

THE ELECTORAL PROCESS, FUNCTIONS OF GOVERNMENTS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD

BRITAIN

Britain comprises England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The country has evolved a parliamentary system of government over the years.

The Saxon Kings who invaded Britain in the 5th Century AD had absolute powers- ruling without consulting the citizens, and their positions were hereditary. However, in the 12th century AD, they introduced the parliamentary system. They agreed that the kings/queens could only rule according to the laws of the land that should be made by the representatives of the people. This was what came to be known as a constitutional monarchy.

The electoral process in Britain

The British government is based on the party system. Elections for party leaders are held separately before the general elections. The three main parties are the Conservative Party, Liberal Party and Labour Party.

Unlike USA and other major democratic states outside commonwealth, there is no fixed date for British parliamentary elections. The date of a general election is decided upon by the prime Minister.

The Choice of a date of elections is influenced by the following factors;

1. The economic situation that is the availability of funds.
2. The state of the government's legislative programme in the House of Commons.
3. The desire to increase government support in parliament.

The electoral system for the House of Commons is based on the principle of 'one person, one vote'

There are two types of elections for the House of Commons.

- ~ General elections where members of the House of Commons are elected for a 5-year term.
- ~ By-elections in the event of resignation, death or resignation of a member of parliament.

There are also local elections in which representatives of local authorities (councillors) are voted for and are held every 4 years. The local authorities include the District Councils, London Boroughs, Metropolitan districts and Regional and island councils.

In Britain, there are also euro-elections, first introduced in 1979, in which representatives to the European Union parliament are chosen. 81 MPs were elected in 1979.

Voter Registration

It is the local authorities that hold the responsibility of registering voters. Since 1948, a postal vote is possible for citizens who are away from their constituencies during the voting period, either on business or other reasons.

The following categories of people qualify to vote in Britain;

- a) British Citizens over the age of 18 years.
- b) Citizens from commonwealth countries who have resided in Britain for periods stipulated by law.
- c) Citizens of the republic of Ireland who have been residents for periods stipulated by law.

The following are ineligible to vote in Britain.

- a) Persons of unsound mind.
- b) Convicts detained in a prison.
- c) Persons convicted of corrupt or illegal practices in connection with elections cannot vote for five years from the date of conviction.
- d) Adults whose names do not appear on the register of voters.
- e) Peers or members of the House of Lords

A candidate who wishes to contest for a parliamentary seat in Britain must fulfil the following conditions;

- a) He/she must be a British citizen or a common subject or a citizen of the republic of Ireland.
- b) He/she must be of a minimum age of 21 years.
- c) He/ she must be nominated by a political party or be an independent candidate.

The following are disqualified from vying for a parliamentary seat in Britain.

- a) English/Scottish peers who have the right to sit in the House of Lords.
- b) Clergy of the Church of England, or the Church of Ireland, Ministers of the church of Scotland, and Roman Catholic priests.
- c) Aliens.
- d) Certified Lunatics.
- e) Undisputed bankrupts.
- f) Convicted persons.
- g) Persons who have committed illegal practices during elections like corruption.
- h) Members of the armed forces.

Candidates vie for 650 parliamentary seats.

The candidates are either nominated by respective parties or stand as independent candidates and need not reside in the constituencies as long as they register as voters in that constituency. Once nomination of candidates has taken place, campaigns are allowed for two weeks before voting

Each candidate appoints an election agent to manage the finances and protect the interests of the candidate during the campaign. The agent also explains the candidate's party policies and identifies party supporters within the constituency. He/she familiarizes the candidate's name to prospective voters.

Election officials work hand in hand with party agents during Election Day.

Each candidate must deposit 500 sterling pounds with the registrar, which is returned in the event that the candidate garners over 5% of the total vote in the constituency.

Elections in Britain are by *plurality*. Candidates who get the highest of votes win the elections.

The party that secures most parliamentary seats is declared winner and is asked to form the next government. *Emphasis is on number of seats not votes cast.*

The House of Lords members are drawn from people with high offices. E.g. bishops, distinguished scientists and artists, great sportsmen, retired judges etc

Functions of Government in Britain

The British government operates around four basic institutions;

- a) The Monarchy.
- b) The Legislature.

- c) The Executive.
- d) The Judiciary.

The Monarchy

In Britain, the Monarchy is represented by the queen. The Monarch assent to all legislations, The Monarch appoints the PM and approves the cabinet

Other Functions of the Monarchy

- a) The monarch as head of state advises government
- b) The monarch summons, prorogues and dissolve parliament in consultation with the Prime Minister.
- c) The Monarch gives royal assent to bills passed by parliament to become law.
- d) Management of the country's foreign policy including enactment of treaties.
- e) It confers honours to persons who have rendered distinguished services. For example, the peerages to become Lords or knights and will be referred to as LADY OR 'Sir'
- f) The Monarch approves appointments to important state offices such as judges, senior members of the armed forces and civil service.
- g) The monarch pardons and gives reprieve to people who have been accused of committing various offences.
- h) The Monarch appoints Bishops and Archbishops of the Anglican Church.

NB; At the beginning of each new session of parliament, the monarch addresses both Houses together in the House of Lords to mark the formal opening of parliament. In the address, the monarch outlines government proposed legislations for the coming session.

