



Answer Writing Focus Group 2.0

Generic Booklet

Test Name/Code/No. : 40821

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Mobile No.		Date	15/June/2021

Allotted Time : 60 Minutes

Key Objectives of the Program:

#1 Coverage of Syllabus - It is imperative that you prepare for the Test by visiting the WYSK - pronounced Y-Sec - What You Should Know and prepare the topics in advance. Questions are likely to come from there. Through WYSK, you will be aware of the issues that need to be covered - not just for the Test - but for the Mains exam as well. Let's not be a frog in the well - unaware of "what to study" or "what to prepare".

#2 Answer Writing Practice - Practice Writing Answers every morning before anything else gets you. Distractions primarily. With a laser beam focus write Tests for an hour every morning.

#3 Take Notes - The Answer Writing Sessions will follow with classes at sharp 9:30AM, that will augment to your knowledge. Make notes, and cover the syllabus.

#4 Stay ahead of the competition - We know the Prelims is delayed and you are in an academic vacuum. Make the most of this vacuum by working hard and staying ahead of the competition. This is the right time for Mains orientation for the next two months because we don't think extended prelims preparation at this stage is going to be any productive. And if you are productive with prelims now, you will lose productivity (and get bored) just before the exam - a recipe for disaster. Studying new things for Mains, helps break the monotony and provides a getaway. We'll be back with Prelims by end of July and race ahead.

Q. No.	Grade/Score
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
Overall Grade/Score	

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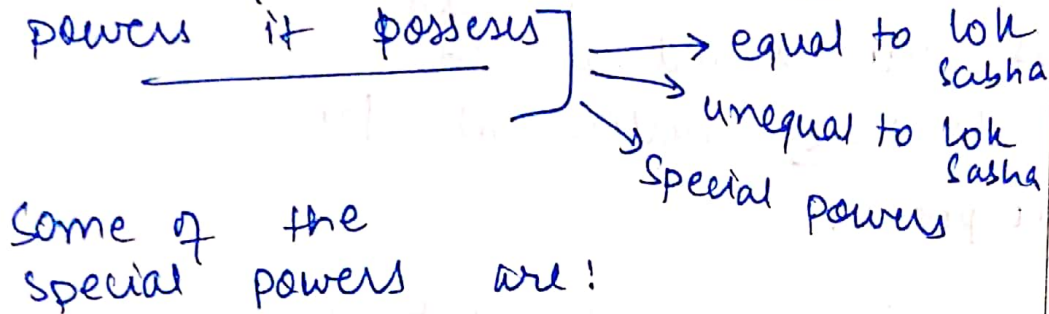
① Rajya Sabha is the permanent house of the Indian ~~permanent~~ Parliament and it is also termed as the de facto, de jure Parliament for certain purposes.

Rajya Sabha is highly relevant to the working of the Indian parliamentary system:

- ① ~~is~~ stops knee jerk legislations and other actions of the govt.
- ② flagbearer of the system of checks and balances
- ③ represents federalism, i.e. a common chamber where states can present their concerns
- ④ prevents unwarranted amendments to the Constitution
- ⑤ deals with extraordinary circumstances (eg. emergency) if Lok Sabha is dissolved

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The Rajya Sabha performs such relevant functions due to many powers it possesses



Some of the special powers are!

- ① authorising the Parliament to make laws on subject of state list [Article 249]
- ② creation of new All India Services [Article 312]
- ③ It alone can initiate action for removal of Vice President

However, money/funds are considered as most important for the functioning of a modern state's polity and Lok Sabha has almost exclusive powers vis-a-vis money bills.

Although it is the second house, Rajya Sabha is never the secondary house as emphasised by former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee in the past.

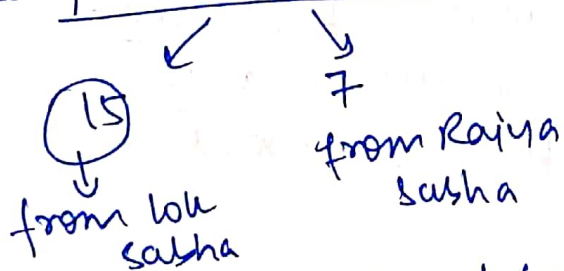
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② Parliament is assisted by multiple Parliamentary committees as it lacks expertise on specific/technical matters and it is too unwieldy a body to deliberate effectively.

