ICSE 2025 EXAMINATION

Sample Question Paper – 5

History & Civics

Time: 2 Hours   **Max. Marks: 80**

General Instructions:

1. Answer to this Paper must be written on the answer sheet provided separately.
2. You will not be allowed to write during first 15 minutes.
3. This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.
4. The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.
5. Attempt all questions from Part I (Compulsory).
6. A total of five questions are to be attempted from Part II, two out of three questions from Section A and three out of five questions from Section B.
7. The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [ ].

PART - I

(Attempt all questions from this part)

QUESTION 1.
Choose the correct answers to the questions from the given options.

(i) On January 26, 1950, the Supreme Court of India was established as the highest court of the land. What can we infer about the Supreme Court's role from this?

(a) It functions only in matters of constitutional importance.
(b) It has both original and appellate jurisdiction.
(c) It primarily deals with civil cases.
(d) It can only advise the President in legal matters

Answer: (b) It has both original and appellate jurisdiction.

(ii) The following are the qualifications of a few individuals for the post of a Cabinet Minister:

Person	Age (in years)	Description
X	42	Elected member of the Lok Sabha
Y	36	Member of the State Legislative Council
Z	55	Indian citizen, not a member of any Parliament house
W	47	Retired IAS officer

Select the person who is eligible to be appointed as a Cabinet Minister in India.

(a) X
(b) Y
(c) Z
(d) W

Answer: (a) X

(iii) How many weeks are given to the Rajya Sabha to approve the Finance Bill?

(a) 2 weeks
(b) 3 weeks
(c) 4 weeks
(d) 6 weeks

Answer: (a) 2 weeks

(iv) The Vice-President of India, Mr. A, was elected in 2017 for a term of 5 years. However, during his tenure, certain irregularities were raised concerning his conduct in office. After thorough investigations, a proposal for his removal from office was presented in the Rajya Sabha, supported by the majority. A two-thirds majority was required to move forward with his removal.

Which procedure is being followed in this scenario?

(a) Impeachment

(b) Removal by Resolution

(c) Election process

(d) Expulsion by Majority Vote

Answer: (b) Removal by Resolution

(v) Speaker of the Lok Sabha : Presides over Lok Sabha : Vice-President of India : _____

(a) Presides over Rajya Sabha

(b) Presides over Lok Sabha

(c) Appoints Lok Sabha Members

(d) Oversees Parliament sessions

Answer: (a) Presides over Rajya Sabha

(vi) Identify the roles of the Vice-President of India:

P : Ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha

Q : Can declare a Financial Emergency

R : Can act as President in case of a vacancy

S : Can introduce a Money Bill

(a) P and Q

(b) R and S

(c) P and R

(d) Q and S

Answer: (c) P and R

(vii) Assertion (A) : The introduction of greased cartridges was a key factor in the outbreak of the First War of Independence.

Reason (R) : The cartridges were rumored to be greased with cow and pig fat, which offended both Hindu and Muslim soldiers.

(a) Reason contradicts Assertion.

(b) Reason is the reason for Assertion.

(c) Assertion is true but Reason is false.

(d) Assertion and Reason are independent of each other.

Answer: (b) Reason is the reason for Assertion.

(viii) The government of Country Y has implemented a regulation similar to the Vernacular Press Act of 1878. Which group is most likely to be affected by this regulation?

(a) Landowners

(b) Teachers

(c) Journalists

(d) Merchants

Answer: (c) Journalists

(ix) A Muslim leader in 1906 is considering joining the newly formed Muslim League. Which of the following actions is he NOT likely to support?
(a) Advocating for the political rights of Muslims
(b) Promoting loyalty to the British government
(c) Demanding immediate independence from British rule
(d) Working to protect Muslim interests in government policies

Answer: (c) Demanding immediate independence from British rule

(x) The University shown in the image was established during which movement?

(a) Quit India Movement   (b) Swadeshi Movement
(c) Civil Disobedience Movement   (d) Non-Cooperation Movement

Answer: (d) Non-Cooperation Movement

(xi) Identify the ODD ONE out of the following objectives of the Early Nationalists:
(a) Promoting constitutional reforms through peaceful means
(b) Demanding complete independence from British rule
(c) Advocating for greater representation of Indians in legislative councils
(d) Raising awareness about the economic exploitation by the British

Answer: (b) Demanding complete independence from British rule

(xii) Your school has organized a seminar on the Swadeshi Movement. Which of the following leaders would MOST LIKELY be featured as a key speaker?