Importance of the monarchy to the British people

- a) The presence of the monarchy helps to give some continuity to executive policy.
- b) It inspires the head of government with a sense of responsibility and dignity.
- c) It acts as a useful counsellor to the head of government.
- d) It is the symbol of commonwealth unity.
- e) It sets standards for social life. The presence of members of the royalty at the inauguration of scientific, artistic and charitable works ensures nationwide support.
- f) The royal family pays state visits to foreign government and undertakes tours in other countries of the commonwealth, hence contributing to better understanding between Britain and other nations.

The Legislature/parliament.

It is made up of the monarchy, House of Lords and House of commons.

The following are ways through which one can gain membership to parliament in Britain;

- a) Elections.
- b) Nominations
- c) Inheritance.
- d) By Virtue of office. E.g. members of the House of Lords maintain their parliamentary seat whenever a new parliament is constituted.

Parliament is a supreme institution in Britain. It passes changes or repeals laws without being vetoed by the courts of law.

How parliamentary supremacy is demonstrated in Britain.

- a) Parliament makes amends and abolishes laws. No other institution can do that.
- b) Branches of government operate under the laws passed by parliament. /parliament is the supreme institution in Britain and all other institutions derive their power from it.
- c) Parliament can pass a vote of no confidence in the executive. / has powers to remove any unpopular government from office.

- d) It approves government revenue and expenditure. / It is the only institution empowered to approve government budget.
- e) Decisions of parliament are binding to all. They cannot be overruled or nullified by a court of law.

The House of Lords

Membership to The House of Lords is based on nomination by the monarch or by hereditary principle. Some membership is through holding senior positions within the Church of England. Consists of 1200 members 800 of whom are hereditary peers, 26 are Bishops and 21 are Lords of Appeal.

One can become a member of the House of Lords in the following ways;

1. Through nomination by the monarch.
2. When one holds hereditary parentage position. Normally the eldest male member of the family inherits the position.
3. Through holding some senior position in the society e.g. within the Church of England - Archbishop of Canterbury.

Members of the House of Lords only receive sitting allowances. Only the Lords of Appeal receive annual salaries.

Role played by the House of Lords in the British parliamentary system

- a) The house of lords checks the powers of the House of Commons and therefore prevents nasty legislation. Bills from the House of Commons have to go to the House of Lords for debate and approval.
- b) It addresses non-controversial bills that the lower house has no time to address.
- c) The house of lords holds bills from the lower house long enough to seek public approval.
- d) The House of Lords questions ministers about the activities of government and stages debates on general issues of national policy.
- e) It seats as a court of appeal for criminal cases. on such occasions , the court is presided over by the lord chancellor (speaker of the house)
- f) It provides a forum for utilization of the talents of people who could not win a general election. These people are created peers by the queen and become members of the House of Lords.
- g) It enhances unity in the country as newcomers are created lords by the queen and then become members of the House of Lords.
- h) It provides continuity in operation of parliament. Old experienced peers retain their seats in the House of Lords until they die, so provide guidance to new and young politicians.

House of Commons

It is the major legislative arm of the government. It comprises 650 elected members representing constituencies. The leader of the House is the P.M. The chief officer is the speaker who is elected at the start of a new parliamentary session.

Functions of the House of Commons

- a) Discusses makes and amends laws. However, the monarchy and the house of Lords have powers to veto such laws.
- b) Approves government revenue and expenditure. It controls finances. No taxes can be imposed without the consent of the House of Commons.
- c) It has powers to pass a vote of No confidence in the executive (Check the powers of the executive to ensure that the rule of law is maintained).
- d) Debates on matters of national interest.
- e) It directs government policy and keeps development programmes on track.
- f) It is a training ground for future leaders.

Factors which influence the activities of Parliament in Britain

- a) Members of the House of Commons must consider the moral values of the British society before making any decision.
- b) Parliamentarians are always sensitive to public opinion because any unpopular government or party risks not being re-elected.
- c) Local authorities are empowered to make by-laws even without consulting parliament.
- d) Interests of the institutions under the spotlight are always taken into account before legislation is done in parliament. E.g. the Church, Universities, Farmers, trade Unions etc.
- e) Legislation passed by one parliament can be changed by another future one.
- f) International law is also taken into account when laws are made.

NB; these are the factors that limit the parliamentary supremacy in Britain.

The executive

The executive is made up of the Prime Minister, the cabinet and the civil service.

The Prime Minister

Appointed by the monarch, being the leader of the political party that controls an absolute majority, He/she is the Chief executive of the country.

He performs the following functions;

- a) Appoints and dismisses Cabinet ministers with the consent of the monarch.
- b) He/she recommends to the sovereign the appointment of senior civil servants such as the chief Justice, High Commissioners.
- c) He/she represents Britain in international fora.
- d) He/she controls the cabinet secretariat and oversees the execution of cabinet decisions by various departments.
- e) He/she is the leader of the party that nominates him/her.
- f) He/she settles disputes between various departments.
- g) He/she is the leader of the House of Commons.
- h) He/she initiates both domestic and foreign policies.

The Cabinet

The cabinet is made of the ministers appointed by the P.M with the approval of the monarch and nominated from the party with the majority of seats.

The cabinet performs the following functions;

- a) The cabinet ministers institute policies that guide the operations in the various departments of the ministry.
- b) Cabinet determines the policy to present to parliament for consideration.
- c) Cabinet is responsible for the coordination of government activity. E.g. all ministers must implement cabinet decisions with regard to their department.

