

CBSE CLASS 9 SOCIAL SCIENCE

Democratic Politics – I (Political Science)

CHAPTER 4: WORKING OF INSTITUTIONS

ULTIMATE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS BANK WITH MODEL ANSWERS

Strictly Structured on the Latest NCERT Syllabus & CBSE Secondary School
Examination Blueprint



KEY PEDAGOGICAL ELEMENTS INCLUDED:

- **Comprehensive Content Matrices:** Focused 1-Mark statements, structural 3-Mark definitions, and high-probability 5-Mark long-form comparative answers.
- **Three Pillars of State:** Deep analytical exploration of the Legislature (Parliament), Executive (Political and Permanent), and Judiciary.
- **Constitutional Frameworks:** Comprehensive coverage of institutional interactions, policy-making procedures (Mandal Commission), and jurisdictional separations.
- **Advanced Competency Testing:** Real-world situation analysis blocks, source extracts, and robust Assertion-Reason logic panels.

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SECTION 1: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Q1. Why are political institutions necessary in a democratic government? Explain their importance. FREQUENTLY REPEATED

In a democracy, governance is not managed by a single individual but through a structured network of arrangements called institutions. They are essential for several reasons:

- **Distribution of State Functions:** Institutions ensure a clear division of labor. For example, the Parliament formulates laws, the Executive implements decisions, and the Judiciary resolves legal disputes.
- **Ensuring Policy Stability:** Institutions operate according to written constitutional rules and procedures. This prevents governance from changing arbitrarily based on the personal whims of individual leaders.
- **Consultation and Consensus:** By involving multiple bodies in decision-making, institutions build in consultation and debate, which helps reduce the risk of rash or biased laws.
- **Providing Recourse Mechanisms:** If a government decision creates grievances, institutions like the judiciary provide citizens with a structured platform to challenge the state and seek resolution.



EXAM BOOSTER: CORE VALUABLE DEFINITION

Office Memorandum: A formal communication or document issued by an authorized department of the government stating a policy decision, executive order, or administrative directive of the state (e.g., O.M. No. 36012/31/90-Estt(SCT) dated August 13, 1990, which implemented the Mandal Commission recommendation).

Q2. Why is the Lok Sabha considered more powerful than the Rajya Sabha, even though the Rajya Sabha is designated as the 'Upper House'? ANNUAL EXAM CLASSIC

The Indian Constitution gives the Rajya Sabha special powers regarding the states, but establishes the Lok Sabha as the supreme authority on national matters through several key constitutional provisions:

1. **Ordinary Laws:** Any ordinary law must be passed by both Houses. However, if a deadlock arises between them, a joint session is called. Because the Lok Sabha holds a much larger membership, its perspective is highly likely to prevail.

Financial Matters (Money Bills): The Lok Sabha holds absolute authority over financial legislation. Once the Lok Sabha passes the government budget or a money bill, the Rajya Sabha cannot reject it; it can only delay it for a maximum of 14 days or suggest modifications, which the Lok Sabha is not bound to accept.

2. **Control Over the Executive:** The Lok Sabha directly controls the Council of Ministers. If a majority of Lok Sabha members declare a 'No-Confidence Motion', the Prime Minister and all ministers must resign. The Rajya Sabha holds no such power to dismiss the government.

SECTION 2: PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION COLLECTION

Q3. Differentiate clearly between the 'Political Executive' and the 'Permanent Executive' in a democratic administration.

CBSE PAST YEAR FOCUS

The executive branch of a democratic government is divided into two distinct tiers, which function as follows:

FEATURE	POLITICAL EXECUTIVE	PERMANENT EXECUTIVE
Tenure	Elected by the citizens for a fixed, short-term period (typically 5 years).	Appointed on a long-term basis based on institutional merit, remaining in office until retirement age.
Composition	Includes political leaders like the Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, and Ministers of State.	Composed of civil servants, bureaucrats, administrative officers (e.g., IAS, IPS personnel).
Authority & Scope	Holds final decision-making power because they represent the direct will of the voters in a democracy.	Acts as experts who assist the political executive by providing data, advice, and executing policies.
Accountability	Directly accountable to the Parliament and the public through periodic elections.	Accountable to administrative rules and reports to the political executive, remaining politically neutral.

SECTION 3: VERY SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (1 MARK)

Q4. What is Parliament?

A national assembly of elected representatives that holds supreme legislative authority to formulate and amend laws in a democracy.

Q5. Name the two houses that make up the Parliament of India.

The Lok Sabha (House of the People) and the Rajya Sabha (Council of States).

Q6. Who officially heads the state of India, acting as the highest formal authority in the country?

The President of India.

Q7. Who holds the position of the head of government in India, exercising active executive powers?

The Prime Minister of India.

Q8. What was the core recommendation of the Second Backward Classes Commission (Mandal Commission)?

To reserve exactly 27 percent of government jobs and educational seats for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC).

Q9. Who chaired the Second Backward Classes Commission appointed in 1979?

B.P. Mandal.

Q10. Define the term 'Coalition Government'.