(a) Bal Gangadhar Tilak　　　　　(b) Mohammad Ali Jinnah

(c) Dadabhai Naoroji　　　　　　(d) Rabindranath Tagore

Answer: (a) Bal Gangadhar Tilak

(xiii) Read the description and identify the person –

He launched the Non-Cooperation Movement in 1920, aiming to resist British rule through non-violent means and to unite Hindus and Muslims under a common cause.

(a) Bal Gangadhar Tilak　　　　　(b) Jawaharlal Nehru

(c) Mahatma Gandhi　　　　　　(d) Subhas Chandra Bose

Answer: (c) Mahatma Gandhi

(xiv) The image shows the United States trying to stay away from the problems in Europe. What was the main problem in Europe during this time?

(a) The rise of totalitarian regime　　(b) The Great Depression
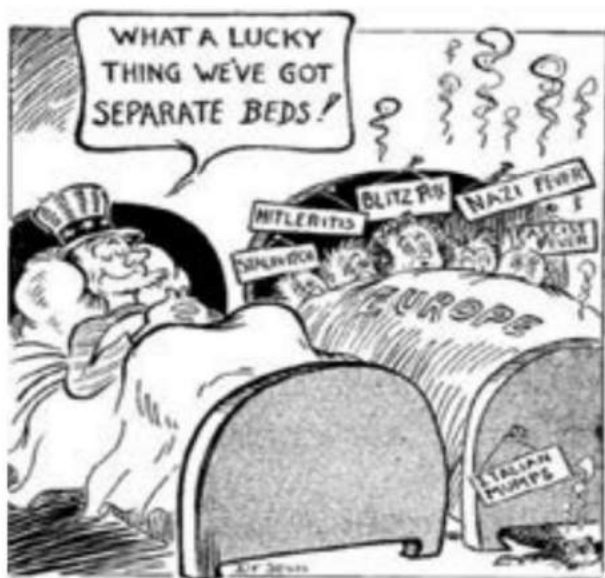
(c) The Industrial Revolution　　　(d) The discovery of new lands

Answer: (a) The rise of totalitarian regime

(xv) Identify the political leader under whom the lahore congress formalised the demand of Poorna Swaraj or full independence for Indian in December 1929.

(a) Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose　　(b) Jawaharalal Nehru

(c) Mahatma Gandhi　　　　　　(d) Gopal Krishna Gokhale

Answer: (b) Jawaharalal Nehru

(xvi) Which of the following scenarios describes the formation of the League of Nations?
(a) An international organization is established to promote global peace and prevent future wars.
(b) A country increases its military capabilities to deter foreign aggression.
(c) Two nations sign a non-aggression pact to resolve their territorial disputes.
(d) A military alliance is formed to counter the threat of invasion by rival countries.

Answer: (a) An international organization is established to promote global peace and prevent future wars.

2. Headline : Did the Supreme Court Truly Give the Delhi Government a 'Big Win'?
The order leaves the most pertinent question hanging in the balance: Is the Union government constitutionally barred from Legislative and Executive power over "Services" under Article 239 AA(3) ?

Source : The Wire

(i) On the basis of above information, enumerate any two legislative powers of Union Legislature.

Answer: Two legislative powers of the Union Legislature, as outlined in the Indian Constitution, are:

1. Union List Legislation: Under Article 246 of the Constitution, the Union Legislature has the exclusive power to legislate on matters enumerated in the Union List (List I) of the Seventh Schedule. This includes subjects like defense, foreign affairs, and atomic energy.

2. Power to Amend the Constitution: The Union Legislature can amend the Constitution under Article 368, subject to certain conditions, including ratification by half of the State Legislatures for specific amendments.

(ii) What do you mean by Gagging Act? When was it passed?

Answer: The Vernacular Press Act of 1878 was nicknamed the Gagging Act. The Act was enacted to control the freedom of the Indian press. It was passed under the Governor Generalship of Lord Lytton, for 'better control" of Indian language newspapers.

(iii) Mention two reasons for the faith of the Moderates in the British sense of justice.

Answer: Two reasons for the faith of the Moderates in the British sense of justice were:

1. Reformist Actions by the British Government: The Moderates believed that the British government would respond positively to their demands for constitutional reforms and greater Indian participation in governance. They had faith in the British promise of justice through gradual reforms, as seen in the early 19th-century policies.

