

MCS LCE

PAPER II PROBABLE QUESTIONS FULLY SOLVED

Constitution of India | Master-Answer Bank

34 reusable model answers | MPSC trends | UPSC-style variants

Built for a 100-mark, 3-hour conventional paper

Core method: memorise constitutional modules, not fixed essays. Every answer below includes a question family so that the same prepared content can be redirected when MPSC changes the wording but retains the constitutional context.

Edition: September 2026. Update current statutes and judgments immediately before the examination.

How this book is different

The earlier compact handbook is your revision map. This companion volume is the answer-production book: probable questions, full model answers and transfer routes.

- Priority A+: prepare almost word-for-word at the level of structure, Articles, cases and balanced conclusion.
- Priority A: be able to reproduce a complete answer after two minutes of planning.
- Priority B+: retain as coverage insurance; revise after the A+/A clusters are secure.
- Do not memorise sentences mechanically: memorise the opening idea, 4-5 body headings, authorities and closing judgment.

The transfer principle

Your higher-education example is correct: an answer prepared on youth unemployment and entrepreneurship contains reusable material on employability, industry-academia mismatch, vocational pathways, access to finance and regional opportunity. Constitution answers work the same way. A master answer on federalism can be repurposed for Centre-State tensions, Article 356, the Governor, fiscal relations or Article 371G - but the opening, emphasis and conclusion must answer the exact question asked.

Never reproduce the entire stored answer. Retain only the modules that prove the proposition in the question.

Five-step adaptation in the examination

Step	Action
1. Decode	Underline the directive and issue: explain, discuss, critically examine, compare, assess or suggest.
2. Select	Choose only the relevant modules from the nearest master answer.
3. Reframe	Write a fresh introduction using the language of the question.
4. Weight	Give the largest space to the demanded dimension; do not follow the stored answer mechanically.
5. Judge	End with a conclusion that resolves the precise debate, not a generic slogan.

Prediction basis and coverage map

These are strategic probabilities, not claims that MPSC will repeat a particular question. The selection uses the official LCE syllabus weights plus the recurring constitutional clusters in the uploaded MPSC papers.

Syllabus block	Marks	Solved masters	Highest-return clusters
A. Preamble, Citizenship, FR, DPSP, Duties	30	10	Basic Structure; FR-DPSP; Articles 14, 19, 21; remedies
B. Union Executive, Parliament, Judiciary	15	5	Rajya Sabha; checks and balances; judicial reform
C. State Executive, Legislature, Judiciary	15	3	Governor; assent to Bills; High Courts
D. Panchayats and Municipalities	15	3	73rd/74th; 3Fs; local elections and finance
E. Relations, PSC, Elections, Emergencies	25	9	Federalism; EC/RPA; fiscal relations; Article 356; Mizoram

What the uploaded MPSC papers repeatedly reward

Cluster	Uploaded-paper signal	Master answers
Federalism / Centre-State	Appears in 2015, 2018, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 forms	20-23, 29-30
Basic Structure / review	Directly prominent in 2023 and 2025	1, 3, 14-15
Elections	Election Commission, RPA and simultaneous elections recur	25-27
Parliament / checks	Privileges, Rajya Sabha and separation of powers	11-14
Local government	73rd Amendment asked directly; guaranteed by LCE syllabus	19-21
Mizoram autonomy	Sixth Schedule ADCs asked in 2022 and 2024	29-30

Evidence caution: the uploaded papers are MCS Combined Competitive papers, not earlier LCE Paper II papers. They are used to infer examiner preference; the official LCE syllabus remains controlling.

PART A | Preamble, Citizenship, Fundamental Rights, DPSP and Duties | 30 marks

Build doctrine here. These concepts can be reused throughout the paper.

1. What is the Basic Structure doctrine? Trace its evolution and assess its democratic significance.

Priority: A+ Best-fit marks: 10-15

Question family: Parliamentary sovereignty versus judicial review • Impact of the 42nd Amendment • Limits on Article 368 • Can constitutional amendments be struck down?

Model answer

Article 368 gives Parliament a wide constituent power to amend the Constitution. The Basic Structure doctrine, however, distinguishes constitutional change from constitutional destruction: an amendment may alter provisions but cannot damage the identity of the Constitution.

Evolution

In *Shankari Prasad and Sajjan Singh*, the Supreme Court accepted Parliament's power to amend Fundamental Rights. *Golaknath* then held that Parliament could not amend them. The 24th Amendment restored an express amending power, leading to *Kesavananda Bharati* (1973), where the Court upheld the power but imposed the Basic Structure limitation.

Development

Indira Gandhi v Raj Narain protected free and fair elections and judicial review. *Minerva Mills* invalidated clauses inserted by the 42nd Amendment that attempted to make amending power unlimited, and treated limited amendment and harmony between Parts III and IV as basic features. *I.R. Coelho* extended review to post-*Kesavananda* Ninth Schedule insertions that damage the Basic Structure.

What it protects

The list is illustrative rather than closed: constitutional supremacy, republican democracy, secularism, federalism, rule of law, separation of powers, judicial review, free and fair elections and the balance between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles are prominent elements.

Evaluation

The doctrine is criticised as judge-made and open-ended. Yet ordinary political majorities cannot be allowed to abolish elections, courts or rights and still call the result an amendment. Judicial legitimacy therefore depends on reasoned, restrained application to structural injury, not disagreement with policy.

Conclusion: The doctrine does not freeze the Constitution. It preserves the democratic framework within which legitimate constitutional change can continue.

Memory anchors: Articles 13 and 368; *Kesavananda Bharati*; *Minerva Mills*; *I.R. Coelho*.

2. Discuss the constitutional significance of the Preamble. Is it enforceable and amendable?

Priority: A Best-fit marks: 10

Question family: Preamble as philosophy of the Constitution • Meaning of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity • Secular and socialist character • Preamble and Basic Structure

Model answer

The Preamble is the Constitution's statement of authorship, political identity and transformative purpose. It declares that authority flows from "We, the People" and directs that authority towards justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

Content

It describes India as a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic. The 42nd Amendment added "socialist", "secular" and "integrity". The promises of social, economic and political justice; liberty; equality; dignity; fraternity; and national unity connect the Preamble with Parts III and IV.

Legal status

In the Berubari advisory opinion the Court did not regard the Preamble as part of the Constitution. Kesavananda Bharati corrected that view: it is part of the Constitution and an important interpretive aid. Nevertheless, it neither grants an independent power nor creates a directly enforceable claim by itself.

Amendability

Because it is part of the Constitution, the Preamble can be amended under Article 368. However, an amendment cannot destroy the Basic Structure reflected in its core commitments, such as democracy, secularism and republican government.

Practical relevance

Where constitutional language permits more than one interpretation, Preamble values help courts and public institutions choose the reading most consistent with dignity and democratic constitutionalism. It also supplies a standard for evaluating institutions and amendments.

Conclusion: The Preamble is not a decorative introduction. It is a non-justiciable but legally significant compass that expresses the Constitution's enduring identity and direction.

Memory anchors: 42nd Amendment; Kesavananda Bharati; Minerva Mills.

3. Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles are complementary rather than antagonistic. Critically examine.

Priority: A+ Best-fit marks: 10-15

Question family: Balance between Parts III and IV • Welfare State and individual liberty • DPSPs in constitutional interpretation • Can DPSPs override Fundamental Rights?

Model answer

Fundamental Rights secure liberty, equality and remedies against State power, while Directive Principles direct the State towards social and economic democracy. The Constitution needs both: rights without material opportunity may be formal, while welfare without rights may become coercive.

Initial conflict

Article 37 makes Directive Principles non-justiciable but fundamental in governance. In *State of Madras v Champakam Dorairajan*, enforceable rights prevailed over a conflicting directive, prompting constitutional amendments that enabled affirmative action and protected certain reform laws.