A government formed by an alliance of two or more political parties when no single party wins an absolute majority in the parliament.

Q11. What is the 'Council of Ministers'?

The official body that includes all ministers appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister, typically numbering 60 to 80.

Q12. What is the 'Cabinet' within the Council of Ministers?

The inner ring of senior ministers (usually 20 to 25 leaders) who hold key portfolios like Defense, Finance, and Home Affairs, and make major policy decisions.

Q13. Define 'Judicial Review'.

The constitutional power of the Supreme Court and High Courts to review the legal validity of laws passed by the legislature or actions taken by the executive, and declare them invalid if they violate the Constitution.

Q14. What is a 'No-Confidence Motion'?

A legislative resolution introduced in the Lok Sabha which, if passed by a majority vote, forces the Prime Minister and the entire Council of Ministers to resign.

Q15. Who is the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha?

The Vice-President of India.

SECTION 4: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (2–3 MARKS)

Q16. Explain the role and composition of the Rajya Sabha in the Indian federal framework.

The Rajya Sabha acts as the Council of States, designed to represent and protect the interests of India's states and union territories at the federal level. It has a maximum of 250 members, with 12 members directly nominated by the President for their contributions to science, art, literature, and social service. The remaining members are elected indirectly by the elected members of State Legislative Assemblies. As a permanent house, it cannot be dissolved all at once; instead, one-third of its members retire every two years, ensuring continuity in representation.

Q17. Explain how the principle of 'Collective Responsibility' governs the working of the Council of Ministers.

Collective responsibility means that the Council of Ministers functions as a single cohesive unit under the leadership of the Prime Minister. All ministers are jointly responsible to the Parliament for every policy decision taken by the Cabinet. Even if a minister disagrees with a decision during internal meetings, they must publicly support and defend it once it is finalized. If the Lok Sabha passes a No-Confidence Motion against the government, the entire ministry must resign together, demonstrating that they stand or fall as a collective body.



THE THREE PILLARS OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

- **Legislature (Parliament):** Deliberates, debates, and formulates the statutory laws of the nation.
- **Executive (Cabinet & Bureaucracy):** Implements, enforces, and executes policies authorized by Parliament.
- **Judiciary (Courts System):** Interprets the laws, settles legal disputes, and protects constitutional integrity.

SECTION 5: LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS (5 MARKS)

Q18. Analyze the powers and functions of the Prime Minister of India, explaining why they are recognized as the core driver of the democratic government.

The Prime Minister holds a central position in the Indian constitutional structure, exercising extensive executive powers that shape the direction of government:

- 1. Leadership of the Council of Ministers:** The Prime Minister recommends the appointment of ministers to the President and assigns specific portfolios to them. They chair all Cabinet meetings and coordinate the work of different departments, with their decisions serving as the final word in any inter-departmental disagreements.
- 2. Authority to Dismiss Ministers:** The Prime Minister exercises central control over the cabinet, holding the power to redistribute portfolios or dismiss ministers who fail to align with government policies. If the Prime Minister resigns, the entire Council of Ministers is automatically dissolved.
- 3. Link Between President and Parliament:** The Prime Minister serves as the primary channel of communication between the President and the Cabinet, advising the head of state on major appointments, foreign treaties, and legislative plans.
- 4. Leader of the House:** As the leader of the majority party in the Lok Sabha, the Prime Minister shapes the government's legislative goals, defends state policies on the floor, and answers critical questions during debates.
- 5. National Face and Media Hub:** In modern political landscapes, the Prime Minister represents the face of the nation during international summits and serves as the primary spokesperson for the government's goals to the public, giving them significant influence over state policy.

SECTION 6: CASE-BASED QUESTIONS

SOURCE TEXT: INSTITUTIONAL DEADLOCKS AND JUDICIAL SUPREMACY

"The independence of the judiciary means that it is not under the control of the legislature or the executive. The judges do not act on the direction of the government or according to the wishes of the party in power. That is why all modern democracies have courts that are independent of the legislature and the executive. India has an integrated judiciary. It means the Supreme Court controls the judicial administration in the country. Its decisions are binding on all other courts of the country. It can determine the constitutional validity of any legislation."

Q19. Based on the source text, answer the following questions:

(i) What is meant by the 'independence of the judiciary' as outlined in the text?

It means the judiciary operates free from control by the legislative or executive branches. Judges are empowered to rule based on the law and the Constitution, without following directives from the ruling party or government officials.

(ii) Explain the meaning and significance of an 'integrated judiciary' in India.

An integrated judiciary means India has a single, unified system of courts where the Supreme Court serves as the highest authority, overseeing all lower bodies. Its rulings are legally binding on all High Courts and District Courts nationwide, ensuring uniform interpretation of the law across all states.

SECTION 7: ASSERTION AND REASON QUESTIONS

STANDARD EVALUATION DIRECTIONS

Evaluate the statements and select the correct option:

- A:** Both Assertion and Reason are true, and Reason is the correct explanation of Assertion.
- B:** Both Assertion and Reason are true, but Reason is not the correct explanation of Assertion.
- C:** Assertion is true, but Reason is false.
- D:** Assertion is false, but Reason is true.