The following conventions provide guidance on the operation of the cabinet;

- a) Once a government is defeated, on a major issue or on a vote of no confidence, it is expected to resign. A government whose party is defeated in General elections is expected to resign.
- b) The cabinet is drawn from the House of Commons and the House of Lords.
- c) The entire cabinet comes from the same political party of majority seats except during a crisis like war. Since 1945, Britain has never embraced a coalition.
- d) The advice offered by the cabinet must be accepted by the monarch, failure to which a crisis can occur.
- e) All members of the cabinet take the Oath of the Privy councillors and are bound to Secrecy by this oath and the official secrets Act.
- f) Members of the cabinet are collectively responsible for all decisions and actions as well as individually responsible of the departments they head.

The Civil Service

The British law stipulates the civil servants are servants of the crown. A civil servant is expected to non-partisan and to serve the government of the day without favour. Civil service staff does not change with change of government.

Recruitment In the civil service is based on merit.

Functions of the civil Service in Britain

- a) It implements ministerial policies as agreed by parliament.
- b) It assists in formulation of policies and generation of policy proposals.
- c) It manages government administrative machinery.
- d) It carries out normal duties that public administration demands.

Principles that characterize the British civil service

- a) The tradition of anonymity. Civil servants are taken to be carrying out the instructions of minister. Ministers get all the credit for all good, as well as censure for all that is criticized.
- b) The principal of civil service impartiality. Those civil services are expected to serve whichever minister is in office without partiality. Senior civil servants are not permitted to take part in national politics except voting.
- c) Ministers make policies and civil servants execute the policies.
- d) The tradition of assumption that it is not the task of the civil service to initiate change or take responsibility for planning future lines of social and economic development.

The Judiciary

The judiciary in Britain is based on the supremacy of the law. To safeguard the rule of law, the British Judiciary has an independent court system.

How judicial independence is ensured in Britain.

- a) The salaries of judges are not open to discussion by parliament.
- b) Since 1701, judges have always been appointed on good behaviour until retirement.
- c) A Judge can only be dismissed by a resolution from both houses.

The structure of the British Court System

(Further reading encouraged)

Components of the British constitution

- e) Statutes or acts of parliament e.g. act of union with Scotland of 1707.
- f) Customs-the accepted traditions e.g. the first-born of the sovereign succeeds the king /queen.
- g) Law of precedence-judges apply accepted principles to new set of facts.
- h) Custom of parliament e.g. the procedures of the two houses.
- i) Historical documents e.g. the Magna Carta.

THE USA

The origin of USA dates back to 1776, when the thirteen British Colonies declared their independence from Britain. USA is a federal government, a form of representative democracy comprising a union of 50 states

It adopted a new constitution in 1787 and has the following features.

- a) It is Federal in nature.
- b) A written constitution.
- c) Bill of rights is contained in it.
- d) The Supreme Court can only interpret it.
- e) Legislature is Bi-cameral i.e. the senate & the House of Representatives forming the congress/two houses.
- f) It caters for the separation of powers.
- g) Does not provide for secession of a member state.
- h) Federal government and individual states share power through their senators in congress i.e. in making laws.
- i) The president is the head of the federal government and governors are heads of state.
- j) It is the supreme law of the land.
- k) Amendment can only be done through a clearly laid down procedure.

The electoral process in USA

There are three types of election held in USA.

- a) The election of the president.
- b) Congressional elections
- c) The state election involving election of state governors and state legislatures.

All candidates vying for various seats must be American citizens and must be residents in the area they aspire to represent

Age limit is 25 years for the representatives and 35 years for the president.

During the election year party primaries are held between March and May to choose presidential candidates.

Party conventions are held in July to confirm winners of the primary elections.

Each presidential candidate picks a running mate who becomes the vice president if the presidential candidate wins.

Presidential elections are held after every 4 years (on 2nd November).

The election of the president is determined indirectly by the Electoral College that comprises electors appointed by each state.

When a presidential candidate wins the popular vote in a state, he automatically wins all the state's electors.

Direct elections are done through popular vote of one man one vote.

Senators and members of the House of Representatives are elected after every two years.

Senators serve for a period of six years with a third of them elected after every 2 years.

Members of the House of Representatives serve for four years and are elected on party basis.

Each state elects 2 representatives to the senate making a total of 100 senators for the 50 states.

Election of House of Representatives is on the basis of state population. For example, the largest state, California has 52 representatives while Wyoming, the smallest has only one representative.

State governors and legislators are elected after every 4 years.

Features of the US system of government

- a) The federal government is made up of the legislature, executive and the judiciary.
- b) Each state within the federal government functions as a republic and enjoys equal status.
- c) The federal government and independent states share the power of formulating and enforcing laws.
- d) All states have their constitutions but they should not be contradicting to the Federal Constitution.
- e) The Supreme Court interprets the constitution.
- f) The congress (Senate and the House of Representatives) is the body entrusted with legislative powers.
- g) Senate membership is through popular vote of two members from each state for a period of six years.
- h) The House of Representatives members are elected for a period of two years based on the size of the population. However, each state has to have at least one representative.
- i) All treaties and appointments by the president have to be ratified by the senate.
- j) Presidential vote must be supported by two thirds of the votes of the house.
- k) The Supreme Court made up of the chief justice and eight associate judges heads federal judiciary.
- l) The president appoints federal judges with the approval of the senate.
- m) Courts in the judiciary include the court of appeal, the district courts and other special courts, all formed by the congress.
- n) All criminal cases are handled in the courts except the cases of impeachment, which are voted by the house with the approval of the senate.
- o) Foreign policy and Defence is the preserve of the Federal Government.