Doctrinal reconciliation

Kesavananda Bharati subjected amendments to Basic Structure review. *Minerva Mills* held that harmony and balance between Parts III and IV is itself a basic feature and rejected unlimited priority for Directive Principles through the amended Article 31C.

Operational complementarity

Article 21 jurisprudence has drawn support from directives concerning legal aid, education, health, livelihood and environment. Rights make welfare accountable and non-discriminatory; directives give substantive content to liberty and equality. Parliament may legislate to implement DPSPs, but the means remain subject to constitutional limitations.

Correct balance

Courts should not convert every policy aspiration into an unqualified judicial entitlement, and governments cannot invoke social welfare to extinguish core freedoms. Proportionality, available resources, institutional competence and protection of vulnerable groups shape the balance.

Conclusion: Parts III and IV are two dimensions of the same constitutional project: democratic freedom combined with social transformation.

Memory anchors: Articles 14, 21, 37, 38, 39, 39A and 46; *Champakam*; Kesavananda; *Minerva Mills*.

4. Article 14 has evolved from reasonable classification to a guarantee against arbitrariness. Explain.

Priority: A Best-fit marks: 10

Question family: Formal versus substantive equality • Reservation and equality • Manifest arbitrariness • Equal protection of laws

Model answer

Article 14 guarantees equality before law and equal protection of laws to every person. It forbids class legislation, but it does not require unlike situations to be treated identically.

Classification test

A classification is valid when it rests on an intelligible differentia and that differentia has a rational nexus with the legislative objective. The classification must be real and connected to the purpose; mere administrative convenience cannot justify hostile discrimination.

Anti-arbitrariness

From E.P. Royappa and Maneka Gandhi, equality became the antithesis of arbitrary State action. Review therefore asks not only whether groups are formally classified, but whether power is exercised on reasons, relevant considerations and fair procedure. The manifest-arbitrariness doctrine applies particularly to legislation that is capricious, irrational or without an adequate determining principle.

Substantive equality

Articles 15 and 16 authorise special measures to remedy disadvantage. Reservation is therefore not simply an exception to equality; it can realise equality of opportunity. Indra Sawhney remains a foundational authority, though current answers must account for later constitutional amendments and judgments relevant to the category asked.

Limits

Article 14 does not make courts a super-legislature. Economic and social policy receives reasonable latitude, but that deference ends where classification is unrelated, exclusion is unjustifiable or public power is exercised without fair standards.

Conclusion: Article 14 now protects equal citizenship through a combined test of rational differentiation, non-arbitrariness and substantive fairness.

Memory anchors: Articles 14-18; E.P. Royappa; Maneka Gandhi; Indra Sawhney.

5. Freedom of speech under Article 19(1)(a) is broad but not absolute. Discuss the constitutional test for restricting it.

Priority: A Best-fit marks: 10

Question family: Online speech and misinformation • Reasonable restrictions • Dissent and democracy • Freedom of press

Model answer

Freedom of speech enables self-development, democratic participation and government accountability. Although the press is not separately named, its freedom is included in Article 19(1)(a).

Constitutional grounds

A restriction must be imposed by law and fall within Article 19(2): sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality, contempt of court, defamation, or incitement to an offence.

Reasonableness

The measure must have a proximate connection with the protected ground and must not be vague, excessive or procedurally unfair. Modern proportionality asks whether the measure pursues a legitimate aim, is rationally connected, uses a less restrictive feasible means and maintains a proper balance.

Judicial guidance

Shreya Singhal invalidated section 66A of the Information Technology Act for vagueness and chilling effect, distinguishing discussion and advocacy from incitement. Prior restraint and indiscriminate internet restrictions require especially strong justification and review safeguards.

Contemporary balance

Misinformation, hate speech and coordinated manipulation can damage democracy, but broad censorship can suppress legitimate criticism. Narrow definitions, independent oversight, notice, reasons, appeal and transparency are preferable to uncontrolled executive blocking.

Conclusion: The constitutional response is neither speech absolutism nor administrative convenience; it is precise law, legitimate grounds, proportionality and effective safeguards.

Memory anchors: Articles 19(1)(a) and 19(2); Shreya Singhal; proportionality doctrine.

6. Trace the expansion of Article 21 from procedural legality to dignity-based substantive protection.

Priority: A+ Best-fit marks: 10-15

Question family: Right to privacy • Due process in India • Golden triangle of Articles 14, 19 and 21 • Positive obligations under Article 21

Model answer

Article 21 states that no person shall be deprived of life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law. Judicial interpretation transformed this from a narrow procedural guarantee into the central protection of dignified existence.

From Gopalan to Maneka

A.K. Gopalan treated rights as separate compartments and largely accepted enacted procedure. Maneka Gandhi held that procedure must be fair, just and reasonable, and that a law affecting liberty must also satisfy Articles 14 and 19. This created the “golden triangle”.

Dignity and derivative rights

“Life” means more than animal existence. Depending on context, Article 21 has supported legal aid, speedy trial, livelihood, health, shelter, clean environment and dignified treatment. These rights require careful remedies and often interact with Directive Principles.

Privacy

K.S. Puttaswamy recognised privacy as intrinsic to liberty and dignity. State intrusion needs legality, a legitimate State aim, proportionality and procedural safeguards. Privacy is not absolute, but surveillance or data collection cannot rest on uncontrolled discretion.

Institutional caution

Expansion has enabled justice for vulnerable persons, but courts must anchor new claims in constitutional text, precedent, evidence and institutional capacity. Positive obligations may be realised progressively while minimum protection against arbitrary deprivation remains immediate.

Conclusion: Article 21 is the Constitution's dignity clause: it subjects every serious invasion of life or liberty to law, fairness, reason and accountability.

Memory anchors: Articles 14, 19, 20, 21 and 22; A.K. Gopalan; Maneka Gandhi; K.S. Puttaswamy.

7. Explain the constitutional scheme of religious freedom and secularism in India.

Priority: A Best-fit marks: 10

Question family: Essential religious practices • Religious freedom versus social reform • Indian model of secularism • Articles 25-30

Model answer

Indian secularism does not require a wall of complete separation between State and religion. It combines freedom of conscience, principled State neutrality, reform of secular activities and equal citizenship.

Individual and group rights

Article 25 protects conscience and the profession, practice and propagation of religion, subject to public order, morality, health and other Fundamental Rights. Article 26 protects the affairs of religious denominations. Articles 27 and 28 regulate taxation for religion and religious instruction in educational institutions.

Regulation and reform

The State may regulate economic, financial, political or other secular activity associated with religion and enact social-welfare reform. Therefore, religious autonomy does not immunise discrimination, coercion or practices inconsistent with other constitutional guarantees.

Minority rights

Articles 29 and 30 protect cultural and educational interests, including the right of religious and linguistic minorities to establish and administer educational institutions. Regulation for academic standards is permissible, but it cannot destroy minority character or effective administration.

Basic Structure

S.R. Bommai identified secularism as a basic feature. The State may engage with religious communities to secure equality and reform, but it must not identify citizenship or public power with one faith.

Conclusion: Indian secularism is best understood as equal respect under constitutional supremacy: liberty of belief, reform of secular wrongs and non-discriminatory government.

Memory anchors: Articles 25-30; S.R. Bommai; Basic Structure doctrine.

8. Why is Article 32 called the heart and soul of the Constitution? Compare it with Article 226.

Priority: A Best-fit marks: 10

Question family: Constitutional writs • Judicial review and remedies • Supreme Court versus High Court writ jurisdiction • Public interest litigation

Model answer

Rights become real only when an effective remedy exists. Article 32 guarantees the right to approach the Supreme Court for enforcement of Fundamental Rights, while Article 226 empowers High Courts to issue writs for Fundamental Rights and other legal rights.

