and union territories.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: B

Explanation: The maximum strength of the Rajya Sabha is fixed at 250, out of which, 238 are to be the representatives of the states and union territories (elected indirectly) and 12 are nominated by the president.

- At present, the Rajya Sabha has 245 members. Of these, 229 members represent the states, 4 members represent the union territories and 12 members are nominated by the president.
- The Fourth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the allocation of seats in the Rajya Sabha to the states and union territories.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the parliamentary legislation in the state field:

1. Rajya Sabha can pass a resolution to make laws on the state list.
2. Such resolution should be passed by two-thirds of the members present and voting.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: D

Explanation: If the Rajya Sabha declares that it is necessary in the national interest that Parliament should make laws on a matter in the State List, then the Parliament becomes competent to make laws on that matter.

- Such a resolution must be supported by two-thirds of the members present and voting.
- The resolution remains in force for one year; it can be renewed any number of times but not exceeding one year at a time.
- The laws cease to have effect on the expiration of six months after the resolution has ceased to be in force.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.8) Consider the following statements:

1. The Speaker is elected by the Lok Sabha from amongst its members.
2. The date of election of the Speaker is fixed by the President.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: C

Explanation: The Speaker is elected by the Lok Sabha from amongst its members (as soon as may be, after its first sitting).

- Whenever the office of the Speaker falls vacant, the Lok Sabha elects another member to fill the vacancy.
- The date of election of the Speaker is fixed by the President.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the Rajya Sabha:

1. The Government of India Act, 1919 provided for the creation of a Council of State as a second chamber.
2. The allocation of seats for Rajya Sabha is made on the basis of the population of each State.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: C

Explanation: The origin of the second Chamber (Council of State) can be traced to the Montague-Chelmsford Report of 1918.

- The Government of India Act, 1919 provided for the creation of a 'Council of State' as a second chamber of the then legislature with a restricted franchise which actually came into existence in 1921.
- The Fourth Schedule to the Constitution provides for allocation of seats to the States and Union Territories in Rajya Sabha.
- The allocation of seats is made on the basis of the population of each State.

Source: <https://rajyasabha.nic.in/>

Q.10) Which of the following committee/committees comes under the Standing Committees to scrutinize and control of Rajya Sabha?

1. Ethics Committee
2. Committee on Government assurances.
3. Committee on subordinate legislation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

ANS: C

Explanation: The Committees may be classified as Ad-hoc Committees and Standing Committees. Standing Committees may be divided in terms of their functions:

Committees to enquire:

- Committee on Petitions
- Committee on Privileges

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- Ethics Committee

Committees to scrutinize and control:

- Committee on Government Assurances
- Committee on Subordinate Legislation and
- Committee on Papers Laid on the Table

Committees relating to day-to-day business of the House:

- Business advisory committee
- Rules Committee

House Keeping Committees:

- House Committee
- General Purpose Committee
- Committee on Provision of Computers to Members of Rajya Sabha

Source: <https://rajyasabha.nic.in/>

Courts

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the qualifications of Supreme Court Judge:

1. He should be a citizen of India.
2. He should have been a Judge of a High Court for 7 years.
3. He should have been Advocate of a High Court for 10 years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) 1 and 3 only

ANS: D

Explanation: A person to be appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court should have the following qualifications:

1. He should be a citizen of India.
2. (A) He should have been a judge of a High Court (or high courts in succession) for five years; or (B) He should have been an advocate of a High Court (or High Courts in succession) for ten years; or (C) He should be a distinguished jurist in the opinion of the president.

From the above, it is clear that the Constitution has not prescribed a minimum age for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.2) The concept of “Public Interest Litigation” was first time introduced in which of the following country?

- a) New Zealand
- b) Britain
- c) United States of America
- d) France

ANS: C

Explanation: The concept of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) originated and developed in the USA in the 1960s.

- In the USA, it was designed to provide legal representation to previously unrepresented groups and interests.
- It was undertaken in recognition of the fact that the ordinary marketplace for legal services fails to provide such services to significant segments of the population and to significant interests.
- Such groups and interests include the poor, environmentalists, consumers, racial and ethnic minorities, and others.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the “National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)”:

1. It was established by executive resolution.
2. It was constituted to monitor and evaluate implementation of legal aid programmes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: B

Explanation: Article 39A of the Constitution of India provides for free legal aid to the poor and weaker sections of the society and ensures justice for all.

