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UPSC CSE MAINS

Previous Year Questions

Parliament & State Legislatures — GS-II

Previous Year Questions (verbatim, official syllabus)

18 Questions

Year range: 2013–2025

Verbatim from official UPSC papers

"Master Mains with PYQs — consistency is key"

— Neil Sir, Founder, UnlockIAS

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18 Questions across 3 Sections

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Structure and functioning

2025 GS-II 10M · 150W

Q2. Discuss the nature of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly after the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019. Briefly describe the powers and functions of the Assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

2024 GS-II 10M · 150W

Q5. "The growth of cabinet system has practically resulted in the marginalisation of the parliamentary supremacy." Elucidate.

2023 GS-II 15M · 150W

Q6. Explain the structure of the Parliamentary Committee system. How far have the financial committees helped in the institutionalization of Indian Parliament?

2023 GS-II 10M · 150W

Q10. Discuss the role of Presiding Officers of state legislatures in maintaining order and impartiality in conducting legislative work and in facilitating best democratic practices.

2022 GS-II 10M · 150W

Q5. Discuss the role of the Vice-President of India as the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

2021 GS-II 15M · 150W

Q5. Explain the constitutional provisions under which the Legislative Councils are established. Review the working and current status of Legislative Councils with suitable illustrations.

2020 GS-II 10M · 150W

Q6. 'Once a Speaker, Always a Speaker'! Do you think this practice should be adopted to impart objectivity to the office of the Speaker of Lok Sabha? What could be its implications for the robust functioning of parliamentary business in India?

2020 GS-II 15M · 150W

Q7. Rajya Sabha has been transformed from a 'useless stepney tyre' to the most useful supporting organ in past few decades. Highlight the factors as well as the areas in which this transformation could be visible.

2019 GS-II 15M · 150W

Q5. Individual Parliamentarian's role as the national law maker is on a decline, which in turn, has adversely impacted the quality of debates and their outcome. Discuss.

2018 GS-II 10M · 150W

Q3. Why do you think committees are considered to be useful for parliamentary work? Discuss, in this context, the role of the Estimates Committee.

2017 GS-II 10M · 150W

Q4. Discuss the role of the Public Accounts Committee in establishing accountability of the government to the people.

Conduct of business

2017 GS-II 15M · 150W

Q5. The Indian Constitution has provisions for holding joint session of the two Houses of the Parliament. Enumerate the occasions when this would normally happen and also the occasions when it cannot, with reason thereof.

Powers & privileges and issues arising

2022 GS-II 15M · 150W

Q6. Discuss the essential conditions for exercise of the legislative powers by the Governor. Discuss the legality of re-promulgation of ordinances by the Governor without placing them before the Legislature.

2021 GS-II 15M · 150W

Q4. Do Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees keep the administration on its toes and inspire reverence for parliamentary control? Evaluate the working of such committees with suitable examples.

2021 GS-II 10M · 150W

Q6. To what extent, in your view, the Parliament is able to ensure accountability of the executive in India?

2015 GS-II 12.5M · 150W

Q6. "If amendment bill to the Whistleblowers Act, 2011 tabled in the Parliament is passed, there may be no one left to protect." Critically evaluate.

2014 GS-II 12.5M · 200W

Q4. The 'Powers, Privileges, and Immunities of Parliament and its Members' as envisaged in Article 105 of the Constitution leave room for a large number of un-codified and un-enumerated privileges to continue. Assess the reasons for the absence of legal codification of 'parliamentary privileges'. How can this problem be addressed?

2013 GS-II 10M · 200W

Q1. The role of individual MPs (Members of Parliament) has diminished over the years and as a result healthy constructive debates on policy issues are not usually witnessed. How far can this be attributed to the anti-defection law which was legislated but with a different intention?