Five writs

Habeas corpus tests unlawful detention; mandamus commands performance of public duty; prohibition prevents an inferior court or tribunal from exceeding jurisdiction; certiorari quashes an unlawful decision; quo warranto tests authority to hold a public office.

Article 32

It is itself a Fundamental Right. The Supreme Court may issue directions, orders or writs for Part III rights. Its centrality led Dr Ambedkar to describe it as the Constitution's heart and soul, and judicial review is recognised as part of the Basic Structure.

Article 226

High Court jurisdiction is textually wider because it extends to “any other purpose”. It is discretionary and shaped by territorial jurisdiction, alternative remedies, delay and the nature of the public duty. In practice, High Courts are often the first constitutional courts for local facts and State action.

Access and restraint

Public interest litigation relaxed standing for those unable to approach courts, but it must not become publicity litigation or routine substitution of administration. Remedies should be effective, proportionate and institutionally workable.

Conclusion: Articles 32 and 226 create a decentralised constitutional-remedy system: the Supreme Court guards Fundamental Rights nationally, while High Courts provide broader and locally accessible public-law control.

Memory anchors: Articles 32 and 226; Kesavananda Bharati; L. Chandra Kumar.

9. Fundamental Duties are non-justiciable. Do they nevertheless have constitutional value?

Priority: B+ Best-fit marks: 10

Question family: Need to enforce Fundamental Duties • Rights and duties • Article 51A • Role of civic education

Model answer

Fundamental Duties under Article 51A express the civic responsibilities necessary to sustain constitutional democracy. Their non-justiciability means that a citizen cannot ordinarily be compelled merely by invoking Article 51A, but it does not make them meaningless.

Origin and content

The 42nd Amendment inserted ten duties on the recommendation of the Swaran Singh Committee; the 86th Amendment added the duty of a parent or guardian to provide educational opportunity to a child between six and fourteen. The eleven duties cover constitutional respect, unity, harmony, culture, environment, scientific temper, public property, excellence and education.

Legal relevance

Courts may use duties to interpret ambiguous law, and Parliament may enact valid legislation supporting their objects. Environmental duties, respect for national symbols and protection of public property illustrate this indirect effect. Any restriction, however, must still satisfy Fundamental Rights and legislative competence.

Democratic value

Rights restrain power; duties cultivate responsible use of freedom. They encourage tolerance, evidence-based thinking and common citizenship without making loyalty to the government equivalent to loyalty to the Constitution.

Reform

Blanket penalisation would invite vagueness and coercion. Constitutional literacy in schools, public institutions modelling compliance, community service and precise legislation against identifiable harm are preferable.

Conclusion: Fundamental Duties should operate principally as civic norms and interpretive values, reinforced by narrowly tailored law rather than indiscriminate compulsion.

Memory anchors: Article 51A; 42nd and 86th Amendments; Swaran Singh Committee.

10. Explain the constitutional and statutory framework of Indian citizenship and the significance of single citizenship.

Priority: B+ Best-fit marks: 10

Question family: Citizenship at commencement • Citizenship Act, 1955 • Citizens versus persons under Fundamental Rights • Citizenship and federalism

Model answer

Citizenship identifies full membership of the political community. The Constitution settled citizenship at commencement, while leaving Parliament power to create the continuing legal regime.

Constitutional scheme

Articles 5-10 dealt with domicile, migration and persons of Indian origin at commencement. Article 11 expressly preserves Parliament's power to regulate acquisition and termination of citizenship.

Statutory scheme

The Citizenship Act, 1955 provides acquisition by birth, descent, registration, naturalisation and incorporation of territory, subject to conditions amended over time. Citizenship may be lost by renunciation, termination or deprivation under statutory safeguards.

Single citizenship

Unlike some federations, India has one citizenship rather than separate Union and State citizenship. This supports mobility, national political membership and equal civic status across States, while residence-based qualifications may exist only within constitutional limits.

Rights distinction

Articles 14 and 21 protect persons, while several guarantees - including Articles 15, 16 and 19 - are confined to citizens. An answer on a contemporary controversy must distinguish the policy issue, the exact statute and the separate tests of equality, liberty and legislative competence.

Conclusion: Single citizenship reinforces the unity of the Union, but its administration must remain lawful, non-arbitrary and consistent with constitutional rights available to citizens and persons.

Memory anchors: Articles 5-11, 14, 15, 16, 19 and 21; Citizenship Act, 1955.

PART B | Union Executive, Parliament and Judiciary | 15 marks

Use constitutional design plus evaluation; do not merely list powers.

11. The President is a constitutional head, but not always a mere rubber stamp. Discuss.

Priority: A Best-fit marks: 10

Question family: President versus Prime Minister • Aid and advice • Discretion of the President • Parliamentary executive

Model answer

The Constitution vests Union executive power in the President, but establishes responsible government through a Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister. The President normally acts on ministerial advice while performing important constitutional functions.

Normal rule

Article 74 requires aid and advice. The President may require reconsideration once, but must act on the advice tendered after reconsideration. Article 75 makes the Council collectively responsible to Lok Sabha, locating democratic accountability in the elected House.

Functions

The President appoints the Prime Minister and other constitutional authorities, summons and prorogues Parliament, assents to Bills, promulgates ordinances under Article 123, exercises pardon under Article 72 and formally exercises emergency powers.

Limited judgment

Situations may require constitutional judgment, particularly choosing a Prime Minister when no party clearly commands a majority or asking an incumbent to prove confidence. The objective is to identify the person most likely to enjoy House confidence, not to create presidential policy discretion.

Constitutional influence

The rights to be consulted, to encourage and to warn, along with the reconsideration power, permit caution and deliberation. Yet refusal to follow binding advice would replace parliamentary government with personal rule.

Conclusion: The President is neither an independent executive nor an ornamental cipher: the office safeguards regular constitutional process within cabinet responsibility.

Memory anchors: Articles 52, 53, 72, 74, 75, 78, 111, 123 and 352.

12. Assess the role of Rajya Sabha in strengthening parliamentary democracy and federalism.

Priority: A+ Best-fit marks: 10-15

Question family: Utility of bicameralism • Should Rajya Sabha have equal powers? • Federal character of Rajya Sabha • Money Bill and bicameralism

Model answer

Rajya Sabha gives Parliament continuity, a second deliberative chamber and a constitutional forum for States. Its value lies not in duplicating Lok Sabha but in scrutiny, revision and federal participation.

Composition and continuity

Article 80 provides State and Union Territory representation and nominated expertise. Representation is broadly population-based rather than equal across States. As a permanent House, with one-third retiring every second year, it preserves institutional continuity.

Legislative role

Except for Money Bills and confidence, Rajya Sabha is generally co-equal in ordinary legislation and constitutional amendments. It can delay, revise and improve Bills and strengthen accountability through questions, debates and committees.

Special federal powers

Under Article 249 it may authorise Parliament to legislate on a State List matter in the national interest. Under Article 312 it may authorise creation of an All India Service. These powers make the Council of States a gateway for exceptional Union action.

Limitations and reform

Party control may weaken independent State articulation, disruptions reduce scrutiny and the Money Bill route may bypass bicameral review. Stronger committees, adequate legislative time and restrained certification of Money Bills would enhance its purpose.

Conclusion: Rajya Sabha strengthens democracy when it acts as a revising and federal chamber rather than as either a permanent obstruction or a replica of Lok Sabha.

Memory anchors: Articles 79, 80, 83, 107-110, 249 and 312.

13. Discuss parliamentary privileges and examine whether they should be codified.

Priority: B+ Best-fit marks: 10

Question family: Powers and immunities of Parliament • Privilege versus Fundamental Rights • Breach of privilege • Legislative autonomy and judicial review

Model answer

Parliamentary privileges protect the collective ability of each House and its members to discharge legislative functions without intimidation or external obstruction. They are institutional necessities, not personal honours.

