Polity & Governance

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Q1.

Consider the following statements regarding the constitutional framework for delimitation in India:

1. Article 82 provides for readjustment of the allocation of seats in the Lok Sabha and the division of States into territorial constituencies after each census, subject to constitutional provisions.
2. Article 170 deals with the composition and territorial constituencies of State Legislative Assemblies.
3. The Delimitation Commission's orders can ordinarily be challenged before a High Court through an election petition.

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

Correct answer: Option A — 1 and 2 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (a) — Statements 1 and 2 are correct.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** Article 82 provides for readjustment following each census, subject to constitutional provisions, including applicable freezes on readjustment.

2. **Statement 2 is correct:** Article 170 provides for the composition of State Legislative Assemblies and the readjustment of territorial constituencies.

3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Under Section 10(2) of the Delimitation Act, 2002, orders of the Delimitation Commission have the force of law and cannot be called into question in any court.

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Q2.

With reference to delimitation and the allocation of seats in the Lok Sabha, consider the following pairs:

Constitutional Article	Subject
1. Article 81	Composition of the Lok Sabha
2. Article 82	Readjustment of constituencies after each census
3. Article 170	Composition of State Legislative Assemblies
4. Article 324	Superintendence of elections

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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A. Only one

B. Only two

C. Only three

D. All four

Correct answer: Option D — All four

Explanation

Correct Answer: (d) — All four pairs are correctly matched.

1. **Pair 1 is correct:** Article 81 deals with the composition of the Lok Sabha and the allocation of seats among States.

2. **Pair 2 is correct:** Article 82 provides for readjustment of the allocation of seats and territorial constituencies following each census, subject to constitutional provisions and applicable freezes.

3. **Pair 3 is correct:** Article 170 deals with the composition of State Legislative Assemblies and the allocation of seats within States.

4. **Pair 4 is correct:** Article 324 vests the Election Commission with the superintendence, direction and control of elections to Parliament, State Legislatures, and the offices of President and Vice-President.

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Q3.

With reference to the passage of an ordinary Bill in the Indian Parliament, consider the following statements:

1. An ordinary Bill can be introduced in either House of Parliament.
2. The Rajya Sabha has the power to reject or amend an ordinary Bill passed by the Lok Sabha.
3. A joint sitting of Parliament may be convened to resolve a deadlock over an ordinary Bill.

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

Correct answer: Option D — 1, 2 and 3

Explanation

Correct Answer: (d) — All three statements are correct.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** Under Article 107, an ordinary Bill may originate in either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha.

2. **Statement 2 is correct:** Both Houses enjoy equal legislative powers over ordinary Bills. The Rajya Sabha can reject or propose amendments to a Bill passed by the Lok Sabha.

3. **Statement 3 is correct:** Under Article 108, the President may summon a joint sitting to resolve certain deadlocks between the two Houses. This provision does not apply to Money Bills or Constitutional Amendment Bills.

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Q4.

Which of the following safeguards is most directly relevant to preventing investigative agencies from conducting arbitrary or politically motivated investigations?

A. Allowing investigators unrestricted powers to examine individuals without recorded reasons

B. Requiring investigations to be based on credible information, supported by evidence and subject to legal oversight

C. Making investigative agencies accountable exclusively to political executives

D. Prohibiting judicial scrutiny of investigative procedures

Correct answer: Option B — Requiring investigations to be based on credible information, supported by evidence and subject to legal oversight

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Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — Evidence-based investigations and legal oversight help prevent arbitrary exercise of investigative powers.

1. **Credible information:** Investigations should be initiated and expanded on the basis of relevant information and legally permissible grounds.
2. **Evidence-based procedure:** Investigating officers must collect verifiable evidence rather than presume guilt or target individuals without justification.
3. **Judicial oversight:** Courts can examine investigative actions where legal or constitutional violations are alleged.

4. **Institutional accountability:** Internal supervision, transparent procedures and professional independence help protect investigations from improper influence.

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Q5.

Consider the following statements regarding the Rajya Sabha's role in the passage of an ordinary Bill in India:

1. An ordinary Bill may be introduced in either House of Parliament.
2. The Rajya Sabha can amend or reject an ordinary Bill passed by the Lok Sabha.
3. A joint sitting of Parliament may be convened to resolve a deadlock over an ordinary Bill.

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

Correct answer: Option D — 1, 2 and 3

Explanation

Correct Answer: (d) — All three statements are correct.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** Under Article 107, an ordinary Bill may originate in either House of Parliament.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** The Rajya Sabha has equal legislative powers with the Lok Sabha over ordinary Bills and can propose

amendments or reject them.