Features of the state governments of U.S.A.

- a) Each state has a governor.
- b) Each state has a law court those carters for internal affairs.
- c) Each state provides educational, health facilities and public amenities for the welfare of the residents.
- d) Each state is responsible for its own development.
- e) Each state generates its own revenue necessary for discharging its responsibility.
- f) Each state has a bicameral legislature.
- g) Each state has a state police that maintains law and order.

Limitations of state governments in USA

- a) No state is permitted to enter any treaty, alliance or confederation with other states or countries.
- b) No state may make her own currency.
- c) States are forbidden, unless congress approves, to levy duties on imports or exports.
- d) States are prohibited from maintaining armed forces.
- e) States are prohibited from entering into any agreement with foreign powers or engaging in war.

How the conduct of USA president is checked

- a) The senate approves presidential appointees to executive positions.
- b) Congress can refuse to approve the use of government funds for a foreign policy it disagrees with. E.g. war.
- c) The congress can impeach a sitting president if his conduct while in office is wanting.
- d) The Supreme Court has powers to declare that the president has acted unconstitutionally, a verdict which can damage his status.
- e) Any president is limited by the constitution to two four-year terms in office.
- f) Opinion polls normally reflect the wishes and feelings of the American people, which the sitting president cannot ignore.
- g) The mass media monitors and reports to the general public every action or speech of the president.

Functions of the political parties in USA'

- a) Make electoral policies coherent.
- b) The party level helps voters to sort out through the candidates as parties usually stand for different policies.
- c) Parties help to put the desire of the people on the government policy agenda.
- d) Parties provide outlets for citizens to express their sentiments about nominees.
- e) Political party system provides accountability when the policies of the party fails/ voters hold candidates accountable.

Differences existing between the House of Representatives and the senate in terms of membership

- a) The house of representatives is larger with more than 436 members whereas the senate has only 100 members.
- b) The house of representatives has short period of office (2 years) but the senate is on for a long period of office (6 years)
- c) Members of the House of Representatives are elected by constituencies whereas the senate is elected by the state.
- d) Easier qualification for candidates for membership to the House of Representatives. The senate demands stricter qualifications.
- e) The house of representatives is less prestigious than the senate.
- f) Rules of the House of Representatives are more rigid than the rules governing the senate.

Functions of the USA president

- a) He is the head of state.
- b) He appoints cabinet ministers and senior civil servants with approval of the congress.
- c) He is the commander-in-chief of the armed forces.
- d) He is the head of the federal government of USA and the defender of its constitution.
- e) The president formulates the public policy.
- f) He can veto or override bills passed by the congress.
- g) As a head of the party in power, the president influences public opinion and thereby guides the course of the congress.
- h) He guides and controls foreign affairs and makes treaties.

India.

Describe the Indian electoral process.

- a) India's parliament is composed of the Lower Chamber or House of The People (Lok Sabha) and the Upper House or the Council of States (Rajya Sabha).
- b) The term of Lok Sabha is five years while that of Rajya Sabha is six years.
- c) Lok Sabha consists of 545 elected members, 543 elected from each constituency created based on population size. The president nominates two.
- d) Political parties field candidates in each constituency.
- e) India's universal adult suffrage is 18 years. Qualification age for voting is 25 years and above.
- f) The election commission, a constitutional arm of the Indian electoral process oversees the elections.
- g) Candidates are required to declare their assets, age, educational qualifications and criminal history before being cleared to vie.
- h) Campaigning ends a day before the voting day. Government schools and colleges are chosen to be polling stations. Government servants are employed to man the polling stations.
- i) There is the use of electronic voting machines instead of ballot boxes.
- j) The candidate who garners the most number of votes is declared the winner of the constituency.
- k) The party or coalition that has won the most number of seats is invited by the president to form the new government. The leader of the party becomes the prime minister.
- l) Rajya Sabha consists of 250 members; the electoral college of India elects 248. The president nominates twelve members from among distinguished people.
- m) Every state is allotted a certain number of members.
- n) Candidate age limit is 30 years and above.

Functions of a prime minister in India

- a) He is the head of the federal government
- b) He is the leader of the house to which he belongs. (he can be either a member of the rajya sabha (upper house) or lok sabha.
- c) As head of the council of ministers, the prime minister oversees the work of all the ministries.
- d) Chairs cabinet meetings, which are normally held in the cabinet room of the prime ministers' office.
- e) Guides the president on appointment to the cabinet.
- f) Participates in the law-making process as a member of the lok sabha.
- g) The prime minister has traditionally been the minister-in-charge of the department of space, atomic energy and the ministry of personnel, public governance and pensions
- h) Recommends persons for presidential awards.

Functions of the Electoral Commission of India

- a) Prepares electoral registers
- b) Setting dates for polling.
- c) Establishing and operating polling station.
- d) Allocation party symbols.
- e) Publishing electoral report.
- f) Accepting or rejecting nominations as per the law.
- g) Counting the votes.
- h) Drawing constituency boundary.