Constitutional basis

Articles 105 and 194 protect freedom of speech in Parliament and State Legislatures, subject to constitutional rules, and grant immunity for votes and speeches within the House. Other privileges continue under constitutional and statutory arrangements until defined by law.

Purpose and scope

The Houses may regulate internal proceedings, punish contempt and protect committees, witnesses and records. Privilege is justified only when connected to legislative functioning. It cannot become a general immunity from ordinary law.

Judicial review

Courts ordinarily respect internal proceedings, but constitutional supremacy remains. Illegality, substantive constitutional violation or jurisdictional excess may attract judicial review, while mere procedural irregularity receives greater legislative autonomy.

Codification debate

Codification would improve notice, certainty and compatibility with rights, but an exhaustive code may lack flexibility for unforeseen obstruction. A balanced reform is a clear statute defining core privileges, fair notice and hearing, proportional sanctions and reasons, while preserving essential residual authority.

Conclusion: Privilege should be no wider than necessary for free legislative work; clearer law and fair procedure would strengthen rather than diminish parliamentary dignity.

Memory anchors: Articles 105, 122, 194 and 212.

14. Does the anti-defection law promote stability at the cost of legislative deliberation? Critically examine.

Priority: A Best-fit marks: 10

Question family: Role of the Speaker under Tenth Schedule • Reform of the whip • Political defections • Kihoto Hollohan judgment

Model answer

The Tenth Schedule was inserted by the 52nd Amendment to curb opportunistic floor-crossing. It has improved party stability, but its broad operation can turn legislators into numbers controlled by party leadership.

Grounds

A member may be disqualified for voluntarily giving up party membership or voting/abstaining contrary to a valid party direction without condonation. Independents are disqualified on joining a party, and nominated members face a time-bound rule. The 91st Amendment removed the split exception; merger protection requires the prescribed two-thirds support.

Adjudication

The Speaker or Chairman decides disqualification. Kihoto Hollohan upheld the law but subjected the decision to judicial review. Delay or perceived partisanship in deciding petitions can alter governments before review becomes effective.

Benefits and costs

The law discourages bribery-driven government changes and protects voter expectations of party programmes. Yet applying the whip to ordinary Bills suppresses policy disagreement, weakens committees and reduces representatives' accountability to constituents.

Reform

Limit binding whips to confidence, no-confidence and essential financial matters; require decisions within a defined period; consider an independent adjudicatory mechanism; and regulate resignation-defection strategies consistently.

Conclusion: Stability is legitimate, but democratic government also requires deliberation. A narrower, faster and more impartial anti-defection process can protect both.

Memory anchors: Tenth Schedule; 52nd and 91st Amendments; Kihoto Hollohan.

15. India follows checks and balances rather than a rigid separation of powers. Explain.

Priority: A+ Best-fit marks: 10-15

Question family: Compare Indian, American and Westminster models • Judicial activism and overreach • Ordinance power • Institutional balance

Model answer

The Constitution assigns primary functions to the legislature, executive and judiciary, but deliberately permits overlap. The objective is not watertight separation; it is accountable government without concentration of power.

Fusion and differentiation

The parliamentary executive is drawn from and responsible to the legislature, unlike the American presidential separation. Yet the judiciary is institutionally independent, and Article 50 directs separation of the subordinate judiciary from the executive.

Checks on executive

Parliament controls confidence, finance, questions, committees and legislation. Courts review executive legality and rights compliance. Federalism, audit, elections and independent commissions add further checks.

Checks on legislature and judiciary

The President participates in legislation, courts test laws against the Constitution and constitutional amendments face Basic Structure review. Judges are appointed and may be removed under constitutional procedures; judicial decisions require cases, reasons and legal jurisdiction. Parliament may change the underlying law prospectively without nullifying a binding judgment by declaration.

Permitted overlap

Ordinances, delegated legislation, judicial rule-making and legislative privileges show functional overlap. Abuse arises when exceptional devices replace ordinary legislative scrutiny or courts permanently administer policy without manageable constitutional standards.

Conclusion: Indian separation of powers is a system of constitutional equilibrium: each organ has sufficient autonomy to perform its role and sufficient checks to prevent supremacy.

Memory anchors: Articles 50, 74-75, 105, 121-123, 124, 136, 141-142 and 368; Kesavananda Bharati.

16. Judicial independence must coexist with transparency and efficiency. Suggest a balanced programme of judicial reform.

Priority: A+ Best-fit marks: 10-15

Question family: Collegium and NJAC • Judicial accountability • Pendency and access to justice • Judicial review versus parliamentary supremacy

Model answer

Judicial independence protects impartial adjudication and constitutional review. It does not mean freedom from reasons, institutional administration or public accountability.

Constitutional safeguards

Security of tenure, difficult removal, protected service conditions, contempt power, separation from the executive and control over judicial administration support independence. Judicial review under Articles 13, 32 and 226 is part of the Basic Structure.

Appointments

The Judges Cases produced the collegium system. The NJAC judgment invalidated the 99th Amendment because judicial independence was imperilled. Yet opacity, uneven diversity and delays in appointments remain real problems.

Efficiency and access

Vacancies, weak court management, repeated adjournments, government litigation and inadequate subordinate-court infrastructure drive pendency. Reform requires predictable appointments, professional court administration, e-filing with inclusion safeguards, case triage, stronger mediation, legal aid and reasoned limits on adjournments.

Accountability without capture

Publish selection criteria and institutional reasons while protecting personal data; strengthen asset and recusal norms; provide a credible complaints process; improve judgment accessibility; and collect court-performance data. Executive dominance would damage independence, but internal opacity also damages legitimacy.

Conclusion: The goal is not a powerful judiciary alone, but an independent, accessible and accountable judiciary capable of delivering timely, reasoned justice.

Memory anchors: Articles 13, 32, 50, 124, 217 and 226; Second Judges Case; NJAC judgment; L. Chandra Kumar.

PART C | State Executive, Legislature and Judiciary | 15 marks

The Governor and State-Bill process are especially current and adaptable.

17. The Governor is a constitutional head, not an alternate political executive. Critically examine the discretionary powers of the office.

Priority: A+ Best-fit marks: 10-15

Question family: Governor and floor tests • Delay in assent to State Bills • Governor's report under Article 356 • Sarkaria and Punchhi recommendations

Model answer

Articles 153-167 establish a Governor within the State's parliamentary system. The normal rule is aid and advice; discretion is exceptional and must arise from constitutional text or necessary implication.

Legitimate space

Where no party has a clear majority, the Governor appoints the person most likely to command Assembly confidence and may require an early floor test. The office also performs specified functions relating to assent, reservation of Bills and reports concerning constitutional machinery.

Constitutional limits

Article 163 does not create an unlimited reservoir of discretion. S.R. Bommai made Article 356 reviewable and treated a floor test as the appropriate method for proving majority. Nabam Rebia restricted unilateral intervention in legislative functioning.

Recurring controversies

Partisan appointments, selective invitations, premature floor-test directions, indefinite withholding of Bills and politically coloured reports weaken federal trust. The Governor cannot use formal powers to pursue an independent political programme.

Reform

Sarkaria and Punchhi favoured eminent and detached appointees, consultation and restrained discretion. Decisions should be reasoned, prompt and reviewable; legislative majority should be determined on the floor; and assent should not become a pocket veto.

Conclusion: The Governor's legitimacy lies in ensuring constitutional government impartially, not in supervising the elected State government politically.

Memory anchors: Articles 153, 155-156, 163-164, 174, 200-201 and 356; S.R. Bommai; Nabam Rebia.

18. Explain the constitutional process for State legislation, with special reference to the Governor's assent and reservation of Bills.

Priority: A Best-fit marks: 10

Question family: Article 200 controversies • State Money Bills • Bicameralism in States • Governor-President relationship

Model answer

State legislative power is exercised through the Legislature constituted under Article 168, while the Governor forms a constitutional part of the legislative process. The assent stage must facilitate constitutional scrutiny without defeating representative government through inaction.