2. Legal and Constitutional Framework: The Moderates trusted the British legal system and its established constitutional principles, believing that the British government would follow a fair and just approach in addressing Indian grievances within the framework of the law.

(iv) State the reason due to which the British revoke the partition of Bengal.

Answer: The British revoke the partition of Bengal, due to the widespread agitation in the form of Swadeshi and Boycott movements. These movements were supported by all sections of the society. The movements rapidly gained momentum and rose to their peak within a short span of time.

(v) Why was the Simon Commission boycotted by the Indians?

Answer: The Simon Commission (1927) was boycotted by Indians because it was composed entirely of British members, with no Indian representation. This exclusion angered Indians, as they felt their interests and voices were disregarded in matters of governance. Additionally, the Commission was seen as a symbol of British colonial rule, and its recommendations were perceived as biased and unsympathetic to Indian aspirations for self-rule and independence.

(vi) Mention any two functions of World Health Organization (WHO).

Answer: The World Health Organization (WHO) plays several crucial roles in global health. Two of its primary functions are:

1. Providing Leadership on Global Health Matters: WHO sets global health standards, provides technical assistance, and leads international efforts to address health issues, such as pandemics and health emergencies.

2. Monitoring and Assessing Health Trends: WHO collects and analyzes health data globally, providing essential information on health threats and trends to guide policy and interventions for improving public health worldwide.

(vii) Mention any two ways in which the Treaty of Versailles benefited France.

Answer: The Treaty of Versailles, signed in 1919, had several provisions that benefitted France after World War I. Two notable ways in which the treaty benefited France include:

1. **Return of Alsace-Lorraine:** The Treaty of Versailles stipulated that Germany must return the territories of Alsace and Lorraine to France. These regions had been taken by Germany following the Franco-Prussian War in 1871. The return of these territories was seen as a significant restoration of French pride and territorial integrity.

2. **War Reparations:** The Treaty required Germany to pay significant war reparations to the Allied powers, including France. These reparations were intended to compensate France for the immense destruction and loss of life suffered during the war. The payments helped to alleviate some of the financial burdens France faced due to the war.

PART – II

SECTION – A

(Attempt any three questions from this section)

3. The First War of Independence in 1857 had significant consequences for India and its future. With reference to this, answer the following questions:

(i) The British adopted a new policy towards the Indian Princes after the revolt. Mention any three aspects of this policy.

Answer: The British, after the 1857 Revolt, implemented a new policy towards Indian Princes, aiming to consolidate their control over the subcontinent. Key aspects of this policy included:

1. Doctrine of Lapse: This policy was intensified, allowing the British to annex princely states without a direct male heir. This led to the absorption of several princely states into the British Empire.

2. Increased Surveillance: The British established a more robust intelligence network to monitor the activities of Indian rulers and prevent future uprisings. This involved appointing British political agents to oversee the affairs of princely states.

3. Weakening of Princely Powers: The British gradually eroded the powers of Indian princes, reducing their autonomy in matters of administration, finance,

and military affairs. This aimed to make them more dependent on British authority.

(ii) How did the rise of nationalism in India get influenced by the events of the First War of Independence?

Answer: The First War of Independence in 1857, also known as the Indian Rebellion of 1857, significantly influenced the rise of nationalism in India. The revolt marked a turning point in India's history, as it brought together people from different regions, religions, and social classes against the British East India Company. The rebellion exposed the British's vulnerability, igniting a sense of unity and national consciousness among Indians. Despite its failure, the revolt awakened feelings of patriotism and fostered the desire for self-rule. It led to the formation of nationalist movements, such as the Indian National Congress in 1885, and played a pivotal role in shaping the political and social landscape, eventually contributing to India's struggle for independence.

(iii) The administrative set up of British territories in India underwent changes after the revolt. Analyses this statement by stating any four changes made in the administration after 1858.

Answer: The First War of Independence in 1857 resulted in significant administrative changes in British India. Some of the key changes implemented after 1858 include:

1. Transfer of Power: The British Crown took over direct control of India from the East India Company, ending the Company's rule.

2. Establishment of the Secretary of State for India: A new office of the Secretary of State for India was created, responsible for overseeing Indian affairs and reporting directly to the British Parliament.

3. Expansion of the Governor-General's Council: The Governor-General's Council was expanded to include more members, both Indian and British, to provide greater representation and consultation in decision-making.