- Articles 14 and 22(1) of the Constitution also make it obligatory for the State to ensure equality before law and a legal system which promotes justice on the basis of equal opportunity to all.
- In the year 1987, the Legal Services Authorities Act was enacted by the Parliament which came into force on 9th November, 1995 to establish a nationwide uniform network for providing free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society on the basis of equal opportunity.
- The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) is a statutory body that has been constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 to monitor and evaluate implementation of legal aid programmes and to lay down policies and principles for making legal services available under the Act.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.4) Article 131 of Indian Constitution is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.
- b) Appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in appeals from High Courts in civil matters.
- c) Appellate jurisdiction of the high court in appeals from district Courts in criminal matters.
- d) Jurisdiction and powers of the federal court under existing law to be exercisable by the Supreme Court.

ANS: A

Explanation: Amid nationwide protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, or CAA, 2019, and the threat of non-cooperation by some States with the Central government's plan to update the National Population Register (NPR) and possibly establish a National Register of Indian Citizens, Kerala has filed a suit in the Supreme Court of India seeking to declare the CAA as unconstitutional.

- Meanwhile, Chhattisgarh has also filed a similar suit, challenging the constitutional validity of the National Investigation Agency Act.
- Both have invoked Article 131, which confers exclusive jurisdiction on the top court to adjudicate disputes between two or more States, or between States and the Centre.
- Article 131 confers exclusive jurisdiction on the Supreme Court in disputes involving States, or the Centre on the one hand and one or more States on the other. This means no other court can entertain such a dispute.
- It is well-known that both High Courts and the Supreme Court have the power to adjudicate cases against the State and Central governments.

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- In particular, the validity of any executive or legislative action is normally challenged by way of writ petitions — under Article 226 of the Constitution in respect of High Courts, and, in respect to fundamental rights violations, under Article 32 in the Supreme Court.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the “Lok adalat”:

1. It has been given the status of a civil court.
2. Its awards are challenged before any court.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: A

Explanation: The Legal Services Authorities Act (1987) has established a nation-wide network to provide free and competent legal aid to the poor and to organize lok adalat for promoting equal justice.

- Lok adalat is a statutory forum for conciliatory settlement of legal disputes.
- It has been given the status of a civil court.
- Its awards are enforceable, binding on the parties and final as no appeal lies before any court against them.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.6) Which of the following statement is NOT correct about “Attorney General of India”?

- a) Article 76 has provided for the office of the Attorney General for India.
- b) He is the highest law officer in the country.
- c) He must be a person who is qualified to be appointed a judge of the Supreme Court.
- d) He is appointed by appointment committee.

ANS: D

Explanation: The Constitution (Article 76) has provided for the office of the Attorney General for India.

- He is the highest law officer in the country.
- The Attorney General (AG) is appointed by the president.
- He must be a person who is qualified to be appointed a judge of the Supreme Court.
- In other words, he must be a citizen of India and he must have been a judge of some high court for five years or an advocate of some high court for ten years or an eminent jurist, in the opinion of the president.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.7) The Integrated system of courts is adopted from which of the following?

- a) Japanese Constitution
- b) Australian Constitution
- c) American Constitution
- d) Government of India Act, 1935

ANS: D

Explanation: The Indian Constitution has established an integrated judicial system with the Supreme Court at the top and the high court's below it.

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- Under a high court (and below the state level), there is a hierarchy of subordinate courts, that is, district courts and other lower courts.
- This single system of courts, adopted from the Government of India Act of 1935, enforces both Central laws as well as the state laws.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.8) Which of the following dispute (s) is/are considered under Original Jurisdiction of Supreme Court?

1. Between the Centre and one or more states.
2. Between the Centre and any state or states on one side and one or more other states on the other side.
3. Between State and High court.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

ANS: B

Explanation: As a federal court, the Supreme Court decides the disputes between different units of the Indian Federation. More elaborately, any dispute:

- Between the Centre and one or more states; or
- Between the Centre and any state or states on one side and one or more other states on the other side; or
- Between two or more states.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.9) Which of the following is/are come (s) under appellate jurisdiction of Supreme Court?

1. Appeals in criminal matters
2. Appeal by special leave
3. Appeals in civil matters

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

ANS: D

Explanation: As mentioned earlier, the Supreme Court has not only succeeded the Federal Court of India but also replaced the British Privy Council as the highest court of appeal. The Supreme Court is primarily a court of appeal and hears appeals against the judgments of the lower courts.