Ordinary and Money Bills

An ordinary Bill generally requires passage by the relevant House or Houses. In bicameral States, the Legislative Assembly can ultimately prevail over the Council under the special State procedure. A Money Bill can originate only in the Assembly on the Governor's recommendation; Article 199 defines it, and the Council has only a recommendatory fourteen-day role.

Article 200 options

When a Bill is presented, the Governor may assent, withhold assent, return a non-Money Bill for reconsideration, or reserve it for the President. If the Legislature passes a returned Bill again, the constitutional expectation against a second withholding is expressed in the proviso, subject to the reservation framework.

Reservation and Article 201

Reservation is mandatory where the Bill would, in the Governor's opinion, endanger the constitutional position of the High Court; other reservation powers must be constitutionally justified. The President may assent, withhold or direct return of a non-Money Bill.

Democratic control

Unexplained delay functions like an unenumerated veto and harms federal accountability. Recent constitutional litigation has emphasised that high functionaries must act within the constitutional scheme; the precise current judicial position should be updated before the examination.

Conclusion: Articles 200 and 201 create constitutional review points, not an authority to suspend the State Legislature indefinitely.

Memory anchors: Articles 168-212, especially 196-201; update recent Supreme Court assent decisions before exam.

19. Compare the constitutional role of High Courts with that of the Supreme Court in protecting rights and legality.

Priority: A Best-fit marks: 10

Question family: Article 226 versus Article 32 • High Court superintendence • Independence of State judiciary • Tribunals and judicial review

Model answer

The Supreme Court is the final national constitutional court, but High Courts are the principal constitutional courts for State and local public power. Together they create a decentralised system of judicial review.

Jurisdiction

Article 32 empowers the Supreme Court to enforce Fundamental Rights. Article 226 authorises High Courts to issue directions, orders and writs for Fundamental Rights and “any other purpose”, making the subject-matter reach of Article 226 wider.

Institutional functions

High Courts supervise courts and tribunals under Article 227 and control the subordinate judiciary under Article 235. They review State legislation, executive action and local authorities with proximity to evidence and regional law. The Supreme Court resolves constitutional appeals, Union-State disputes and questions of national legal consistency.

Tribunals

In *L. Chandra Kumar*, the Supreme Court held that judicial review by High Courts and the Supreme Court forms part of the Basic Structure. Tribunal decisions therefore remain subject to constitutional scrutiny; tribunalisation cannot exclude the core jurisdiction of constitutional courts.

Practical reform

Vacancies, infrastructure gaps and uneven access impair both levels. Strengthening district courts, appointments, translation, legal aid and case management improves High Court effectiveness and reduces unnecessary Supreme Court appeals.

Conclusion: The Supreme Court provides final constitutional authority, while High Courts give constitutional justice territorial reach, broader writ jurisdiction and supervisory depth.

Memory anchors: Articles 32, 124-147, 214-231, 226, 227 and 235; *L. Chandra Kumar*.

PART D | Panchayats and Municipalities | 15 marks

Move beyond provisions to actual devolution, finance and accountability.

20. Assess the impact of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment on grassroots democracy.

Priority: A+ Best-fit marks: 10-15

Question family: Panchayati Raj and democratic decentralisation • Role of Gram Sabha • Women's representation in Panchayats • Eleventh Schedule

Model answer

The 73rd Amendment transformed Panchayats from institutions dependent on State discretion into a constitutionally protected level of democratic government. Its success is greatest in regular representation and uneven in actual devolution.

Constitutional design

Part IX provides Gram Sabhas, a generally three-tier structure, five-year tenure, reservations, State Election Commissions and State Finance Commissions. Article 243G enables State Legislatures to endow Panchayats with self-government and planning functions; the Eleventh Schedule lists twenty-nine subjects.

Democratic gains

Regular elections have widened participation and produced a large cadre of local representatives. Reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women have changed descriptive representation and opened leadership spaces previously closed to many communities.

Persistent limits

Because functional assignment depends heavily on State law, Panchayats often lack the “3Fs”: functions, funds and functionaries. Parallel agencies, tied grants, weak own revenue, delayed State Finance Commissions and administrative control limit accountability. Social hierarchy may also reduce the effective voice of reserved representatives.

Way forward

Create clear activity maps, predictable untied finance, accountable local staff, strong Gram Sabhas, social audits, capacity support and timely elections. Devolution should be measured through actual expenditure and decision authority, not subjects nominally transferred.

Conclusion: The 73rd Amendment democratised local representation; its unfinished task is to convert elected Panchayats into capable governments of local self-rule.

Memory anchors: Articles 243A-243O; Eleventh Schedule; 73rd Amendment; Kishan Singh Tomar.

21. Has the 74th Constitutional Amendment produced effective urban self-government?

Priority: A Best-fit marks: 10-15

Question family: Urban local bodies and the 3Fs • Municipal finance • Ward Committees and metropolitan planning • Twelfth Schedule

Model answer

The 74th Amendment constitutionalised urban democracy through Part IXA, but city governance remains fragmented between elected municipalities, State departments and specialised parastatals.

Design

The Constitution recognises Nagar Panchayats, Municipal Councils and Municipal Corporations. It provides regular tenure, reservations, State Election Commissions, State Finance Commissions, Ward Committees and planning committees. Article 243W and the Twelfth Schedule identify eighteen possible municipal functions.

Achievements

Regular electoral legitimacy, greater representation of women and marginalised groups, and a constitutional platform for urban planning are major gains. Municipal institutions increasingly manage sanitation, local roads, public health and civic services, though capacity varies.

Deficits

State laws often retain control over land use, water, transport and staffing in development authorities or parastatals. Weak property-tax systems, unpredictable transfers, project-tied finance and shortage of professional cadres reduce municipal autonomy. Metropolitan areas suffer from overlapping jurisdiction.

Reform

Assign functions through clear activity mapping; share buoyant revenues predictably; modernise property valuation with safeguards; professionalise municipal staffing; empower Ward Committees; integrate transport, land and environment planning; and make budgets, service standards and contracts publicly auditable.

Conclusion: The amendment created elected urban institutions, but meaningful city government requires authority over the decisions, personnel and revenues that shape urban life.

Memory anchors: Articles 243P-243ZG; Twelfth Schedule; 74th Amendment.

22. “Functions, Funds and Functionaries are the real test of decentralisation.” Discuss.

Priority: A Best-fit marks: 10

Question family: Why local bodies remain weak • State Finance Commissions • Local planning and accountability • Devolution reforms

Model answer

Constitutional status and periodic elections are necessary for local democracy, but they do not by themselves create self-government. Effective decentralisation requires authority over functions, adequate finance and accountable personnel.

Functions

Eleventh and Twelfth Schedule subjects are not automatically transferred. State activity mapping should identify which tier plans, sets standards, finances and delivers each service. Overlapping mandates allow departments and local bodies to evade responsibility.

Funds

Local bodies need predictable transfers, appropriate own-source taxes and grants responsive to need. State Finance Commissions should be constituted on time, supported by data and acted upon through reasoned reports. Excessive tied grants weaken local priority-setting.

Functionaries

A local body cannot implement a plan if staff remain controlled by distant departments. Professional cadres, clear reporting lines, local disciplinary input and training are required, while safeguards must prevent local capture.

Accountability

Devolution should be matched by open budgets, Gram Sabha or Ward Committee scrutiny, social audits, independent audit and service standards. Digital systems improve transparency only when records are accessible and citizens can obtain correction.

Conclusion: The 3F framework converts decentralisation from a constitutional promise into measurable governing capacity and accountable service delivery.

Memory anchors: Articles 243G, 243H-I, 243W, 243X-Y; Eleventh and Twelfth Schedules.

