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Structure of the Indian Parliament

Constitutional Basis

- **Article 79:** Parliament consists of **President + Lok Sabha + Rajya Sabha**
- **Articles 79–122 (Part V)** deal with Parliament's composition, powers & procedures

Why President is part of Parliament

- Mandatory **assent** for bills to become law
- Power to **summon, prorogue & dissolve Lok Sabha**
- **Addresses Parliament** at the first session each year & after general elections
- Can **promulgate Ordinances** (Article 123)

Bicameral Legislature

- India follows **bicameralism** to represent the **population + states**
- Houses:
 - **Lok Sabha (House of the People)**
 - **Rajya Sabha (Council of States)**

Lok Sabha (House of the People)

- **Article 81**
- **Max strength:** 550 (530 States + 20 UTs)
- **Directly elected**
- **Term:** 5 years (Article 83)
- Can be **dissolved**
- **Minimum age:** 25 years
- **Presiding Officer:** Speaker
- **104th CAA:** Removed Anglo-Indian nomination

Rajya Sabha (Council of States)

- **Max strength:** 250
 - 238 elected (States + UTs)
 - 12 nominated by the President (Art, Science, Literature, Social Service)
- **Permanent House**
- **1/3 members retire every 2 years**
- **Term:** 6 years (RPA, 1951)
- **Minimum age:** 30 years
- **Presiding Officer:** Vice-President (ex officio Chairman)

Qualifications (Article 84)

- Citizen of India

- Prescribed age
- Registered voter
- SC/ST status required for reserved seats

Disqualifications

Article 102 + RPA 1951

- Office of profit
- Unsound mind / Insolvency
- Loss of Indian citizenship
- Conviction (≥ 2 years imprisonment)
- Corrupt practices, election offences

Defection (10th Schedule)

- Voluntarily giving up party membership
- Voting against the party whip

Decision on Disqualification

- **Article 103:** The President decides
- Decision based on the **Election Commission's opinion**

Presiding Officers

- **Lok Sabha:** Speaker & Deputy Speaker (Art. 93)
- **Rajya Sabha:** Chairman (VP) & Deputy Chairman (Art. 89)
- **Panel of Chairpersons** in both Houses for presiding duties

Vacation of Seat

- Dual membership
- Disqualification/resignation
- Absence for **60 days** without permission
- Election declared void
- Appointment as **President or Governor**

Facts

- Rajya Sabha **cannot be dissolved**
- Speaker continues even after Lok Sabha dissolution
- Ordinance power = **President**, not Parliament
- Anti-defection decision: **Speaker / Chairman**

MCQs

Q1. Which of the following correctly describes the composition of the Parliament of India?

- A. President, Lok Sabha, and Supreme Court
- B. President, Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha
- C. Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and Council of Ministers
- D. President, Council of Ministers, and Lok Sabha

Answer: B

Q2. Why is the President considered an integral part of the Indian Parliament?

- A. The President is a member of the Rajya Sabha
- B. The President presides over joint sittings
- C. A bill cannot become law without the President's assent
- D. President introduces Money Bills

Answer: C

Q3. With reference to the Rajya Sabha, consider the following statements:

1. It is a permanent body.
2. One-third of its members retire every two years.
3. It can be dissolved by the President.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3

Answer: A

Q4. The minimum age prescribed by the Constitution for membership of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, respectively, is:

- A. 25 years and 30 years
- B. 30 years and 25 years
- C. 21 years and 30 years
- D. 25 years and 35 years

Answer: A

Q5. Under Article 103 of the Constitution, questions regarding the disqualification of a Member of Parliament are decided by:

- A. Election Commission
- B. Supreme Court

- C. The President based on the Election Commission's opinion
- D. Speaker of Lok Sabha

Answer: C

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