It enjoys a wide appellate jurisdiction which can be classified under four heads:

- Appeals in constitutional matters.
- Appeals in civil matters.
- Appeals in criminal matters.
- Appeals by special leave.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.10) “Article 143” of the Constitution of India is often seen in news is related with which of the following?

- a) Original Jurisdiction
- b) Writ Jurisdiction
- c) Advisory Jurisdiction
- d) A Court of Record

ANS: C

Explanation: The Constitution (Article 143) authorises the president to seek the opinion of the Supreme Court in the two categories of matters:

- On any question of law or fact of public importance which has arisen or which is likely to arise.
- On any dispute arising out of any pre-constitution treaty, agreement, covenant, engagement, sanad or other similar instruments.

Source: Laxmikanth

Constitutional Bodies

Q.1) Which of the following is NOT a permanent Constitutional body?

- a) Finance Commission
- b) Election Commission
- c) Union Public Service Commission
- d) Comptroller and Auditor General of India

ANS: A

Explanation: Constitutional bodies are important bodies in India that derive their powers and authorities from the Indian Constitution.

- They are specifically mentioned in the Constitution, meaning they have dedicated articles.
- Any change in the mechanism of these bodies would require a constitutional amendment.
- Important bodies such as the Finance Commission, the UPSC, the Election Commission, the CAG, National Commissions for SCs and STs, etc. are constitutional bodies.
- Finance Commission is non-permanent constitutional body.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.2) Article 148 of Indian Constitution is related to which of the following?

- a) Finance Commission
- b) Election Commission
- c) Comptroller and Auditor General
- d) Union Public Service Commission

ANS: C

Explanation: The Constitution of India (Article 148) provides for an independent office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG). He is the head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.3) With reference to the Union Public Service Commission, which of the following statements is/are NOT correct?

1. The UPSC consists of a chairman and other members appointed by the president of India.
2. The chairman and members of the Commission hold office for a term of six years or until they attain the age of 65 years.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: D

Explanation: Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) is the central recruiting agency in India.

- It is an independent constitutional body in the sense that it has been directly created by the Constitution.
- The UPSC consists of a chairman and other members appointed by the president of India.
- The Constitution, without specifying the strength of the Commission has left the matter to the discretion of the president, who determines its composition.
- Usually, the Commission consists of nine to eleven members including the chairman.
- The chairman and members of the Commission hold office for a term of six years or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. A State Public Service Commission consists of a chairman and other members appointed by the Governor of the State.
2. The chairman and members of the Commission hold office for a term of six years or until they attain the age of 65 years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: A

Explanation: A State Public Service Commission consists of a chairman and other members appointed by the governor of the state.

- The Constitution does not specify the strength of the Commission but has left the matter to the discretion of the Governor.
- The chairman and members of the Commission hold office for a term of six years or until they attain the age of 62 years, whichever is earlier (in the case of UPSC, the age limit is 65 years).

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. Constitution makes a provision for the establishment of a Joint State Public Service Commission (JSPSC) for two or more states.
2. JSPSC is a statutory body.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: C

Explanation: The Constitution makes a provision for the establishment of a Joint State Public Service Commission (JSPSC) for two or more states.

- While the UPSC and the SPSC are created directly by the Constitution, a JSPSC can be created by an act of Parliament on the request of the state legislatures concerned.

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- Thus, a JSPSC is a statutory and not a constitutional body.
- The two states of Punjab and Haryana had a JSPSC for a short period, after the creation of Haryana out of Punjab in 1966.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.6) Which article empowered the President to constitute a GST Council by an order?

- a) 269
- b) 270
- c) 269
- d) 279A

ANS: D

Explanation: The 101st Amendment Act of 2016 paved the way for the introduction of a new tax regime (i.e. goods and services tax - GST) in the country.

- The smooth and efficient administration of this tax requires co-operation and coordination between the centre and the states.
- In order to facilitate this consultation process, the amendment provided for the establishment of Goods and Services Tax Council or the GST Council.
- The amendment inserted a new Article 279-A in the Constitution. This Article empowered the President to constitute a GST Council by an order.
- Accordingly, the President issued the order in 2016 and constituted the Council.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.7) Which amendment act bi-furcated the combined National Commission for SCs and STs?