What conditions must one fulfill to be elected president in India

- a) He/she must be a citizen of India.
- b) He/she must have attained the age of 35 and above.
- c) He/she should not hold any office.
- d) He/she should be qualified to be elected as a member of the house of the people. (the lok sabha)

Functions of the cabinet in the government of India

- a) Formulation of policy issues affecting the management of the government of India.
- b) Defends the government policy.
- c) Ensures that the civil servants implement government policy.
- d) Advises the president.
- e) Gives approval to the budget and estimates of the expenditure.
- f) The cabinet exercises general direction and control of government departments.

ATIKA SCHOOL

Revision questions

1. 1990 Q 27
 - a) What arguments are advanced in favour of one party system of government in the USSR?
 - b) Described the structure of the government in USSR?
2. 1991 Q 24
 - a) Give three reasons why Lenin introduced the New Economic policy in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic USSR.
 - b) Discuss six factors which have contributed to the emergence of the USSR as an industrial power.
3. 1991 Q 27
 - a) List three ways through which a person may become a member of parliament in Britain.
 - b) Explain how the doctrine of parliamentary supremacy is applied in Britain
 - c) State four factors which may limit the supremacy of parliament in Britain.
4. 1992 Q 27
 - a) State five conditions that had to be fulfilled in order to become a member of the communist party of the Union of Soviet Socialists Republic (USSR).
 - b) Explain how the USSR government was organized before the break up of the union.
5. 1994 Q 6
 - a) State advantages of a federal system of government
 - b) Explain how the government of the USA is organized.
6. 1995 Q 7
 - a) State 3 ways in which a British citizen may become a member of parliament.
 - b) List six functions of the queen of Britain
7. 1996 Q 13

Name two houses of the British Parliament (2 marks)
8. 1997 Q 19
 - (a) What are the sources of the British Constitution? (3 marks)
 - (b) Describe how the government of the USSR was organized (12 marks)
9. 1999 Q 15

Identify the main difference between membership into the house of Lords and the House of Commons in Britain (2 marks)
10. 1999 Q 24
 - (a) What role does the queen of England play in relation to the British Government
 - (b) Describe the functions of the British parliament

11. 2000 Q 15
State one privilege which members of the British Parliament enjoy (1 mark)
12. 2000 Q 23
(a) Describe the structure of the communist party in the union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) (3 marks)
(b) Discuss six criticisms that have been made against the communist party. (12 marks)
13. 2001 Q 16
State two features of the government of France in the twentieth century.
14. 2002 Q 17
State the main reason why the USSR adopted a one party system of government. (1 mark)
15. 2002 Q 24
(a) Describe the functions of the president of the United States of America (U.S.A)
(b) Explain how the system of government of the U.S.A works
16. 2003 Q 13
Give one function of the monarchy in Britain. (1 mark)
17. 2003 Q 23
(a) What are the features of stage government in the United States of America? (3 marks)
(b) Explain six functions of the Federal government of the United States of America. (12 marks)
18. 2004 Q 15
Identify one way in which a person may become a member of the House of Lords in Britain. (1 mark)
19. 2005 Q 16, 17
Name the type of constitution used in Britain (1 mark)
Give one disadvantages of a federal system of government (1 mark)
20. 2006 Q 17
Who is the head of Government in India? (1 mark)
21. 2006 Q 23
a) Give three categories of the Prime Ministries in Britain? (3marks)
b) What are the duties of the prime Ministries in Britain? (12 marks)
22. 2008 Q 24
a) Give three conditions that one should fulfil in order to be elected President of India. (3 marks)
b) Write down six functions of the president of India. (12 marks)
23. 2009 Q 17

- Identify one house of congress in the United States of America. (1mark)
24. 2009 Q 24
(a) State three ways in which a person can become a member of Britain Parliament
(b) Describe six duties of the monarch in Britain.
25. 2010 Q 17
Identify one parliamentary duty of the Monarch in Britain (1 mark)
26. 2011 Q 16
Name one major political party in the United States of America. (1 mark)
27. 2011 Q 17
Name one type of election held for the House of Commons in Britain. (1 mark)
28. 2012 Q24 P2
(a) Identify three categories of members of the Executive in the United States of America. (3 marks)
(b) Describe six functions of the Federal Government of the United States of America. (12 marks)

Answers

1990 Q27

- Promotion of national unity - Is by minimizing political conflict based on ethnic, regional or religious consideration
 - Promotion of development - Because people's energies are concentrated on development and not divisive party policies
 - Vanguard of revolution change - Therefore it should have the sole responsibility of running the state
 - Promotion of the interests of the working class - A one party system of government makes it easier to organize and promote the interests of the working class which is the most important class in the society
 - Embodiment of the national identity - One party state promotes direct contact between the people and the government
 - It is argued that it promotes the best form of democracy in the world and allows discussions in the party
- Any 3 pts, 2 mks*