4. Reorganization of Provincial Administration: The provincial administration was restructured with the introduction of Lieutenant-Governorships in key provinces like Bengal and the North-Western Provinces, aiming to improve efficiency and responsiveness.

4. The Lucknow Pact symbolized the unity in the: Congress. In this context, answer the following questions.

(i) What was the Lucknow Pact? Which two organizations joined hands in this Pact?

Answer: The Lucknow Pact, signed in December 1916, was a historic agreement between the Indian National Congress and the All India Muslim League. This pact aimed to foster Hindu-Muslim unity and present a united front to the British government for greater self-governance and political representation for Indians. The agreement marked a significant shift from previous rivalries between the two organizations, emphasizing collaboration in the struggle against colonial rule. Key provisions included demands for increased representation of Indians in legislative councils, the establishment of separate electorates for Muslims, and calls for self-government. The Lucknow Pact symbolized a crucial moment in Indian politics, laying the groundwork for future cooperation between Hindus and Muslims in the quest for independence.

(ii) The Lucknow Pact was criticized by some historians. Mention any three points to explain this criticism.

Answer: **(i) Reinforcement of Communalism:** Critics argue that the Pact, by accepting separate electorates, inadvertently strengthened communal divisions. This system, while aimed at safeguarding Muslim interests, further segregated the two communities.

(ii) Compromise on Democratic Principles: The Pact's emphasis on separate electorates was seen as a deviation from the principle of universal adult suffrage. It undermined the idea of a unified Indian nation based on shared citizenship.

(iii) Limited Impact on Mass Movement: While the Pact fostered unity among the elite, it failed to mobilize the masses effectively. Its focus on constitutional reforms and negotiations with the British limited its appeal to the broader population.

(iii) The Lucknow Pact fostered unity between Hindus and Muslims. Mention any four ways in which this unity was achieved.

Answer: The Lucknow Pact, signed in 1916 between the Indian National Congress and the All-India Muslim League, was criticized by some historians for several reasons:

1. Hindu-Muslim Divide: Critics argue that the Lucknow Pact reinforced communal divisions rather than fostering national unity. By giving the Muslim League significant political concessions, it exacerbated the divide between Hindus and Muslims, paving the way for later communal tensions.

2. Limited Representation: The pact led to separate electorates for Hindus and Muslims, which historians believe institutionalized religious differences in Indian politics, weakening the broader nationalist movement.

3. Undue Concessions to Muslims: Some view the pact as giving disproportionate political power to the Muslim League, especially in areas with a Muslim majority. This could have marginalized the Congress and limited its influence in certain regions, according to critics.

5. Read the excerpt given below and answer the questions that follow.

1905 saw a change in the direction of India's nationalist struggle and deepened a communal divide that would haunt India for decades to come. The reason: Lord Curzon, the imperial Viceroy, decided it was time to divide British India's largest province, the Bengal Presidency, the Partition of Bengal also galvanised Indian nationalists, furious at the British divide-and-rule strategy. New forms of protest, from calls of boycott to advocacy of swadeshi, emerged.

(i) When did the above event take place? Who was the; Viceroy of India during the above event? What was the main motive of Curzon behind the Partition of Bengal?

Answer: The event took place in 1905. The Viceroy of India during this time was Lord Curzon. The main motive behind the Partition of Bengal was to divide the province along religious lines, weakening nationalist unity and consolidating British control by fostering a communal divide.

(ii) The Partition of Bengal sparked widespread reactions among the people. Mention any three major responses to this event.

Answer: Three major responses to the Partition of Bengal were:

1. Strong protests from Indian nationalists who opposed the British "divide-and-rule" policy.

2. The emergence of new forms of protest, such as boycotts.

3. Advocacy of swadeshi (self-reliance) as a means to resist British colonialism.

(iii) Explain the other events that took place in 1905.

Answer: In 1905, alongside the Partition of Bengal, other significant events shaped India's nationalist struggle. The Indian National Congress began to adopt more radical approaches, influenced by the growing frustration with British policies. Leaders like Bal Gangadhar Tilak advocated for self-rule. The Swadeshi Movement,

focusing on boycotting British goods, gained momentum, intensifying anti-colonial sentiment.

6. Look at the picture given below carefully.

The ideology of the Mahatma Gandhi and his direction led the movement towards the country's independence. In this context answer the following questions.

(i) In the term of Gandhiji, what is the meaning of Swadeshi?