3. **Statement 3 is correct:** Under Article 108, the President may summon a joint sitting to resolve certain deadlocks between the two Houses. This provision does not apply to Money Bills or Constitutional Amendment Bills.

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Q6.

With reference to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in India, consider the following statements:

1. The CBI derives its investigative powers primarily from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.
2. The CBI can investigate offences in a State without the State Government's consent in every case.
3. The CBI functions under the administrative control of the Department of Personnel and Training.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1 and 3 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct answer: Option B — 1 and 3 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — Statements 1 and 3 are correct.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** The Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 provides the statutory basis for the CBI's investigative powers.

2. **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Under Section 6 of the DSPE Act, the CBI generally requires the consent of the concerned State Government to exercise its powers and jurisdiction within that State, subject to exceptions such as investigations directed by constitutional courts.

3. **Statement 3 is correct:** The CBI functions under the administrative control of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

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Q7.

With reference to the reservation of seats for Scheduled Tribes in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, consider the following:

1. The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 provides for reservation of seats for Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly.
2. Seats are reserved for representatives of areas of Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK).
3. The number of seats reserved for Scheduled Tribes is determined independently of the total strength of the Legislative Assembly.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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A. 1 only

B. 1 and 2 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct answer: Option A — 1 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (a) — Only Statement 1 is correct.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, as amended, provides for reservation of seats for Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly.
2. **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The legislative framework provides for 24 seats to remain vacant until the areas of Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir cease to be under occupation and become available for representation.
3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The number of reserved seats is determined within the constitutional and statutory framework governing the Assembly's composition and seat allocation.

Q8.

Consider the following Assertion (A) and Reason (R) in the context of delimitation in India:

Assertion (A): Laws relating to the delimitation of constituencies or allotment of seats, made under the constitutional framework, are generally protected from being challenged in courts.

Reason (R): Article 329(a) of the Constitution bars judicial questioning of laws relating to delimitation of constituencies or allotment of seats made or purporting to be made under Articles 327 and 328.

Select the correct answer:

A. Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation of A.

B. Both A and R are correct, but R is not the correct explanation of A.

C. A is correct, but R is incorrect.

D. A is incorrect, but R is correct.

Correct answer: Option A — Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation of A.

Explanation

Correct Answer: (a) — Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation of A.

1. **Assertion:** The Constitution provides protection against judicial challenges to laws relating to delimitation and allotment of seats, as specified under Article 329(a).
2. **Reason:** Article 329(a) expressly bars courts from questioning such laws made or purporting to be made under Articles 327 and 328.
3. **Constitutional significance:** This provision seeks to ensure that the delimitation framework is not disrupted through ordinary judicial challenges, while other constitutional and legal questions must be examined within their applicable scope.

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Q9.

A State has successfully reduced its population growth rate over several decades. However, a subsequent population-based delimitation exercise may reduce its relative share of Lok Sabha seats. Which constitutional concern does this situation primarily raise?

A. Conflict between the principles of universal adult franchise and secret ballot

B. Tension between population-based representation and equitable federal representation

C. Conflict between the powers of the Election Commission and the Finance Commission

D. Violation of the constitutional principle of collective responsibility

Correct answer: Option B — Tension between population-based representation and equitable federal representation

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — Tension between population-based representation and equitable federal representation.

1. **Population-based representation:** Redistribution of Lok Sabha seats according to population seeks to maintain the principle of equal representation.
2. **Federal dimension:** A reduction in the relative representation of States that have achieved demographic stabilisation may raise concerns about their influence in national decision-making.

3. **Demographic incentives:** States may argue that their success in controlling population growth should not result in a relative political disadvantage.
4. **Constitutional balance:** Delimitation must consider democratic equality while respecting India's federal structure and applicable constitutional safeguards.

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Q10.

Consider the following constitutional provisions and their relevance to delimitation in India:

1. Article 82 provides for readjustment of the allocation of seats in the Lok Sabha among States after each Census, subject to constitutional provisions.
2. Article 170 deals with the composition and territorial constituencies of State Legislative Assemblies.
3. Article 368 prescribes the procedure for amending the Constitution.

Which of the above provisions are relevant to the constitutional framework governing delimitation?

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A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct answer: Option D — 1, 2 and 3

Explanation

Correct Answer: (d) — All three provisions are relevant to the constitutional framework governing delimitation.

1. **Article 82:** Provides for readjustment of Lok Sabha seats and territorial constituencies following each Census, subject to constitutional provisions and applicable freezes.
2. **Article 170:** Provides the constitutional framework for the composition and delimitation of constituencies of State Legislative Assemblies.
3. **Article 368:** Governs the procedure for constitutional amendments that may alter the framework within which delimitation is undertaken.