- Federal government - Is in charge of running the whole country through the supreme soviet, the presidium and the council of ministers
- Republican government - The Soviet town government responsible for running affairs in each of the republics
- Local government - At the local level the organs of state powers are the soviet or working people deputies they are elected by the people of the respective territories region areas district cities or localities. They are responsible for maintaining public order and directing local economics and cultural affairs and draw up the local budgets
- The Supreme Soviet - This is the highest organ of the soviet government. It consists of two chambers, the soviet of the union and the soviet of Nationalities. It is elected for a term of 4 years and is headed by a Chairman. But it meets only once or twice a year. In the interim it delegates its power to the presidium of the supreme soviet
- The presidium - It has the authority to convene the sessions of the supreme soviet issue decrees and interpret soviet laws, dissolve the supreme soviet and order new elections, orders referendums, annul decisions and order of ministers if they do not conform to laws, appoint and remove the high command of armed forces, declare war, ratify international treaties, receive letters of credence of foreign diplomats and appoint ministers
- The council of ministers/cabinet - it is responsible and accountable to the Supreme Soviet, or in the intervals between the sessions of the Supreme Soviet, to the presidium. The council directs the work of the ministries, prepares the national economic plan and budget, oversees public order, exercises general guidelines over foreign affairs, fixes the annual quota of citizens to be called up for military service, and can set up special committees and central administrations for economic and cultural affairs and defense. The council of ministers has a Chairman sometimes called premier or prime minister.

1991 Q24

- The Marxist economic policies which have been introduced by the Bolsheviks had failed

- To attract foreign investment
- To encourage peasants to produce more food
- To revive industrial production which had collapsed because of the first world war and the civil wars
- To re-establish foreign trade which had collapsed after the 1917 revolution
- To create employment opportunities

(b)

- The USSR had developed a strong agricultural bases as a result of the establishment of collective farms. This facilitated the production of industrial raw materials and food
- Rehabilitation programmes of the 1920's and 1930 provided a bases for further industrial expansion
- Existence of a large population provided labour for industrial advancement
- The USSR had technological and scientific know-how from German after her defeat in the Second World War. She used these fro her industrial development/technological know-how
- Establishment of the USSR's influence over most parts of Eastern Europe after the second world war enabled her to acquire vast markets for her industrial produce/external markets
- Foreign investment contributed to industrial development/availability of capital
- Good economic planning especially the five-year plans enabled USSR to achieve her objectives in her industrial development
- Availability of vast natural resources (mineral resources) for example coal and iron ore contributed to further industrial growth
- Good communication and transport network facilitated the transportation of raw materials and industrial products
- Availability of sources of powers e.g. coal ad H.E.P

1991 Q27

- By election to the House of Commons
- Nomination to the House of Lords by the Queen/ Monarch
- By virtue of holding certain offices e.g. Bishop \s of the Church of England and some judges
- By becoming a member of the House of Lords through inheritance

any 3 pts, @ 1 mkeach = 3 mks

(b)

- Parliament is the supreme institution in Britain. All other institutions derive their power from it.
- Parliament is the only institution empowered to make, amend and abolish laws. No other institutions has the right to override the legislations of parliament/passing of bills
- Parliament is the only institution empowered to approve government budget
- Decisions of parliament are bidding to all. They cannot be over ruled or nullified by a court of law
- Parliament has the powers to remove an unpopular government from office

(c)

- Moral values of society

- Public- opinion
- Local authorities make by-laws without consulting parliament
- Interest of *affected* institutions are taken into account before legislation is made parliament
- Legislation passed by a parliament can be changed by future parliament

1992 Q27

- A person has a citizen of the Soviet Union
- A person had to actively practice communism/ politically active
- A person had to be a staunch supporter of communism
- To become a full member of the party, a *person had to* successfully complete a probation period of one year
- A person had to be prepared to accept all party resolutions without question
- A person had to apply for party membership. The application on was screened by a committee made up of party youth wing (Komsomol)
- *One had to be an outstanding/responsible member of the society e.g. Intellectuals, scientists outstanding workers and peasants*

Any 5 pts, @ 1 mk = 5 mks

(b)

- The USSR was a federal republic made up of about fifteen republics
- The head of state was a president
- According to the soviet constitution, each member state had equal status in the union
- Membership to the Union, according to the constitution, was voluntary - individual member states had the right to choose to be members or secede
- The highest organ of the Federal Government was the Supreme Soviet (council) which was a bicameral legislature. It was made up of the soviet of the union and the Soviet of the nationalities
- Each republic was represented in the two house of the Supreme Soviet
- Representatives of the two houses of the Supreme Soviet were elected through adult universal suffrage
- The Federal government took charge of the foreign policy, defense and other sensitive issues
- Candidates were chosen by the communist party
- Each republic had its own constitution and government run by a council of Working People's Deputies
- The council of working people deputies was responsible for internal affairs and law and order
- The communist party had over control of government at all levels. For instance, it defined and determined government policy and elected the president

any 5 pts, 2 mks = 10 mks

1994 Q 6

- State advantages of a federal system of government
- A federal system government makes it possible for several states to work as one political unit
- It ensures that the interests of smaller states and groups are protected/security
- It makes it possible for member states to benefit from the federal pool of resources/economies of scale

- Federalism make it possible for member states to solve common problems together
- It makes available a large market for goods produced in the various states
- Promotes trade within the federation by eliminating problems of custom duties and boundaries/establishing common currencies
- It makes it possible for member states to come together without losing their identity
- Facilitates interaction between peoples of different states and nationalities
- It provides checks and balances in the systems between the central government and the states

Any 5 pts, 1 mk each = 5 mks

(b)