Q20. Assertion (A): The President of India exercises all constitutional powers primarily as a formal, titular head of state.

Reason (R): The Indian Constitution establishes a parliamentary system of democracy where the President is bound to act on the advice of the Council of Ministers led by the Prime Minister.

Answer: A

Explanation: Both statements are true, and the reason correctly explains that because India uses a parliamentary system, real executive power belongs to the Prime Minister as head of government, while the President serves as a formal head of state who acts on ministerial advice.

SECTION 8: COMPETENCY-BASED QUESTIONS

Q21. Why does the Constitution provide judges of the Supreme Court with a highly secure tenure, making it exceptionally difficult to remove them from office? Analyze the institutional objective.

The Constitution guarantees judges a secure tenure to protect the independence of the judiciary from political interference:

- **Preventing Executive Intimidation:** If judges could be easily dismissed by a changing legislative majority, they might feel pressured to rule in favor of the government to keep their positions.
- **Upholding Constitutional Objectivity:** A secure tenure allows judges to evaluate laws and executive actions impartially. They can rule against the state when necessary to protect citizen rights and enforce the rule of law, without fear of political retaliation. Supreme Court judges can only be removed through a complex impeachment process requiring a two-thirds majority in both houses of Parliament, a safeguard that preserves judicial independence.

SECTION 9: SOURCE AND SITUATION-BASED QUESTIONS

Q22. Suppose a newly elected majority party in Parliament attempts to pass a law that bans citizens from forming peaceful associations or trade unions. Explain how India's institutional framework addresses this situation and what remedies are available to citizens.

India's institutional checks and balances address this type of legislative action through clear remedies:

- **Invoking Judicial Review:** Citizens or groups can challenge the new law directly in the High Courts or the Supreme Court, arguing that it violates their Fundamental Rights (specifically Article 19, which guarantees freedom of association).
- **Striking Down Unconstitutional Acts:** The Supreme Court has the authority to review the law under its power of **Judicial Review**. If the court finds the law violates constitutional protections, it can declare the act invalid and unconstitutional, rendering it legally unenforceable and protecting citizen liberties.

SECTION 10: MOST IMPORTANT EXAM QUESTIONS

★ **HIGHEST PROBABILITY QUESTION:** Detail the powers and functions of the President of India, explaining the specific discretionary powers available to the office.

The President of India serves as the formal head of state, with all executive actions officially taken in their name. Their primary powers and functions include:

- **Executive Powers:** The President appoints the Prime Minister and, on their advice, appoints the other members of the Council of Ministers. They also appoint high officials like the Chief Justice of India, Governors of states, and Ambassadors to other countries.
- **Legislative Powers:** A bill passed by both houses of Parliament can only become law after receiving the President's assent. The President has the power to return non-money bills to Parliament for reconsideration; however, if Parliament passes the bill a second time, the President is bound to sign it.
- **Military and Diplomatic Powers:** The President serves as the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of India and approves all international treaties and agreements negotiated by the government.
- **Discretionary Powers:** While the President generally acts on the advice of the Council of Ministers, they hold critical discretionary power in a ****Hung Parliament****. When no political party wins a clear majority in the Lok Sabha, the President uses their discretion to appoint a leader who, in their judgment, can form a stable coalition and prove their majority through a vote of confidence.

SECTION 11: CHAPTER QUICK REVISION

INSTANT REVISION SUMMARIES

- **Institutions:** Structured arrangements and bodies mandated by the Constitution to manage a nation's governance.
- **Coalition:** An alliance of separate parties working together to secure a legislative majority and form a government.
- **Public Interest Litigation (PIL):** A legal mechanism that allows any citizen or organization to file a case in the Supreme Court or High Courts to protect the public interest against state negligence.
- **Impeachment:** A formal parliamentary process used to remove high officials, such as the President or judges of the Supreme Court, requiring a two-thirds majority vote in both houses.

SECTION 12: COMMON MISTAKES STUDENTS MAKE

COMMON EXAM ERRORS TO AVOID:

1. **Confusing Government and Parliament:** Students often use 'Parliament' and 'Government' interchangeably. Remember that the *Parliament* is the entire legislative body containing all elected representatives from both ruling and opposition parties. The *Government* (Executive) consists only of the ruling ministers who implement laws and run the administration.
2. **Misunderstanding Cabinet vs Council of Ministers:** Do not write that the Cabinet and the Council of Ministers are identical. The Council of Ministers is a larger body that includes all 60-80 appointed ministers, while the Cabinet is a smaller inner circle of 20-25 senior leaders who make major policy decisions.

SECTION 13: LAST-MINUTE REVISION SHEET

THE ULTIMATE WORKING OF INSTITUTIONS CHEAT SHEET

Core Structural Rule: India uses an integrated judiciary, meaning rulings issued by the Supreme Court are legally binding on all lower courts, ensuring uniform interpretation of the law across all states.

The No-Confidence Rule: The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha. If a No-Confidence Motion passes in the lower house, the entire ministry must resign together, demonstrating that they stand or fall as a collective body.