Answer: (i) According to Gandhiji, the term Swadeshi meant 'of one's own country'. The Swadeshi Movement was mainly directed towards social and economic upliftment of the society. especially of the rural workers. Gandhiji was in favour of using Swadeshi goods and boycott of foreign goods to harm the English trade. He emphasised the use of 'Charkha' and 'Khadi' to improve the economic condition of the Indian workers. He was in favour of establishing cottage industries in rural areas to uplift the rural people. Gandhiji launched the Swadeshi Movement to get rid of the problem of poverty and unemployment, to arouse self-respect and moral courage to fight against the wrong.

(ii) Why did Gandhiji launch the Rowlatt Satyagraha? Mention any three points to explain the reasons behind this movement.

Answer: Gandhiji launched the Rowlatt Satyagraha in 1919 in response to the oppressive Rowlatt Act passed by the British government. Here are three key reasons:
Opposition to the Rowlatt Act: The Act allowed arrest without trial, which violated civil liberties, leading to widespread anger. Repressive British Policies: Indians expected reforms after World War I but were met with harsher laws, intensifying

their discontent. Mass Mobilization: Gandhiji aimed to unite Indians and resist these injustices through peaceful, non-violent protest.

(iii) The first two Satyagrahas led by Gandhiji were pivotal in shaping India's freedom struggle. Justify this statement by focusing on the causes, strategies, and outcomes of these movements.

Answer:

Champaran Satyagraha (1917)

- Cause: Indigo farmers in Champaran district, Bihar, were exploited by the British planters who forced them into unfair contracts.

- Strategy: Gandhiji arrived in Champaran and challenged the oppressive system by conducting investigations, organizing protests, and engaging in civil disobedience.

- Outcome: The movement led to the abolition of the exploitative system and marked Gandhiji's entry into the national political scene. It demonstrated the power of non-violent resistance and inspired other similar struggles.

Ahmedabad Mill Strike (1918)

- Cause: Textile workers in Ahmedabad were demanding a wage hike to cope with rising inflation.

- Strategy: Gandhiji used the principle of "satyagraha" by organizing peaceful strikes and negotiations with the mill owners.

- Outcome: The movement was successful in securing a wage hike for the workers and further established Gandhiji as a leader of the masses. It showcased the effectiveness of non-violent methods in achieving social and economic justice.

Significance of these Satyagrahas

These first two Satyagrahas were pivotal in shaping India's freedom struggle for several reasons:

- **Introduced Satyagraha:** Gandhiji successfully introduced the concept of satyagraha (truth force) as a powerful tool of non-violent resistance.

- **Mass Participation:** These movements mobilized the masses and demonstrated the power of collective action.

- **Political Awakening:** They ignited a sense of political consciousness and awakened the people to their rights.

- **Empowerment:** The success of these movements empowered the people, especially the marginalized, to stand up against injustice.

- **National Platform:** These struggles provided Gandhiji a national platform, establishing him as a prominent leader of the Indian National Congress.

7. The Second World War is considered as the most disastrous war. In this context, state how each of the following factors was the cause of the Second World War.

(i) The failure of the League of Nations.

Answer: The main aim of the League of Nations was to maintain peace and security in the world. But not all great powers, like the USA, were its members. Germany joined in 1925, while Russia joined in 1934. Later, both Germany and Japan left the league. Therefore, the league lacked universal representation. It also did not have any international army to depend upon. Moreover, the permanent members always opposed those, decisions which went against their own interests.

(ii) The Aggressive Nationalism of Germany.

Answer: The aggressive nationalism of Germany, particularly under Adolf Hitler, played a crucial role in causing the Second World War. Following its defeat in World War I, Germany was humiliated by the Treaty of Versailles, which imposed severe territorial and military restrictions. Hitler exploited these grievances by promoting an ultra-nationalistic agenda that aimed to restore Germany's power and expand its territory. His belief in the superiority of the "Aryan" race led to the annexation of Austria (Anschluss), the invasion of Czechoslovakia, and eventually the invasion of Poland in 1939. This expansionist policy directly challenged the stability of Europe, disregarded international treaties, and prompted the Allied powers to declare war, igniting the global conflict.

(iii) Fascism and Nazism shared numerous ideological similarities during the Second World War. Discuss any four such similarities, focusing on their views towards authoritarianism, nationalism, and militarism.