- The USA is federal republic made up of about 50 (49,51) states
- The head of state is a president who is elected every four years. He is the chief executive but he is not a member of the legislature
- There is separation of powers between the executive, legislature and judiciary
- It has a bicameral legislature (congress). The congress is made up of the House of Representatives and the Senate
- Each state is divided into a number of electoral constituencies each of which elects representative to the House of Representative. The senate consists of two representatives from each state
- Each state has its won court system. The federal court (the supreme court) is the highest court in the country
- Functions of the government are shared between the federal government and state governments
- The federal government takes charges of major issues, foreign affairs, defense and making general laws for all Americans regulating trade and commerce and issuing the currency
- Each state has its own governments deal with matters pertaining to their territories
- The secretaries are appointed by the president
- There is a vice president who is appointed by the president with the approval of the party

1996 Q13

- House of Lords
- House of Commons

1997 Q19

a)

- Act of parliament e.g. the Magna Carta, the parliament Act of 1911
- The British conventions which have been used from generations to generation over a long period of time. For example those which - the British citizens against the excess of the executive.
- The courts of Britain established decision made by the British law courts from time to time become part of the British Constitution e.g. in 1884 the Supremacy of parliament.
- Legal publications by reputable authorities e.g. scholars lawyers statesman. Political thinkers.

b)

- The USSR was a federation of several socialist republic

- The federation was headed by a parliament
- The supreme Soviet was the highest law making institution
- The Supreme soviet was made up of two house, the soviet of the Union and the soviet of the Nationalities.
- There existed a Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister who was also the head of the government.
- Each state had its own government and parliament.
- The union government was in charge of defence. Currently and foreign policy.
- There were local soviets to run affairs at the local level.
- System of courts existed from the local to the federation level. The courts were independent.
- The communist party controlled the government at all levels. It was the supreme political force in the USSR.
- The communist party was the only legal political party in the country.
- The leader of the communist party was the most powerful person in the USSR.

1999 Q24

(a)

- At the end of elections. The monarch invites the leader of party with the majority votes in the House of commons to form the Government/ invites the prime minister to form the government
- The Monarch formally opens parliament at the beginning of a new session
- The monarch is the legal head of the state and the symbol of national
- Before a bill becomes law the monarch gives the Royal assent
- The monarch has the powers to officially to dissolve the parliament at the end of its tenure of office.

(b)

- The British parliament discusses and makes laws it also amends laws when need arises
- Parliament controls Government expenditure the approval of parliament is mandatory for all Government expenditure
- Parliament approves the government budget and ways of raising money
- It directs the government/ foreign policy and keeps development programmes on track
- It checks the powers of the executive to ensure that the rule of law is maintained/ can pass a vote of no confidence.
- House of lords sits as the final court of appeal mostly in simple cases
- Discusses/ debates issues of national interest

(Any 5 points 1 mark x 1 mark = (5 marks)

2000 Q15

- Freedom of speech
- Freedom from harassment e.g. arrest within presence of parliament
- Protection against arrest for civil offences for a period of 40 days before and 40 days after a session of parliament

2000 Q23

(a)

- The highest organ of the communist party structure was the all-union party congress. It was the final decision making organ.
- Another important party organ was the Poliburo/Presidium of the central committee. It made decisions when the central committee was in recess.
- The central party committee controlled and supervised and supervised the functions of the various department e.g. the Army, finance and personnel
- The secretariat was the next organ in the political set up of the communist party. It played a role in the formation of government policy.

(b)

- The party was highly elitist and exclusive and membership was confined to a few/selected citizens such as government officers, intellectuals, scientists, secret police and outstanding workers.
- Membership to the party was restricted and therefore was not representative of masses e.g. by 1973 out of a total population of 200 million people, only 15 million were members of the party.
- Members and applicants of the party were subjected to scrutiny and strict party discipline. Those who did not meet these demands lost their membership/were not accepted.
- The party deprived the majority of the population democratic participation in their governance since it could not possibly represent the wishes of the people.
- The party established organs for the youth. These were the 3 union of the youth (the komsomol) between the ages 15 & 28 years and the Octoberists for those up to 10 years. These were used to propagate the ideals of communism and loyalty to their country and hence brainwashed them.
- The communist party was dictatorial and undemocratic at all levels/it did not give the citizens a chance to choose other forms of governance.

2001 Q16

- It is a multi-party democracy
- Power is shared between the president and prime Minister
- The president is the executive head of government
- There is a legislature which is composed of a senate and National assembly
- Presidential elections are held every 7 years.
- National Assembly are held every 5 years.
- Senate elections are held every nine years.

(Any 2 points, 1 mark (2marks))

2002 Q17

- To promote national unity.

2002 Q24

a)

- The president is the head of state
- He appoints cabinet ministers and senior civil servants with approval of the congress.
- He guides and controls foreign affairs / chief diplomat.
- He is the commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

- He presides over the senate
- He presides cabinet meetings.
- He appoints the Supreme Court judges including the chief justice.
- The president is head of government.

b)

- It is a external system of government consisting of 50 states.
- Each state is a republic with its own government.
- Each state is headed by a governor.
- Each state has its own constitution guiding internal affairs.
- The federal government is headed by president who is elected every four years / subject to a maximum of 2 terms.
- The president is assisted by the vice – president who can take over in case the president dies.
- The federal government has bicameral legislature / congress made up to two houses. The senate and the House of Representatives.
- Members of the congress are elected by popular vote / each represented in the congress.
- The congress makes laws.
- State judiciary comprises of the federal courts and the Supreme court.
- The Supreme Court is the highest court.
- There is separation of powers between the legislation and judiciary.
- The federal five controls foreign affairs defense trade, Taxation issuing currently, and solving disputes between states and citizens of different states.
- The congress checks on owners.