- a) 56th Constitutional Amendment Act
- b) 78th Constitutional Amendment Act
- c) 89th Constitutional Amendment Act
- d) 94th Constitutional Amendment Act

ANS: C

Explanation: In order to safeguard the interests of the STs More effectively, it was proposed to set up a separate National Commission for STs by bifurcating the existing combined National Commission for SCs and STs.

- This was done by passing the 89th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2003.
- This Act further amended Article 338 and inserted a new Article 338-A in the Constitution.
- The separate National Commission for STs came into existence in 2004.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.8) Consider the following statements about Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities:

1. It was created in pursuance of the provision of Article 350-B of the Constitution.
2. The Commissioner has his headquarters at Kolkata.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: A

Explanation: In pursuance of the provision of Article 350-B of the Constitution, the office of the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities was created in 1957. He is designated as the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities.

- The Commissioner has his headquarters at Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh).
- He has three regional offices at Belgaum (Karnataka), Chennai (Tamil Nadu) and Kolkata (West Bengal).
- Each is headed by an Assistant Commissioner.
- The Commissioner is assisted at headquarters by Deputy Commissioner and an Assistant Commissioner.
- He maintains liaison with the State Governments and Union Territories through nodal officers appointed by them.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.9) Who among the following is the guardian of the public purse and controls the entire financial system of the country?

- a) Comptroller & Auditor General
- b) Prime Minister
- c) Finance Minister
- d) RBI Governor

ANS: A

Explanation: The Constitution of India (Article 148) provides for an independent office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG). He is the head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department.

- He is the guardian of the public purse and controls the entire financial system of the country at both the levels—the Centre and the state.
- His duty is to uphold the Constitution of India and laws of Parliament in the field of financial administration.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.10) Consider the following statement about Attorney-General of India:

1. Article 76 has provided for the office of the Attorney General for India.
2. The Attorney General is appointed by appointment committee.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: A

Explanation: The Constitution (Article 76) has provided for the office of the Attorney General for India. He is the highest law officer in the country.

- The Attorney General (AG) is appointed by the president. He must be a person who is qualified to be appointed a judge of the Supreme Court.
- The AG is not a member of the Central cabinet. There is a separate law minister in the Central cabinet to look after legal matters at the government level.

Source: Laxmikanth

Revision

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution of India divides legislative, executive and financial powers between the Centre and the states.
2. Part XII of the Constitution deal with the legislative relations between the Centre and the states.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: A

Explanation: The Constitution of India, being federal in structure, divides all powers (legislative, executive and financial) between the Centre and the states.

- However, there is no division of judicial power as the Constitution has established an integrated judicial system to enforce both the Central laws as well as state laws.
- Articles 245 to 255 in Part XI of the Constitution deal with the legislative relations between the Centre and the states.
- Articles 268 to 293 in Part XII of the Constitution deal with Centre state financial relations.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.2) The Constitution provides for a three-fold distribution of legislative subjects between the Centre and the states is drawn from which of the following source?

- a) Britain Constitution
- b) South - African Constitution
- c) Japanese Constitution
- d) Government of India Act, 1935

ANS: D

Explanation: The Constitution provides for a three-fold distribution of legislative subjects between the Centre and the states, viz., List-I (the Union List), List-II (the State List) and List-III (the Concurrent List) in the Seventh Schedule.

- The Government of India Act of 1935 provided for a three-fold enumeration, viz., federal, provincial and concurrent.
- The present Constitution follows the scheme of this act but with one difference, that is, under this act, the residuary powers were given neither to the federal legislature nor to the provincial legislature but to the governor-general of India.
- In this respect, India follows the Canadian precedent.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.3) "Alternative Scheme of Devolution" was introduced by 80th Amendment Act on the recommendation of which of the following finance commission?

- a) 01st finance commission
- b) 07th finance commission
- c) 10th finance commission

d) 12th finance commission

ANS: C

Explanation: The 80th Amendment was enacted to give effect to the recommendations of the 10th Finance Commission.

- The Commission recommended that out of the total income obtained from certain central taxes and duties, 29% should go to the states.
- This is known as the 'Alternative Scheme of Devolution' and came into effect retrospectively from April 1, 1996.
- This amendment has brought several central taxes and duties like Corporation Tax and Customs Duties at par with Income Tax (taxes on income other than agricultural income) as far as their constitutionally mandated sharing with the states is concerned.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.4) Which of the following members participate in the election of President of India?