Answer: Fascism and Nazism shared several key ideological similarities, particularly in their views on authoritarianism, nationalism, and militarism:

1. Authoritarianism: Both ideologies promoted a strong, centralized government led by a single leader with absolute power. Fascists, like Mussolini, and Nazis, under Hitler, rejected democracy in favor of dictatorial rule.

2. Nationalism: Both movements emphasized extreme nationalism. Fascists glorified the state and nation above all, while Nazis took it further with a racial ideology, promoting the supremacy of the "Aryan" race and the idea of a racially homogeneous state.

3. Militarism: Both ideologies glorified military power and expansion. Fascism and Nazism pursued aggressive foreign policies aimed at territorial expansion, with military strength central to their goals.

4. Anti-Communism: Both ideologies vehemently opposed communism and socialism, seeing them as threats to their nationalist and hierarchical visions of society.

PART – II

SECTION – B

(Attempt any two questions from this section)

8. The Parliament of India is the supreme organ for legislation and governance. With reference to this, answer the following questions:

(i) The Parliament exercises control over the executive through various methods. Mention any three methods used by the Parliament to control the executive.

Answer: The Parliament of India exercises control over the executive through various methods to ensure accountability and transparency in governance. Three key methods are:

1. Question Hour: This is an essential parliamentary procedure where members of Parliament can ask questions to the ministers regarding their departments' functioning. It is a powerful tool to hold the executive accountable by seeking clarifications on policies, decisions, and actions. The executive must answer questions posed by MPs, allowing them to scrutinize the government's activities.

2. Debates and Discussions: The Parliament debates and discusses important issues, policies, and bills, providing a forum for members to express their

views. This process allows Parliament to critically examine the actions of the executive and influence its decisions. Debates ensure that the government's actions are scrutinized in public view.

3. No-Confidence Motion: The Parliament can pass a no-confidence motion against the Council of Ministers, including the Prime Minister, which can lead to the resignation of the executive if the motion is passed with a majority. This method ensures the executive is directly answerable to Parliament for its performance and conduct.

(ii) Mention any three electoral functions performed by the Parliament.

Answer: The Parliament of India performs several crucial electoral functions that play a significant role in the country's democratic process. Three key electoral functions include:

1. Election of the President: The Parliament, specifically the Members of Parliament (MPs) and the Members of the Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) of States, participate in the election of the President of India. This indirect election process ensures the representative democracy of the nation at the highest constitutional level.

2. Election of the Vice President: Similar to the election of the President, Parliament also plays a key role in electing the Vice President of India. The election is conducted by an electoral college consisting of the MPs from both the Lok Sabha (House of the People) and Rajya Sabha (Council of States).

3. Disqualification of Members: The Parliament, under the provisions of the Constitution, has the power to disqualify members of the legislature on grounds such as defection or violation of certain legal criteria. This ensures that elected representatives remain accountable to the electorate.

(iii) Describe any two differences between the Presidential system and the Parliamentary system of government.

Answer: The Presidential system and the Parliamentary system of government differ in several key aspects, including the relationship between the executive and the legislature, and the method of selecting leaders.

1. Separation of Powers vs. Fusion of Powers: In the Presidential system, there is a clear separation of powers between the executive and the legislature. The President is the head of the state and government and is elected independently of the legislature. In contrast, in the Parliamentary system, there is a fusion of powers. The executive (Prime Minister and Council of

Ministers) is drawn from and accountable to the legislature (Parliament), which means the Prime Minister and cabinet are part of the legislature.

2. Tenure of Office: In a Presidential system, the President holds office for a fixed term, regardless of the legislature's support. This ensures stability and continuity. In the Parliamentary system, the Prime Minister remains in power as long as they have the confidence of the majority in the lower house of Parliament. If the legislature withdraws its support, the government may collapse, and new elections may be called.

9. The President of India enjoys the Veto Power regarding a Bill because he is an integral part of the Parliament. With reference to the Veto Power of the President, answer the following questions :

(i) The President enjoys the Veto Power and has three alternatives when a Bill is presented to him for assent. Mention any three alternatives?

Answer: The President of India has three alternatives when a bill is presented for assent, as outlined in Article 111 of the Constitution:

1. Give Assent: The President can approve the bill, allowing it to become law. This is the most common action taken when the bill aligns with constitutional provisions and public interest.

2. Withhold Assent: The President can choose to reject the bill, effectively exercising an absolute veto. This action is typically taken if the bill is deemed unconstitutional or against national interests.