2003 Q13

- Is the head of the state
- Summons a new
- Approves the bill
- Confers honours to citizens who have excelled
- Invites the leader of the ruling party to form government
- Heads the Commonwealth of nations
- Gives opening speech/opens/closes parliament
- Creates peers
- Appoints arch-bishop/bishops
- Commander in chief
- Looks after foreign policy/enactment of treaties
- Pardons judges
- Appoints judges
- Dissolves parliament

Any 1x1 =1mark

2003 Q23

- They have a governor who is the administrative head
- Each state has Law Courts that handle internal affairs
- Each state has its own social amenities e.g Education, Health, public Network

- Each state is responsible for its own development
- Each state has its own capital
- Each state generates its own revenue
- Each state has state legislatures to pass state
- Each state has a bi- cameral legislature
- Each state has state police to maintain

(b)

- It regulates trade between the states
- It controls/ regulates trade between states and foreign countries
- It authorizes the printing and circulation of currency
- It declares war and makes peace with other countries of the world
- It formulates foreign policies involving the U.S.A and other countries
- It regulates taxation within U.S.A
- It establishes federal postal services in U.S.A
- It passes federal laws
- It establishes federal courts
- It establishes federal armed/ defense forces
- It admits new states in the Union

(Any six points, 2 marks = 12 marks)

2004 Q15

- Through heredity/peerage
- By being nominated by the queen/Monarch/Knighted
- By holding a senior position in the Church of England e.g. Arch Bishop of Canterbury.

Any 1x1=1mark

2005 Q16

- Unwritten constitution

(1 x 1 = 1 mark)

2005 Q17

- There is a great temptation for succession by parts of the country
- It can lead to unequal development

(Any 1 x 1 = 1mark)

2006 Q17

- The prime minister

(Any 1x 1 = 1mark)

2006 Q23

a)

- Members elected by universal suffrage
- Members nominated by the monarch
- Hereditary peers/ Royal family members
- Senior statesmen/ knighted peers/ life peers
- Senior leaders of the church of England

(Any 3 x 1 = 3 marks)

(b)

- Appoints/ dismiss ministers with the consent of the monarch
- Recommends to the monarch the appointment of high ranking officers in the government/ award of civil honours

- Chairs cabinet meetings
- Settlers dispute between various governments ministers/ departments
- Heads the government/ Chief Executive
- Overseas the implementation of cabinet decisions
- Leads the house of Commons
- The prime minister with the support of parliament can change. Amend and re appeal laws
- Represents the country in international forums/ conferences
- Determines when elections are held
- He/ she is the leader of the party that nominated him/ her (12 marks)

2008 Q24

(a)

- One should be a citizen of India.
- The person should be aged 35 years and above.
- The person should qualify for election as a member of the house of the people.
- One should not be a government employee/not hold any office of profit within the government.
- One must be nominated by a political party. (Any 3 x 1=3 marks)

(b)

- The president is the head of state with executive powers to carry out his duties.
- The president seeks advice from parliament when appointing the prime ministers.
- He/she is the commander-in-chief of the armed forces.
- He is a member of the legislative.
- He ascends to/vetoes bills before they become law.
- He establishes special councils to arbitrate on inter-state disputes.
- He dissolves parliament to call for general elections.
- He is empowered by the constitution to declare a state of emergency/rule the state by decree when the security of the state is threatened.
- He nominates the 12 members to the "Council of states"/upper house.
- He appoints state governors and supreme court judges.
- He calls the leader of the winning party after general elections to form the government.
- He is the leader of the political part that nominates him for the elections.
- He pardons offenders. (Any 6x2=12 marks)

2009 Q17

- The House of representatives
- The Senate

Any 1x1= I mark

2009 Q24

(a)

- Election of the member to the house of commons
- Nomination of the person by the Monarch
- Through inheritance to the house' Of Lords
- By virtue of office
- By appointments due to outstanding performance

Any 3x1=3

(b)

- The Monarch approves /assents bills before they become laws.
- The Monarch approves all appointments to important Stateof offices
- The Monarch is involved in enacting treaties between government and other countries in relation to foreign policy.
- The Monarch summons /prorogues /dissolves Parliament in consultation with the Prime Minister.

2010 Q17

- Summons parliament after a general election.
- Prologues parliament
- Dissolves parliament
- Assents bills of parliament
- Nominates members to the House of Lords.

Any 1 x 1 = 1 mark

2011 Q16

- Republican party
- Democratic party

2011 Q17

- General elections
- By election

2012 Q24

(a)

- The president
- The vice-president
- The cabinet
- The civil service

(b)

- it eradicates/settles disputes involving different states of the unit with way of reaching amicable solution
- It conducts/regulates trade/commerce betweenFederal states/foreign nations.
- It is in charge of the national defence of federal states against external aggression.
- It establishes federal courts which administers justice in the states of the union.
- It levies/collects taxes in various federal states.
- It can declare war with foreign government with approval by the congress.
- It makes/issues currency/regulates its value.
- It pays foreign debt owed to other nations .
- It enacts legislation which governs the federation.
- It admits new states into the fedaration