PART E | Federalism, PSC, Elections, Emergencies and Mizoram | 25 marks

This is the most repeated MPSC zone and your largest Mizoram-specific advantage.

23. Is India a true federation, a quasi-federation, or a unitary State with federal features? Critically examine.

Priority: A+ Best-fit marks: 10-15

Question family: Federal but unitary in spirit • Nature of Indian federalism • Cooperative and asymmetric federalism • Strong Centre in the Constitution

Model answer

India is constitutionally described as a “Union of States”. Its structure combines divided authority and judicially protected federalism with substantial powers for the Union. A single label cannot capture this design.

Federal features

There are constitutionally established Union and State governments, a written and supreme Constitution, legislative distribution through the Seventh Schedule, fiscal arrangements, bicameralism and an independent judiciary resolving federal disputes.

Centralising features

Parliament holds residuary power, may legislate on State subjects in specified circumstances and can alter State boundaries. Single citizenship, integrated services, gubernatorial appointment and emergency provisions strengthen the Union. State representation in Rajya Sabha is not equal.

Judicial position

S.R. Bommai recognised federalism as part of the Basic Structure and made Article 356 reviewable. The phrase “quasi-federal” highlights central weight but can obscure the constitutional autonomy of States and the political evolution of intergovernmental relations.

Contemporary understanding

Cooperative federalism describes shared programmes and institutions; competitive federalism describes policy and investment rivalry; asymmetric federalism accommodates distinct conditions through provisions such as Article 371G and the Sixth Schedule.

Conclusion: India is best understood as a constitutionally federal Union with a strong Centre, flexible cooperation and deliberate asymmetry - neither classically dual nor legally unitary.

Memory anchors: Articles 1, 3, 246, 248-253, 263, 280, 312 and 356; Seventh Schedule; S.R. Bommai.

24. Explain the distribution of legislative powers between the Union and States and the circumstances in which Parliament may legislate on State subjects.

Priority: A Best-fit marks: 10-15

Question family: Seventh Schedule • Repugnancy under Article 254 • Residuary powers • Territorial legislative competence

Model answer

Articles 245-255 distribute legislative power by territory and subject while preserving mechanisms for national action and conflict resolution. The scheme begins with legislative entries but is interpreted through constitutional purpose and federal balance.

Normal distribution

Article 246 read with the Seventh Schedule allocates Union, State and Concurrent fields. Parliament has exclusive Union List competence; States ordinarily control the State List; both legislate on the Concurrent List, subject to repugnancy rules. Article 248 assigns residuary power to Parliament.

Special situations

Under Article 249, Rajya Sabha may authorise Parliament to legislate on a State matter in the national interest. Article 250 operates during a national emergency; Article 252 follows resolutions of two or more States; Article

253 implements international obligations. Parliament also acts where constitutional machinery fails under Article 356.

Repugnancy

Article 254 applies to conflict in the Concurrent field. Union law ordinarily prevails. A State law reserved for and receiving Presidential assent may prevail in that State, but Parliament may subsequently override it.

Interpretation

Courts identify the law's true nature through pith and substance and attempt harmonious construction. Incidental encroachment does not automatically invalidate a law within competence; colourable legislation and direct conflict remain reviewable.

Conclusion: The distribution protects State spheres while allowing constitutionally controlled national responses; federal legitimacy depends on using exceptions for their stated purposes, not as routine centralisation.

Memory anchors: Articles 245-255, especially 246, 248-254; Seventh Schedule.

25. Assess the role of the Finance Commission and GST Council in maintaining fiscal federalism.

Priority: A+ Best-fit marks: 10-15

Question family: Vertical and horizontal devolution • Fiscal imbalance • Cooperative federalism through institutions • State financial autonomy

Model answer

Indian federalism contains both vertical imbalance between Union and States and horizontal differences among States. The Finance Commission and GST Council manage interdependence through distinct constitutional mechanisms.

Finance Commission

Under Article 280, the President constitutes a Finance Commission to recommend distribution of divisible tax proceeds between Union and States and among States, principles governing grants-in-aid, and measures to augment State Consolidated Funds for Panchayats and Municipalities. Its periodic formula supports equalisation, predictability and rule-based transfers.

GST Council

Article 279A creates a federal forum consisting of Union and State representatives to recommend rates, exemptions, model laws and special provisions. GST pooled important indirect-tax powers under Article 246A, making consultation essential to both market integration and State fiscal space.

Tensions

Cesses outside the divisible pool, conditional grants, revenue shocks, borrowing limits, data disputes and differing State needs can weaken trust. The Supreme Court has described GST Council recommendations within a cooperative federal framework rather than as automatically binding commands in every respect.

Reform

Increase transparent, stable transfers; rationalise cesses; publish comparable fiscal data; strengthen dispute resolution; respect reasoned dissent in the GST Council; and implement State Finance Commission recommendations for local bodies.

Conclusion: Fiscal federalism is sustainable when national redistribution and tax coordination preserve State accountability, adequate fiscal space and institutional dialogue.

Memory anchors: Articles 246A, 268-281, especially 279A and 280; Finance Commission; GST Council.

26. What are the principal tension areas in Centre-State relations? Suggest measures to strengthen cooperative federalism.

Priority: A+ Best-fit marks: 10-15

Question family: Sarkaria and Punchhi Commissions • Inter-State Council • All India Services • Central agencies and federal trust

Model answer

Centre-State tension is not an abnormality in a federation; it arises where authority, finance and political responsibility overlap. The constitutional challenge is to resolve it through institutions rather than unilateral escalation.

Tension areas

Major issues include use of Governors and Article 356, deployment or investigation by central agencies, fiscal transfers and cesses, borrowing limits, centrally sponsored schemes, inter-State water disputes, language and legislative entry conflicts. Different political parties in office can intensify these structural questions.

Coordinating mechanisms

Articles 256-263 regulate administrative relations; Article 263 permits an Inter-State Council. Zonal Councils, the GST Council, Finance Commission, river mechanisms and intergovernmental conferences provide issue-specific forums. All India Services add administrative integration but also raise cadre-control concerns.

Commission guidance

Sarkaria emphasised consultation, sparing Article 356 use and an impartial Governor. Punchhi revisited the Governor, emergency powers and changing security and fiscal conditions. Their common logic is reasoned consultation before coercive constitutional action.

Way forward

Regularise the Inter-State Council with an empowered secretariat; consult States early on concurrent legislation; make transfers predictable; adopt transparent agency protocols; use neutral mediation; and ensure gubernatorial decisions are prompt, reasoned and judicially reviewable.

Conclusion: Cooperative federalism does not eliminate disagreement. It civilises disagreement through information, consultation, reasons and enforceable constitutional limits.

Memory anchors: Articles 256-263, 280, 312 and 356; Sarkaria and Punchhi Commissions; S.R. Bommai.

27. Examine the constitutional position, independence and accountability of Public Service Commissions.

Priority: A Best-fit marks: 10

Question family: Functions under Article 320 • Reform of State PSCs • Merit and equality in recruitment • PSC safeguards

Model answer

Public Service Commissions translate Articles 14 and 16 into impartial public recruitment. Their constitutional status protects merit and continuity from day-to-day political pressure, but credibility ultimately depends on transparent and timely performance.

Structure

Articles 315-323 provide for the Union and State Public Service Commissions and allow a Joint State Commission. The President or Governor appoints members under the relevant scheme; the Constitution prescribes tenure and a regulated removal process.

Functions

Article 320 includes conducting examinations and consultation on recruitment methods, appointments, promotions, transfers and disciplinary matters, subject to constitutional regulations. The advisory character of consultation does not justify arbitrary disregard.

Safeguards

Service conditions cannot be varied to a member's disadvantage after appointment; expenses are charged on the relevant Consolidated Fund; and removal for misbehaviour involves Supreme Court inquiry in the constitutional process. Post-tenure employment restrictions reduce conflicts.