1. Elected members of both the Houses of Parliament.
2. Nominated members of both houses of Parliament.
3. Members of the State legislative Council.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

ANS: A

Explanation: The President is elected not directly by the people but by members of Electoral College consisting of:

- the elected members of both the Houses of Parliament;
- the elected members of the legislative assemblies of the states; and
- the elected members of the legislative assemblies of the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry.

Thus, the nominated members of both of Houses of Parliament, the nominated members of the state legislative assemblies, the members (both elected and nominated) of the state legislative councils (in case of the bicameral legislature) and the nominated members of the Legislative Assemblies of Delhi and Pondicherry do not participate in the election of the President.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.5) "Article 72" of Indian Constitution deals with?

- a) Pardoning powers of President
- b) Collective and Individual responsibility of Council of Ministers
- c) Attorney General of India
- d) Ordinance powers of President

ANS: A

Explanation: Article 72 of the Constitution empowers the President to grant pardons to persons who have been tried and convicted of any offence in all cases where the:

- Punishment or sentence is for an offence against a Union Law;
- Punishment or sentence is by a court martial (military court); and
- Sentence is a sentence of death.

The pardoning power of the President is independent of the Judiciary; it is an executive power.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.6) Before the Prime Minister enters upon his office, who among the following administers to him the oaths of office and secrecy?

- a) Chief Justice of Supreme Court
- b) Pro – term Speaker of the house
- c) President
- d) Vice President

ANS: C

Explanation: Before the Prime Minister enters upon his office, the president administers to him the oaths of office and secrecy. In his oath of office, the Prime Minister swears:

- to bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India,
- to uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India,
- to faithfully and conscientiously discharge the duties of his office, and
- to do right to all manner of people in accordance with the Constitution and the law, without fear or favour, affection or ill will.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.7) “The Cabinet is the keystone of the political arch” – was described by whom among the following?

- a) Lowell
- b) Sir John Marriott
- c) Gladstone
- d) Ramsay Muir

ANS: A

Explanation: The various comments made by the eminent political scientists and constitutional experts on the role of cabinet in Britain hold good in the Indian context also. These are mentioned below.

- Ramsay Muir: “The Cabinet is the steering wheel of the ship of the state.”
- Lowell: “The Cabinet is the keystone of the political arch”.
- Sir John Marriott: “The Cabinet is the pivot around which the whole political machinery revolves”.
- Gladstone: “The Cabinet is the solar orb around which the other bodies revolve”.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.8) With reference to the Parliamentary Standing Committees, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Committee meetings are held in open door meetings.
2. Members of the committee are not bound by their party whips.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: B

Explanation: In a parliamentary democracy, Parliament has broadly two functions, which are lawmaking and oversight of the executive branch of the government.

- Parliament is the embodiment of the people's will. Committees (Parliamentary standing committees) are an instrument of Parliament for its own effective functioning.
- Given the volume of legislative business, discussing all Bills under the consideration of Parliament in detail on the floor of the House is impossible.
- Committees are platforms for threadbare discussion on a proposed law.
- At least in principle, the assumption is that the smaller cohort of lawmakers, assembled on the basis of the proportional strength of individual parties and interests and expertise of individual lawmakers, could have more open, intensive and better informed discussions.
- Committee meetings are 'closed door' and members are not bound by party whips, which allows them the latitude for a more meaningful exchange of views as against discussions in full and open Houses where grandstanding and party positions invariably take precedence.

Source: Laxmikanth & Indian Express

Q.9) The first session after each general election and the first session of every fiscal year is addressed by the president – which is known as?

- a) Censure motion
- b) Dilatory Motion
- c) Motion of Thanks
- d) No-Day-Yet-Named Motion

ANS: C

Explanation: The first session after each general election and the first session of every fiscal year is addressed by the president.

- In this address, the president outlines the policies and programmes of the government in the preceding year and ensuing year.
- This address of the president, which corresponds to the 'speech from the Throne in Britain', is discussed in both the Houses of Parliament on a motion called the 'Motion of Thanks'.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.10) "Article 117" of Indian Constitution is deals with?

- a) Private bill
- b) Annual Financial Statement
- c) Financial bill
- d) All of the above

ANS: C

Explanation: Financial bills are those bills that deal with fiscal matters, that is, revenue or expenditure. However, the Constitution uses the term 'financial bill' in a technical sense. Financial bills are of three kinds:

- Money bills–Article 110
- Financial bills (I)–Article 117 (1)
- Financial bills (II)–Article 117 (3)

Source: Laxmikanth