

Corrigendum/Explanation SFG 2024 Level 1 Test 5

There is 1 change in today's paper (Q.27). In Q.27, the correct answer is Option (c).
Also, some extra explanations have been provided for the students who have raised doubts.

In Q.27) the correct answer is option (c).

Explanation: The answer is incorrectly marked as (a) according to 'correct' statements. However, the question asks about how many statements are '**incorrect**'. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

For Future References:

Q.27) With reference to the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament, consider the following statements:

1. It examines the estimates included in the Annual Financial Statement.
2. It consists of members from both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
3. The chairman of the committee is appointed by the President of India.
4. Its recommendations are binding on the Ministers.

How many of the above statements are **incorrect**?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect- The **Estimates Committee** and not the Public Accounts Committee **examine the estimates included in the Annual Financial Statement**. The Public Accounts Committee's role is to assess the **yearly audit reports produced by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)**, which are presented to Parliament by the President. The CAG provides three reports to the **President**, encompassing audit reports on **appropriation accounts, finance accounts, and public undertakings**.

Statement 2 is correct- Currently, the Public Accounts Committee comprises **22 members**, with 15 selected from the **Lok Sabha** and 7 from the **Rajya Sabha**. These members are elected **annually** by **Parliament** from its own members, following the principle of **proportional representation** through the **single transferable vote**. This ensures that all political parties have equitable representation within the committee.

Statement 3 is incorrect- The Public Accounts Committee's chairman is chosen from its own members by the **Speaker**. Until the fiscal year 1966-67, the chairman of the committee was typically a member of the ruling party. But since 1967, it has become custom for the chairman to be consistently **chosen from the opposition**.

Statement 4 is incorrect- The Public Accounts Committee's recommendations are advisory and not binding on the ministries.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth (7th edition), Chapter 24

Q.1) There was a doubt raised with respect to Statement 2 i.e., “In India, matters related to the constitutionality of Amendment of an Act of the Parliament are referred to the Constitution Bench by the Supreme Court.”

Explanation – The Statement is correct. In India, matters related to the **constitutionality of an amendment of an act** of the Parliament are referred to the **Constitution Bench by the Supreme Court**. A Constitution Bench is a bench of the Supreme Court having five or more judges on it. Constitution Benches are set up when the case involves a substantial question of law pertaining to the interpretation of the Constitution. **Article 145(3)** of the Constitution clearly provides for the setting up of Constitution Benches and stipulates that a minimum of five judges need to sit for deciding a case involving a “substantial question of law as to the interpretation of the Constitution”. Hence, the statement is correct.

Also, this is a Previous Year Question (PYQ) of UPSC CSE Prelims, and the answer is according to the official answer key of UPSC.

Q.6) There was a doubt raised with respect to Statement 2 i.e., “Both houses have equal powers in matters related to the removal of the Vice-President of India.”

Explanation – The Statement remains incorrect. With regard to the removal of the Vice-President of India, the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha do not have equal powers. A resolution for the removal of the Vice-President can be initiated only in the Rajya Sabha, and not in the Lok Sabha. Also, such a resolution should be passed in the Rajya Sabha by an effective majority and then in the Lok Sabha by a simple majority. Hence, we say easily that the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha do not have equal powers in matters related to the removal of the Vice-President of India.

Q.22) There was a doubt raised with respect to Statement 1 i.e., “Some functions, such as enacting a money bill and a non-confidence motion, are solely performed by the Lok Sabha and not by the Rajya Sabha.”

Explanation – The Statement is correct. The passage of a Money bill can be done by the Lok Sabha in its sole discretion. The Rajya Sabha do not have any effective powers regarding the passage of the Money Bill. A Money Bill can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha and not in the Rajya Sabha. Also, the Rajya Sabha cannot amend or reject a Money Bill. The Lok Sabha can either accept or reject all or any of the recommendations of the Rajya Sabha regarding a Money Bill. Also, the final power to decide whether a particular bill is a Money Bill or not is vested in the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

Also, a No-Confidence Motion can be introduced and moved only in the Lok Sabha, and not in the Rajya Sabha.

Moreover, the intent of the question was not to ask about the features of Money Bills or No-Confidence Motion. But, to ask about the reason why Lok Sabha has been given greater powers as compared to Rajya Sabha in certain cases.

Q.36) There was a doubt raised with respect to the meaning of ‘special majority’ as asked in Statement 1 (Rajya Sabha needs to pass a resolution with a special majority to enable the Parliament to enact laws enumerated in the ‘State List’ of Schedule-VII).

Explanation – All types of Legislative Majorities other than Simple Majority and Absolute Majority can be considered as types of Special Majority. For example, Effective Majority in India is a type of special majority. To enable the Parliament to enact laws enumerated in the ‘State List’ of Schedule-VII, the Rajya Sabha needs to pass a resolution with two thirds majority. Here, this two thirds majority is also a type of Special Majority.

Q.40) There was a doubt raised with respect to Statement 1 i.e., “Parliament in India acts as the Centre of all democratic processes in the country.”

Explanation – It is true that the Parliament acts as the Centre of all democratic processes in India. The Statement does not say that it is the sole centre of democratic processes in India. So, the fact that the State Legislatures are also centres of democratic processes, does not get negated by the given statement. Hence, the statement remains correct.