Accountability and reform

Reports are presented to the President or Governor and the Legislature, with explanations for non-acceptance. Reform should include transparent member-selection criteria, conflict disclosures, secure digital examinations, fixed recruitment calendars, reasoned departures from advice and adequate professional staff.

Conclusion: Independence is not secrecy: a strong PSC is insulated from patronage while visibly accountable for fair, competent and prompt recruitment.

Memory anchors: Articles 14, 16 and 315-323, especially 317, 320, 322 and 323.

28. Critically examine the powers, functions and independence of the Election Commission of India.

Priority: A+ Best-fit marks: 10-15

Question family: Appointment of Election Commissioners • Article 324 • Free and fair elections • Electoral umpire and institutional trust

Model answer

Free and fair elections are part of the Basic Structure. Article 324 entrusts their superintendence, direction and control to the Election Commission, but institutional authority must operate with statutory law, neutrality and public reasons.

Functions

The Commission supervises electoral rolls and the conduct of parliamentary, State legislative, presidential and vice-presidential elections. It schedules polls, recognises parties and symbols under law, monitors campaigning, deploys observers and advises on specified disqualifications.

Scope of Article 324

Article 324 is broad enough to address genuine gaps necessary for free elections, but it cannot override legislation enacted by Parliament. The Representation of the People Acts structure rolls, qualifications, corrupt practices, election offences and disputes.

Independence

Security of tenure for the Chief Election Commissioner, expenditure arrangements and constitutional status provide protection. Concerns remain about appointment design, differing removal safeguards, post-retirement perceptions, enforcement consistency and campaign-finance opacity. The 2023 appointment statute must be stated accurately and updated for any later judicial decision.

Reform

Use a transparent, plural appointment process; protect functional tenure; publish reasoned and timely enforcement decisions; strengthen disclosure and audit of political finance; and provide equal standards for media, misinformation and official machinery.

Conclusion: The Commission earns constitutional authority not merely from Article 324, but from demonstrable independence, equal enforcement and reasons capable of public scrutiny.

Memory anchors: Articles 324-329; RPA 1950 and 1951; Indira Gandhi v Raj Narain; Anoop Baranwal; 2023 appointment law.

29. Evaluate the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and the need for further electoral reforms.

Priority: A+ Best-fit marks: 10-15

Question family: Criminalisation of politics • Election expenditure and corrupt practices • Disqualification of legislators • One Nation One Election

Model answer

The Representation of the People Act, 1951 operationalises representative democracy by governing the conduct of elections, qualifications and disqualifications, corrupt practices, offences and election disputes. The RPA 1950 primarily deals with allocation and electoral rolls.

Core framework

The 1951 Act provides nomination, polling, counting, election petitions and rules on candidates and parties. It defines corrupt practices and sets statutory disqualifications, thereby translating constitutional election provisions into an enforceable process.

Achievements

A uniform legal structure, judicial election petitions and candidate disclosures support electoral integrity. Judicial decisions have strengthened voter information, immediate disqualification upon certain convictions and the availability of NOTA, while respecting Parliament's legislative field.

Gaps

Criminal trials often outlast terms; expenditure limits do not fully capture party or third-party spending; opaque funding, paid news, digital campaigning and misinformation challenge older categories. Inner-party democracy

and weak financial disclosure remain concerns.

Reform agenda

Fast-track serious cases with due process; strengthen real-time donation and expenditure disclosure; regulate digital advertising transparently; empower independent audit; clarify campaign silence and misinformation rules; and ensure reforms do not suppress legitimate opposition. Simultaneous elections require separate assessment of constitutional amendments, federalism and accountability.

Conclusion: The RPA remains the electoral system's legal backbone, but electoral integrity now requires transparent political finance, timely adjudication and technology-neutral enforcement.

Memory anchors: Articles 324-329; RPA 1950 and 1951; Lily Thomas; PUCL/NOTA and disclosure jurisprudence.

30. Examine the case for and constitutional challenges to simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

Priority: A Best-fit marks: 10

Question family: One Nation One Election • Electoral reform and federalism • Constructive vote of no confidence • Fixed legislative terms

Model answer

Simultaneous elections seek to align electoral cycles for Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. The proposal addresses repeated campaigning and administrative disruption, but it changes the operation of parliamentary confidence and federal political choice.

Arguments in favour

Combined cycles may reduce repeated deployment of personnel, frequent Model Code restrictions, campaign costs and continuous short-term politics. A stable calendar may allow governments longer policy windows.

Constitutional challenges

Lok Sabha and Assemblies continue for five years unless sooner dissolved, and governments must retain House confidence. Synchronisation may require amendments affecting Articles 83, 85, 172, 174 and 356, as well as transition rules after premature dissolution or hung Houses. Changes engaging federal provisions may require State ratification.

Democratic and federal concerns

National campaigns may overshadow State issues, while extending or curtailing an elected House for synchronisation affects voter mandate. Cost savings alone cannot justify weakening responsible government.

Possible safeguards

A constructive vote of no confidence, remainder-term elections, tightly limited caretaker powers and a transparent transition could reduce instability. Any model needs broad federal consensus, independent logistical assessment and constitutional clarity before implementation.

Conclusion: Simultaneous elections are constitutionally possible only through a carefully designed and broadly accepted framework that preserves House confidence, State autonomy and genuine electoral choice.

Memory anchors: Articles 83, 85, 172, 174, 324 and 356; constitutional amendment and ratification requirements.

31. Analyse the emergency provisions of the Constitution and the safeguards introduced after the Emergency experience.

Priority: A+ Best-fit marks: 10-15

Question family: Articles 352, 356 and 360 • Suspension of Fundamental Rights • 44th Amendment safeguards • Emergency and federalism

Model answer

Emergency provisions enable the Union to protect the constitutional order in exceptional crises. The 1975-77 experience demonstrated that survival powers themselves need strict procedural, rights-based and judicial controls.

National emergency

Article 352 applies to war, external aggression or armed rebellion. Written Union Cabinet advice, parliamentary approval within the prescribed period, special-majority renewal and Lok Sabha control reflect safeguards

strengthened by the 44th Amendment.

State and financial emergencies

Article 356 addresses failure of constitutional machinery in a State and temporarily changes federal arrangements, subject to parliamentary approval. Article 360 provides for financial emergency and has never been proclaimed as of this edition.

Rights effect

Article 358 affects Article 19 only when emergency rests on war or external aggression and within its constitutional limits. Article 359 permits a presidential order suspending the right to move courts for specified rights; Articles 20 and 21 cannot be included after the 44th Amendment. Rights are not automatically erased in every emergency.

Judicial and democratic safeguards

S.R. Bommai made Article 356 reviewable, favoured floor tests and permitted restoration where proclamation is unconstitutional. Parliamentary scrutiny, periodic renewal, reasons, judicial review and free political communication are essential.

Conclusion: Emergency power is legitimate only as a temporary and reviewable means of preserving constitutional democracy, never as a route around it.

Memory anchors: Articles 352-360; 38th, 42nd and 44th Amendments; S.R. Bommai.

32. Critically examine the use of Article 356 in light of S.R. Bommai v Union of India.

Priority: A+ Best-fit marks: 10

Question family: President's Rule and federalism • Governor's report • Floor test • Judicial review of proclamation

Model answer

Article 356 is a constitutional remedy for genuine failure of State constitutional machinery, not a political power to remove an inconvenient government. S.R. Bommai transformed its control by combining federalism, floor democracy and judicial review.

Constitutional process

The President may issue a proclamation on the Governor's report or otherwise when State government cannot be carried on according to the Constitution. Parliamentary approval is required, and continuation is temporally controlled by Article 356.

