Class 11 Political Science (Indian Constitution at Work) Chapter 5: Legislature - Notes, Important Questions and MCQs (2026-27)

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These Class 11 Political Science Chapter 5 notes cover “Legislature” from the NCERT textbook Indian Constitution at Work (2026-27): why we need a parliament, why India has two Houses, the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, functions of Parliament, how a bill becomes a law, how Parliament controls the executive, parliamentary committees and how Parliament regulates itself, including the anti-defection law – with tables, Q&A, 10 MCQs and a free PDF.

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Chapter Overview

The legislature is the representative assembly of the people. It makes laws, but it is also the main forum for debate, for representing diverse views and for holding the executive accountable. The Parliament of India consists of the President, the Lok Sabha (House of the People) and the Rajya Sabha (Council of States).

India chose a bicameral Parliament so that states are represented in the Rajya Sabha and laws get a second look. The Lok Sabha, directly elected, has more powers – especially over money matters and the survival of the government.

Important Topics and Concepts

Why a Parliament and Why Two Houses?

- Parliament makes laws, controls the executive, represents people and debates national issues.
- Bicameral legislature: two Houses – useful for a large, diverse federal country.
- The second House gives representation to states and allows reconsideration of decisions.
- Some states also have two Houses (Legislative Council).

Rajya Sabha

- Represents the states; members elected indirectly by MLAs using proportional representation (STV).
- Permanent body: members serve six years and one-third retire every two years.
- Seats allotted to states roughly by population (unlike the US Senate's equal representation).
- 12 members nominated by the President for expertise in literature, science, art and social service.
- Special powers: can authorise Parliament to make laws on State List subjects and create new all-India services.

Lok Sabha

- Members directly elected by people for five years (can be dissolved earlier).
- Money bills can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha; Rajya Sabha can delay them by 14 days only.
- The Council of Ministers is responsible to the Lok Sabha – a no-confidence motion can remove the government.
- Ordinary bills need approval of both Houses; deadlocks are resolved through a joint sitting.

How a Bill Becomes Law

- Bill introduced (government bill or private member's bill) – first reading.
- Discussion, often referred to a committee for detailed examination.
- Clause-by-clause consideration and voting in the House.
- Passed in the other House by the same process.
- Sent to the President for assent; becomes an Act. Money bills need the Speaker's certification.

Control over the Executive

- Deliberation and discussion: Question Hour, Zero Hour, half-hour discussions, adjournment motions.
- Approval or refusal of laws.
- Financial control: budget and grants must be approved; audit through the CAG and committees.
- No-confidence motion to remove the government.
- Parliamentary committees (standing and joint committees) scrutinise bills, budgets and policies.

Parliament Regulates Itself

- The Speaker presides over the Lok Sabha and maintains order; decisions are final on many matters.
- Parliamentary privileges protect members' freedom of speech in the House.
- Anti-defection law (52nd Amendment, 1985): a member who leaves the party or defies the party whip can be disqualified; the Speaker decides.
- Effectiveness depends on attendance, quality of debate and respect for rules.

Lok Sabha vs Rajya Sabha

Most-asked table.

Basis	Lok Sabha	Rajya Sabha
Election	Direct, by people	Indirect, by MLAs (STV)
Term	5 years (can be dissolved)	Permanent; members 6 years
Money bills	Introduced and passed here	Can delay only 14 days
No-confidence motion	Can remove government	No such power
Special powers	Control over Council of Ministers	State List laws, new all-India services
Presiding officer	Speaker	Vice-President (Chairman)

Instruments of Parliamentary Control

Instrument	Purpose
Question Hour	Ministers answer questions
Zero Hour	Members raise urgent matters
Adjournment motion	Discuss urgent public issue
Budget approval	Financial control
No-confidence motion	Remove government
Committees	Detailed scrutiny of bills and spending

Important Definitions and Terms

Term	Meaning
Legislature	Law-making body
Bicameral	Having two Houses
Money bill	Bill on taxation and spending; starts in Lok Sabha
Ordinary bill	Bill on other matters
Joint sitting	Meeting of both Houses to resolve deadlock
Question Hour	Time for questions to ministers
Zero Hour	Time to raise urgent issues
Whip	Party instruction on voting

Term	Meaning
Anti-defection law	Disqualifies members who defect (52nd Amendment)
Parliamentary privilege	Special rights of members in the House

Short Answer Questions

Q1. Why does India have a bicameral Parliament?

To represent both people and states and to allow reconsideration of laws in a large, diverse country.

Q2. How are Rajya Sabha members elected?

Indirectly by elected MLAs through proportional representation (STV).

Q3. How many members does the President nominate to the Rajya Sabha?

12.

Q4. Where can a money bill be introduced?

Only in the Lok Sabha.

Q5. How long can the Rajya Sabha delay a money bill?

14 days.

Q6. What is Zero Hour?

Time when members can raise urgent matters of public importance.