3. Return the Bill: The President may return the bill to Parliament for reconsideration, provided it is not a money bill. This suspensive veto allows Parliament to revise the bill or resend it without changes. If returned unchanged, the President must then give assent

(ii) What do you mean by Absolute Veto? Mention any two cases when it is exercised?

Answer: Absolute Veto refers to the President of India's power to completely reject a bill passed by Parliament, preventing it from becoming law. This veto is exercised in specific circumstances where the President deems it necessary to withhold assent permanently. Two notable instances when the absolute veto has been exercised include:

1. Private Member's Bill: The President may exercise absolute veto on bills introduced by private members, which are not part of the government's

legislative agenda. For example, in 1954, President Dr. Rajendra Prasad used his absolute veto on the PEPSU Appropriation Bill, considering it unconstitutional.

2. Cabinet Resignation: If the Cabinet resigns after a bill has been passed but before the President can give assent, the new Cabinet may advise the President against approving the bill. This was observed in 1991 when President R. Venkataraman exercised his absolute veto on a bill concerning salaries and allowances for Members of Parliament, reflecting concerns about excessive pay raises.

(iii) Explain the Pocket Veto Power of the President with a suitable example.

Answer: The Pocket Veto is a unique power exercised by the President of India, allowing them to neither sign nor return a bill passed by Parliament, effectively keeping it pending indefinitely. This situation arises when the President does not act on the bill within a timeframe that is not explicitly defined by the Constitution. A notable example of the pocket veto occurred in 1986 when President Zail Singh did not act on the Indian Post Office (Amendment) Bill. The bill was presented to him, but he neither signed it nor returned it to Parliament before it was dissolved. As a result, the bill lapsed and did not become law. This illustrates how the pocket veto can serve as a strategic tool for the President to delay legislation without outright rejection. Unlike in some other democracies, there is no specific time limit for the Indian President to act on a bill, which gives them significant discretion in using this power.

10. The High Court plays a crucial role in the Indian judiciary system. With reference to its composition and powers, answer the following questions:

(i) Who appoints the judges of the High Court? Mention any two qualifications required for a person to be appointed as a judge of the High Court.

Answer: In India, the judges of the High Court are appointed by the President of India. The process of appointment involves the President consulting the Chief Justice of India and the Governor of the respective state. The President is guided by the advice provided by the Chief Justice, along with a collegium system comprising senior judges of the Supreme Court.

Two key qualifications required for a person to be appointed as a judge of the High Court are:

1. Citizenship: The individual must be a citizen of India.

2. Legal Experience: The person must have been an advocate of a High Court or of two or more such courts for at least 10 years, or must have been a judge of a subordinate court in the territory of India for at least 10 years.

(ii) What is the original jurisdiction of the High Court? Mention any three functions of the High Court under its original jurisdiction.

Answer: The original jurisdiction of the High Court refers to the cases that can be directly brought before the High Court, rather than being appealed from a lower court. The High Court's original jurisdiction is primarily concerned with specific types of cases, such as matters involving constitutional questions, disputes between citizens and the government, and cases related to its power of judicial review.

Three key functions of the High Court under its original jurisdiction are:

1. Writ Jurisdiction: The High Court has the power to issue writs such as habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, certiorari, and quo warranto to protect the fundamental rights of individuals under Article 226 of the Constitution.

2. Disputes between States and Union: It can hear cases involving disputes between the state and the union or between two states regarding the interpretation of constitutional provisions.

3. Election Petitions: The High Court also has jurisdiction to hear election petitions challenging the election of members of the legislature from the state.

(iii) Explain the following terms:
(a) Judicial Review
(b) Court of Record

Answer: (a) **Judicial Review** is the power of the judiciary to examine the constitutionality of legislative and executive actions. It ensures that laws and government actions conform to the Constitution. If a law or action is found to be unconstitutional, it can be declared null and void. This mechanism serves as a check on the powers of the legislature and executive, protecting individual rights and upholding the rule of law. In India, judicial review is implicitly provided for in various constitutional articles, making it a fundamental aspect of the democratic framework.

(b) **Court of Record** refers to a court whose proceedings are permanently recorded and can be referred to as legal evidence. Such courts have the authority to punish for contempt and maintain their own records, ensuring that their judgments are authoritative and binding. In India, both the Supreme Court and High Courts are

considered courts of record, which means their decisions serve as precedents for lower courts and play a crucial role in maintaining legal consistency.