

Lesson 4

SOCIAL STUDIES

CLASS VIII

UNION LEGISLATURE

Q1.NAME THE COMPONENTS OF OUR UNION LEGISLATURE.

A1. The components of our union legislature are :

*The President

* The Lok Sabha

* The Rajya Sabha.

Q2. WHO CAN VOTE IN THE LOK SABHA ELECTIONS?

A2. All citizens of India who are 18 years or above can vote in the Lok Sabha elections.

Q3.WHY IS VOTING DONE BY SECRET BALLOT?

A3.The voting is done through secret ballot so that the voter is not coerced, or forced to vote for a particular party and he may vote without fear or favour.

Q4.WHAT IS DONE DURING THE QUESTION HOUR?

A4. The first hour of every sitting of the Parliament is called the QUESTION HOUR.

During this hour the ministers answer questions sent in advance by the opposition M.Ps.

The replies are debated upon to bring out the policy flaws of the government.

Q5.WHAT IS THE MAIN FUNCTION OF THE PARLIAMENT?

A5 . The main function of the parliament is to legislate ie make laws for the country.

Q6.WHAT IS A BILL?

A6. The proposal for a law presented in either house of the parliament is called a BILL.

Q7.WHAT IS BUDGET? WHAT DOES IT SHOW?

A7.The budget is the annual financial statement of the government.

It gives an account of the expected income and the proposed expenditure of the government.

It also has the proposals for new taxes or welfare schemes.

The budget has to be passed by the parliament. If it fails to do so, the government has to resign.

Q8.WHICH HIGH OFFICIALS CAN BE IMPEACHED BY THE PARLIAMENT?

A8. The President, The Vice President; The Chief Justice of India, Judges of Supreme court and High court can be impeached by the Parliament.

Q9.WHO CAN CONTEST LOK SABHA ELECTIONS?

A9. To contest the elections of Lok Sabha, a person must have the following qualifications:

- * He/She should be an Indian citizen at least 25 years of age.
- * He/She should not be bankrupt or mentally unsound.
- * He/She should not hold any salaried government post.
- * He/She should not have been convicted of a criminal offence.

Q10.WHO FORMS THE GOVERNMENT AFTER THE LOK SABHA ELECTIONS?

A10.The party(or the group of parties that contested the election together as a PRE POLL COALITION) which gets the majority of seats i.e 272 or more in the Lok Sabha forms the government.

Q11.WHO IS THE CHAIRMAN OF RAJYA SABHA ? WHY IS HE CALLED THE EX-OFFICIO CHAIRMAN?

A11. The Vice President of India is the Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

He becomes the Chairman by the virtue of his post of the Vice President, thus he is called the Ex-Officio chairman.

Q12. ON WHICH SUBJECTS DOES THE PARLIAMENT USUALLY LEGISLATE?

A12.The Parliament usually legislates on the 97 subjects in the UNION LIST.

Q13. WHAT ARE CONCURRENT SUBJECTS? WHO LEGISLATES ON THEM?

A13. There are 52 subjects on the CONCURRENT LIST on which both the Centre and state can legislate. In case of a tussle, the will of the centre reigns supreme.

Eg. Marriage, divorce, Education.

Q13. WRITE A NOTE ON THE RESIDUARY POWERS OF THE PARLIAMENT?

A13.Residuary powers refers to the power to legislate on those subjects that have not been mentioned in any list and were probably not relevant when the constitution was framed.

Only the Union Parliament can make laws on these subjects.

Eg.Gay rights, Cyber crimes.

Q14.WHAT IS MEANT BY ZERO HOUR?

A14. Its the time between the question hour and the business of the house.

In this hour, the members can ask any question or discuss any issue of public interest.

Q15.HOW DOES A BILL BECOME A LAW?

A15. A bill has to pass through THREE READINGS before it becomes a law.

FIRST READING: A bill is first tabled in either house of the Parliament. The M.P tabling it explains its purpose and all members get a copy of the bill.

SECOND READING: In it the merits of the bill are debated and discussed in detail ; changes might be suggested .The bill may be referred to a SELECT COMMITTEE or A JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

THIRD READING: *In the third reading, the bill is put to vote.

*If it passes by the majority vote, it goes to the other house where the same procedure is followed.

*If the second house recommends some changes and these are not acceptable to the first house, the President calls A JOINT SESSION and if passed, the bill is sent to the President.

* The President either signs the bill or may send it back to the parliament with suggested changes. The Parliament may or may not accept the changes and if it sends the bill back to the President, The President has to SIGN OR RESIGN.

* When the bill is signed by the President, it becomes a law and is called AN ACT.

Q16. WHAT IS A JOINT SESSION? WHO PRESIDES OVER IT?

A16. When both the houses of the parliament are unable to agree upon a bill or the changes to be made in it, then THE PRESIDENT CALLS FOR A JOINT SESSION.

THE SPEAKER OF THE LOK SABHA presides over the joint session.

Q17. HOW DOES THE PARLIAMENT KEEP THE MINISTERS ACCOUNTABLE?

A17. The Parliament keeps the ministers accountable by the following ways:

* Asking questions in the question hour.

* Discussing issues of public interest during the zero hour .

* Introducing the Vote of No confidence in the Lok Sabha.

Q18. MENTION THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LOK SABHA AND RAJYA SABHA?

A 18. * The Lok Sabha has 545 members while the Rajya Sabha has 250.

* The minimum age to contest for Lok Sabha is 25 years but for Rajya Sabha it's 30.

* The M.Ps of Lok Sabha are directly elected but those of the Rajya Sabha are elected indirectly.

* Lok Sabha has more powers than Rajya Sabha on money bill.

* Lok Sabha has a term of 5 years while Rajya Sabha is a permanent house.

*The no confidence motion can be presented only in the Lok Sabha.

*Lok Sabha can be dissolved before its tenure is over but Rajya Sabha cannot be.

* The Speaker of the Lok Sabha is elected by the members of Lok Sabha but the vice president of India is the ex officio chairman of Rajya Sabha.

Q19. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT, 2006?

A 19. Its purpose is to save the women from physical, mental, emotional and sexual violence at home.

This disallows the throwing out of women from their homes and thus assures them greater dignity and security.

Q20. WHO FORMS THE OPPOSITION?

A20. The party or parties that are unable to win majority in the Lok Sabha sit in the opposition.

Opposition is the watch dog of democracy. It guards the interests of the people and attacks the government on its wrong policies.