Parliamentary committees are either standing or ad hoc.

Public Accounts Committee is a financial committee [and standing].

*It has 22 members



permanent,
constituted
every year

* members are elected by the Parliament every year through Proportional Representation by means of single transferable vote.

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Functions and Utilities of PAC

- ① Examine ANNUAL AUDIT REPORTS of the CAG
- ② Examine public expenditure from legal, formal, economic and prudence points of views
- ③ Examine the appropriation accounts and the finance accounts of the Union Govt.
- ④ Examine accounts of state corporations
- ⑤ Examine ~~of~~ the accounts of autonomous and ~~also~~ semi-autonomous bodies whose accounts are audited by the CAG
- ⑥ To examine excess money spent on a service in a financial year

PAC is a powerful controller of public expenditure which upholds the highest traditions of Parliamentary democracy.

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④ Parliamentary Privileges are certain rights and immunities enjoyed by members of parliament, individually and collectively, so that they can "effectively discharge their functions".

They are defined under Article 105 (Article 194 for state legislatures). However, they are not codified yet.

Breach of such privilege can be punished under law of Parliament.

Imp. privileges that protect the rights, independence and dignity of legislatures :

* Almost absolute freedom of speech
 ↓
Exceptions → Criticism of SC/HC judges

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* Freedom from Arrest [session \pm 40 days]

Also, MPs can't be arrested on the precincts of parliament without the concurrence of presiding officer

* Exemptions from attendance as witnesses

These privileges ensure :

→ Undue influence by way of threats / blackmails etc.

→ Democracy → MPs are representatives of people → put forward their ideas / doubts / concerns freely

Also, Parliament itself has certain privileges like

→ Right to publish debates & proceedings

→ Right to exclude strangers

→ Right to punish members / outsiders

However, in certain cases, these privileges hinder free critical analysis and criticism of them MPs and parliament's functions. ~~It~~ also suppress the voices of dissenters. But

they are overall very necessary for the functioning of our parliamentary democracy.

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⑤ The debate over the relevance of legislative councils is a long running one.

Recently, it has been reported that West Bengal wants its Legislative Council back after its abolition decades ago.

Need and utility of legislative councils in states:

→ Wider Representation → because there are intellectuals, scholars and others who don't contest elections but can contribute vividly to the legislative process.

→ Prevent knee jerk legislations
↳ a 'second opinion' and a 'time period' for introspection

→ Making the legislative process more thorough

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However, many scholars/intellectuals believe that the cost of maintaining a legislative council is too high in comparison to its overall benefits.

§

Also, there are multiple issues associated with legislative councils:

→ Secondary House → Inferior to legislative Assemblies in most aspects

→ A tool for political malpractices

→ A second chances for people rejected by voters in the assembly elections

Therefore, it is prudent to have a thorough analysis of this issue by a competent committee so that this debate reaches a conclusive and logical end.

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⑦ The Governor's appointment, his powers and other issues related to his office have been covered under Part VI of the Constitution from Article 153 to Article 162.

It is usually stated that Governor has a dual role:

- Constitutional Head of the state
- Vital link between the Union Govt. and the state Govt.

The issues related to the ~~the~~ Governor also have a historical narrative. The Governors under the Govt - of India Act 1935 were usually called the governors "by the Raj, of the Raj and for the Raj."

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Issues and controversies associated with the discretionary powers of the Governor

- ① Governor's discretionary powers to invite the leader of the largest party / alliance, post-election, to form the government → misused ~~is~~ ^{to} favour particular parties
- ② Discretionary role in the Imposition of President's Rule under Article 356
- ③ Process of appointment is seen as the cause of the position / office being abused / misused
 - ④ → Appointment by ruling party at centre ⇒ SPIRIT OF NON-PARTISANSHIP

④ Arbitrary Removal of the Governor

Due to these aforementioned issues, the office of governor has often been criticised as agent of the centre, puppet and rubber stamp.

However, the office of the Governor has ~~was~~ often proved to be a necessity in the Indian scenario due to its multi-lingual, multi-cultural, multi-ethnic social fabric. Also, due to the violent partition, the ensuing mistrust and then further events which destabilised the society, Governor's office has provided the much needed stability and security.

Therefore, the Governor's office is important but can be made more relevant by enforcing the SR Bommai judgement, Punchhi Commission recommendations etc.