Bommai principles

The proclamation is judicially reviewable. The Union must show relevant material; mala fide or irrelevant use can be invalidated. Where majority is disputed, the proper forum is ordinarily the Assembly floor, not the Governor's private assessment.

Effect of review

The Court may prevent irreversible consequences and, where dismissal is unconstitutional, restore the government and Assembly. Secularism and federalism were treated as basic constitutional commitments relevant to the exercise.

Remaining concerns

Governor reports, pre-approval dissolution and strategic timing can still create *faits accomplis*. Prompt review, reasoned material, floor tests and parliamentary seriousness are therefore vital. Article 356 should not substitute for political negotiation, law-and-order administration or party competition.

Conclusion: Bommai converted Article 356 from a largely political discretion into a legally bounded emergency power subordinate to federal democracy.

Memory anchors: Articles 355 and 356; S.R. Bommai; federalism and judicial review as Basic Structure.

33. Article 371G is an example of asymmetric federalism that strengthens rather than weakens national integration. Discuss.

Priority: A+ Best-fit marks: 10-15

Question family: Special constitutional protection for Mizoram • Can Parliament legislate on Mizo customary law and land? • Article 371G and State autonomy • Article 371G versus Article 370

Model answer

Asymmetric federalism grants different constitutional arrangements to accommodate distinct historical, cultural or territorial conditions. Article 371G embeds Mizoram's special settlement within the Constitution and links integration with protected self-government.

Protected fields

Unless the Mizoram Legislative Assembly resolves otherwise, an Act of Parliament does not apply to Mizoram in relation to: religious or social practices of the Mizos; Mizo customary law and procedure; administration of civil and criminal justice involving decisions according to Mizo customary law; and ownership and transfer of land.

Constitutional mechanism

The provision does not create a general veto over all parliamentary law. It is subject-specific and uses an Assembly resolution as the constitutional consent mechanism. It also contains a saving for Central Acts already in force in the former Union Territory immediately before the 53rd Amendment framework and provides a minimum Assembly strength of forty.

Federal significance

The provision protects identity, land and customary institutions while retaining Mizoram within common constitutional structures. Accommodation can deepen loyalty by ensuring that unity does not require uniformity.

Limits and governance

Article 371G must be interpreted according to its text; not every local policy falls within the four fields. Customary autonomy also operates within a constitutional order committed to dignity and rights, requiring careful reconciliation rather than automatic invalidation in either direction.

Conclusion: Article 371G demonstrates integrative asymmetry: a nationally guaranteed space for Mizoram's cultural and legal autonomy, exercised through democratic State consent.

Memory anchors: Article 371G; Constitution (53rd Amendment) Act, 1986; Mizoram Statehood settlement.

34. Analyse the genesis, powers and working of the Sixth Schedule Autonomous District Councils in Mizoram.

Priority: A+ Best-fit marks: 10-15

Question family: ADCs and tribal self-government • Sixth Schedule versus Panchayats • Challenges facing Lai, Mara and Chakma ADCs • Autonomy and accountability

Model answer

The Sixth Schedule responds to the distinct social and customary institutions of tribal areas in the North-East through territorially based autonomous councils. In Mizoram, it provides constitutional space for the Chakma, Lai and Mara Autonomous District Councils.

Design and powers

District Councils exercise legislative, administrative, judicial and financial functions within fields specified by the Schedule. These may include land, non-reserved forests, shifting cultivation, village administration, inheritance, marriage, social customs, local taxation and regulation of specified activities, subject to the exact Schedule, applicable law and gubernatorial role.

Democratic purpose

Councils bring decision-making closer to protected communities, recognise customary norms and provide political representation within the State. Their courts and local institutions can improve cultural accessibility and participation.

Working challenges

Fiscal dependence, limited technical capacity, overlapping State and council competence, audit weaknesses, political instability and unclear administrative control may reduce effective autonomy. Representation alone does not ensure inclusive or accountable service delivery.

Reform

Clarify activity and revenue assignments; provide predictable formula-based finance; strengthen professional staffing, audit and public disclosure; improve State-council consultation; support village participation; and protect individual rights within customary governance.

Distinction

The Sixth Schedule creates territorial council institutions. Article 371G, by contrast, gives State-wide protection against application of parliamentary laws in four fields unless the Mizoram Assembly resolves otherwise.

Conclusion: The Sixth Schedule remains a powerful instrument of self-government, but autonomy becomes meaningful only when matched by finance, administrative capacity, accountability and constitutional rights.

Memory anchors: Sixth Schedule, especially paragraphs on constitution, law-making, justice, finance and Governor's role; Article 371G.

How to memorise the 34 answers

A model answer becomes useful only after it can be reconstructed without the page.

Three-pass cycle

Pass	Method	Test
1. Understand	Read the question family and identify why each paragraph is present.	Explain the answer aloud without using Article numbers.
2. Compress	Reduce each answer to opening + 5 headings + 3 authorities + conclusion.	Write the skeleton from memory in three minutes.
3. Produce	Write a fresh answer to a variant, not the printed question.	Finish within the mark-based time and audit relevance.

Four-week answer schedule

Week	Targets
1	Answers 1-10. Write variants of Basic Structure, FR-DPSP and Article 21.
2	Answers 11-18. Write Rajya Sabha, checks and balances, judiciary and Governor.
3	Answers 19-24. Write local-government and federalism variants.
4	Answers 25-34. Write elections, emergencies, Article 371G and Sixth Schedule; then full mock.

Strict self-marking grid (10 points)

Criterion	Points	Question to ask
Demand and relevance	2	Did every major paragraph answer the wording actually asked?
Constitutional accuracy	2	Are Articles, institutions and legal effects correct?
Analysis	2	Did I explain purpose, tension and counter-view rather than list facts?
Authority / Mizoram value	2	Did I use one or two accurate cases, commissions or local provisions?
Structure and completion	2	Is it readable, balanced, concluded and finished on time?

Final high-return shortlist

If time becomes limited, these are the first fifteen answers to master completely.

Answer	Master cluster
1	Basic Structure
3	FR-DPSP balance
6	Article 21
8	Articles 32 and 226
12	Rajya Sabha
15	Checks and balances
16	Judicial reform
17	Governor
20	73rd Amendment
22	3Fs
23	Nature of federalism
26	Centre-State tensions
28	Election Commission
31	Emergency provisions
34	Sixth Schedule ADCs

Mizoram value-add rule

Use Article 371G, the Sixth Schedule or local-government realities only when they genuinely illuminate the question. One precise Mizoram paragraph is a differentiator; forced references look ornamental.

Sources, currency and limitations

- Official LCE basis: The Mizoram Civil Service (Limited Competitive Examination) Regulations, 2023 and the official Paper II syllabus.
- Official Constitution: Legislative Department, Constitution of India, updated edition as on 1 May 2026: <https://www.legislative.gov.in/static/uploads/2025/07/c9fe9c9b6840524844316f74bb1c556c.pdf>
- MPSC question evidence: uploaded MCS polity/General Studies II papers for 2015, 2017, 2018, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025.
- UPSC question source: official UPSC previous-question-paper portal: <https://www.upsc.gov.in/examinations/previous-question-papers>
- MPSC official pages: <https://mpsc.mizoram.gov.in/page/lce> and the official old-question pages on the MPSC website.
- Election law: Constitution, Representation of the People Acts, and the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023 on India Code.

Currency warning

Before the examination, update the model answers on Election Commission appointments, Governor assent to Bills, electoral reforms and any newly decided constitutional case. Current-law details can change; the constitutional cores and transfer structures in this book remain the durable part.

Prediction warning

No probable-question bank can guarantee the paper. These answers are deliberately selected for transfer value: even where the exact question does not appear, their constitutional modules should remain usable across much of the syllabus.

END

Learn the map; reproduce the skeleton; adapt to the demand. The examination is testing controlled recall and constitutional judgment, not recognition of familiar pages.