WORKING OF INSTITUTIONS

1. What is the role of Parliament in law making?

Ans. (i) Parliament is the final authority for making laws in any country.

(ii) Parliaments all over the world can make new laws, change existing laws

or abolish existing laws and make new ones in their place.

2. How does the President act as an Executive Head?

Ans. (i) The President is the head of the state. In our political system, the

head of the state exercises only nominal powers.

(ii) His functions are to a large extent ceremonial.

(iii) The President supervises the overall functioning of all the political

institutions in the country so that they operate in harmony to achieve the

objectives of the state.

3. How does President give his assent to a bill?

Ans. (i) A bill passed by the parliament becomes a law only after the

President gives assent to it.

(ii) If the president wants, he/she can delay this for some time and send the

bill back to the parliament for reconsideration.

(iii) But if the parliament passes the bill again, she/he has to sign it.

4. Why had the Mandal Commission become a debatable issue in

India?

Ans. i) The newspapers and magazines were full of different views and

opinions on this issue.

ii) It led to widespread protests and counter-protests, some of which were

violent.

iii) People reacted strongly because this decision affected thousands of job

opportunities.

iv) Some felt that the existence of inequalities among people of different

castes in India necessitated job reservations.

v) Others were of the view that this was unfair as it would deny equality

of opportunity to those who did not belong to a backward community.

vi) Some felt that this would hamper national unity.

5. State how working with institutions is not an easy task.

Ans. (i) Institutions involve rules and regulations. This can bind the hands of the leaders.

(ii) Institutions involve meetings, committees and routines. This often leads

to delays and complications. Therefore, dealing with institutions can be

frustrating.

(iii) Some of the delays and complications introduced by the institutions are

very useful. They provide an opportunity for a wider set of people to be

consulted in any decision-making.

(iv) Institutions make it difficult to take good decisions very quickly, but they

also make it equally difficult to rush through a bad decision.

6. How are the Council of Ministers categorised?

Ans. The Council of Ministers are classified as follows:

(i) **Cabinet Ministers**: They are usually top-level leaders of the ruling party or parties who are in charge of the major ministries. Usually, the Cabinet

Ministers meet to take decisions in the name of the Council of Ministers.

(ii**) Ministers of State with Independent Charge**: They are usually in charge of smaller ministries. They participate in the cabinet meeting only when they are specially invited.

(iii) **Ministers of State**: They are attached to and are required to assist the

Cabinet Ministers.

7. What does ‘integration of judiciary’ mean?

Ans. It means that the Supreme Court controls the judicial administration in

the country. Its decisions are binding on all the other courts of the country. It can take up any dispute:

(i) between the citizens of the country;

(ii) between citizens and the government;

(iii) between two or more state governments; and

(iv) between the union and state governments.

It is the highest court of appeal in civil and criminal cases. It can hear

appeals against the decisions of the high courts.

8. What is Impeachment Motion?

Ans. (i) A judge can be removed only by an impeachment motion passed

separately by two-third members of the two Houses of the Parliament.

(ii) Similarly, with impeachment, even President of India can be removed. It

is passed by both the Houses of Parliament by two-third members of

majority.