Q7. Who decides disqualification under the anti-defection law?

The Speaker (or Chairman) of the House.

Q8. What is a joint sitting?

A meeting of both Houses to resolve disagreement on an ordinary bill.

Long Answer Questions

Q1. Explain how a bill becomes a law in India.

Introduction in either House (money bill only in Lok Sabha).

Discussion and reference to committee.

Clause-by-clause consideration and voting.

Same process in the other House; joint sitting if deadlock.

President’s assent makes it an Act.

Q2. How does Parliament control the executive?

Question Hour, Zero Hour and debates.

Approval of laws and policies.

Financial control through budget and audit.

No-confidence motion.

Q3. Compare the powers of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

Lok Sabha directly elected; Rajya Sabha indirectly.

Money bills only in Lok Sabha; Rajya Sabha delays 14 days.

Government responsible only to Lok Sabha.

Rajya Sabha has special powers over State List and all-India services.

Both equal on ordinary bills and constitutional amendments.

MCQs with Answers

1. Money bills can be introduced in(a) Rajya Sabha (b) Lok Sabha (c) either House (d) joint sittingAnswer: (b) Lok Sabha

2. Rajya Sabha can delay a money bill for(a) 7 days (b) 14 days (c) 30 days (d) 6 monthsAnswer: (b) 14 days

3. Rajya Sabha members serve(a) 5 years (b) 6 years (c) 4 years (d) lifeAnswer: (b) 6 years

4. President nominates to Rajya Sabha(a) 2 (b) 10 (c) 12 (d) 15Answer: (c) 12

5. Anti-defection law came by the(a) 42nd Amendment (b) 52nd Amendment (c) 61st Amendment (d) 73rd AmendmentAnswer: (b) 52nd Amendment

6. Presiding officer of Lok Sabha(a) President (b) Speaker (c) Vice-President (d) PMAnswer: (b) Speaker

7. No-confidence motion can be passed in(a) Rajya Sabha (b) Lok Sabha (c) both (d) Supreme CourtAnswer: (b) Lok Sabha

8. Rajya Sabha is a(a) temporary House (b) permanent House (c) dissolved every 5 years (d) nominated HouseAnswer: (b) permanent House

9. Deadlock on an ordinary bill is resolved by(a) Supreme Court (b) joint sitting (c) President alone (d) referendumAnswer: (b) joint sitting

10. Indian Parliament consists of(a) Lok Sabha only (b) President, Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha (c) PM and Cabinet (d) both Houses onlyAnswer: (b) President, Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha

Quick Revision Points

- Parliament: laws, control, representation, debate.
- Bicameral: Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
- Rajya Sabha: indirect, permanent, 12 nominated, special powers.
- Lok Sabha: money bills, no-confidence.
- Bill → law steps; joint sitting.
- Controls; committees; Speaker; anti-defection (52nd).

Chapter Summary

Parliament makes laws, represents the people, debates public issues and keeps the executive accountable. India has a bicameral Parliament: the directly elected Lok Sabha and the Rajya

The Lok Sabha has greater powers over money bills and the government's survival, while the Rajya Sabha has special federal powers. Bills pass through readings, committees and both Houses before the President's assent. Parliament controls the executive through questions, budgets, motions and committees, and regulates itself through the Speaker and the anti-defection law.

Exam Tips and PYQ Pattern

- Lok Sabha vs Rajya Sabha table is very important.
- Learn the steps of law-making in order.
- Remember amendment numbers and the 14-day rule.
- Use examples of Question Hour and committees.
- Write about both strengths and limits of Parliament.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is this chapter in the 2026-27 CBSE syllabus?

Yes. It is part of the NCERT Class 11 Political Science textbook "Indian Constitution at Work", prescribed in the CBSE 2026-27 syllabus.

Can I download these notes as a PDF?

Yes. Use the free PDF link at the top of this page – no signup needed.

Why does India have two Houses of Parliament?

To represent both the people (Lok Sabha) and the states (Rajya Sabha) and to allow careful law-making.

What is the anti-defection law?

A 1985 law (52nd Amendment) that disqualifies legislators who leave their party or defy its whip.

Conclusion

Legislature shows how India's Parliament makes laws and checks power. Learn the comparison tables, practise the Q&A here and save the free PDF for revision.

More Notes: Class 11 Political Science (Indian Constitution at Work) Chapter 4: Executive notes | Class 11 Political Science (Indian Constitution at Work) Chapter 6: Judiciary notes | All Class 11 Political Science notes

Author Bio: Written and reviewed by the Nextoper Editorial Team, a group of CBSE political science educators who build chapter notes directly from the NCERT textbook and past board paper patterns.

Freshness Note: These notes follow the NCERT Class 11 Political Science (Indian Constitution at Work) textbook, Indian Constitution at Work (NCERT reprint 2026-27, rationalised syllabus), and the CBSE syllabus for the 2026-27 session. Last checked on 25 November 2026.