

Pol- Science

Question: -

- (a) Write a note on "Political System of USA:-" and (b) how USA senate is the most powerful senate in the world and (c) mention the criticism on American senate?

Answer.

Political system of USA:-

Outline :-

1. Background.
2. Features of constitution.
3. The US - ✓ president.
4. The voice president
5. The congress
6. Senate / Senate is the most powerful upper house in the world. ✓
7. Legislative procedures.
8. Committee system.
9. The supreme court.
10. The political parties

11. Us - Federation

12. Check & Balance

13. Criticism on USA

14. Conclusion.

no need of an outline on neat side in a 20 marks qs.

Answer.

start with the introduction of the question.

Background:

Before looking upon the political system of USA, it is necessary to look upon the background of United States of America:- Initially there were 13 British colonies because it was colonization era and American colonies were occupied by British - And these were under British control.

But in 1775-1783, they started revolution of independence and finally on 4 July 1776 America became independent.

Features of US-constitution.

In 1787, Philadelphia convention was occurred and heads of 13 colonies have made a constitution in 1787 and it was enforced in 1789 under the leadership of George Washington.

1. Written constitution:

American constitution is short constitution as compared to Pakistan. Because it has only 7 articles, while if we talk about Pakistan constitution then there are 280 articles in it.

2. Rigid constitution:-

It is a rigid constitution because for any amendment there is a need of $\frac{2}{3}$ rd majority in senate while $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of all states of America. It

is very difficult to get $\frac{2}{3}$ majority in senate while 40% majority of 50 states. So, there has been 27 amendments in USA constitution due to this factor.

highlight the references/important arguments.

3- Bicameral - congress:-

There is bicameral legislation in USA constitution which is called congress. It has two houses

- 1- House of representative (lower house - 435 members)
- 2- Senate (upper house - 100 members, 2 members from each state.)

4- Federal system:-

All the 50 states of USA are independent but these are linked due to their constitution

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and federation system. Like
wise in Pakistan all
provinces are individually
independent but collectively
they are under central
government.

5- Separation of Power :-

Separation of Power means
power is distributed between
three pillars of state.

→ Executive

→ Legislature

→ Judiciary

Legislature makes the
through legislation in
Parliament. Executive branch
enforces law and Judiciary
branch interprets it. Hence
in this way, power is
distributed between three
main branches of USA.

6- Check & Balance :-

Although, there is separation of power between 3 main branches of USA as well as in other countries. But, still there is a system of check and balance there in which legislature branch has check and balance over executive and judiciary and vice versa. ^{As} Check and balance system was firstly given by ~~Enlighte~~ English man John Locke but he only suggested separation b/w executive and legislative but then Montesquieu added judicial branch as well. Along with separation of power Montesquieu coined the term check & balance for check & balance of three main branches over one another.

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→ Check and balance of the legislative branch over executive and judiciary: -

It has following checks over executive.

→ It may override presidential vetoes with 2/3rd vote.

→ May remove the president through impeachment.

→ Senate can approve treaties and it can approve presidential appointments.

It has following check and balances over Judicial branch.

→ Creates lower courts.

→ May remove judges through impeachment.

→ It's upper house senate can approve appointment of judges.

→ Check & balance of the Executive branch over legislative and Judiciary.

Executive has following checks over the legislative branch

- Veto power
- Ability to call special sessions of Congress
- Can recommend legislation
- President can give pardon over prisoner appeal

It has following check over Judicial branch

- President appoints S. C and other federal judges
- Check and balance of the Judiciary over legislative and Executive

It has following checks over Executive

- Judges, once appointed for life time and are free from executive branch
- Courts can judge executive action to be unconstitutional through the power of

judicial review.

→ It has following check over the legislative branch. Courts can judge legislative acts to be unconstitutional.

7. Presidential system: -

In USA, there is Presidential system because all the authority is of President. President can appoint judges, can call emergency sessions and President is involved in almost all main acts of the country. There is no vote of no-confidence against President but it is directly elected from public. Although if President is involved in corruption or illegal activities then there is impeachment of President but it is another case.

Voice president is present usually under President

8. Fundamental rights:-

Fundamental rights are reserved in USA constitution. Although there are White / Black race conflicts in America. But in it's constitution fundamental rights are reserved for all.

9. Dual-citizenship:-

There is dual citizenship in USA. A person can keep two types of nationality. One from it's state out of 50 states and one from the United states of America itself.

The US President:- Requirements:-

Minimum

35 years age is necessary
for USA President and
he should have been lived in
USA since for previous 14
years. There is a 4 years
tenure of President and
a person can be elected as
USA president in two times in
his life - Removal of
President can be done
through impeachment of
 $\frac{2}{3}$ majority.

Duties and Powers of US- President:-

1- Executive power:

He is the head of the
whole state and the
whole control of USA
is under President - He
has following executive
powers.

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- He executes law in country
 - He headed council of ministers
 - He done supervision of his staffs (6700 members)
 - He give executive orders to all institution.
 - He directs agencies like CIA, FBI
 - He done appointments of Ambassadors and Military officers

2. Legislative power:-

USA President has legislative power of Veto. He approves bill by giving his assent but he can reject bill by his power of Veto within 10 days.

3. Judicial power:-

He has judicial power. He can veto any law which is against human rights

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4- Financial power:-

He contains financial power because budget making is the responsibility of Government and he is the head of the Government. So, he contains financial power.

5. Foreign policy:-

He has power to make foreign policy from the cooperation of other agencies.

6- Appointment power.

He appoints military Head and also he has power to appoint judges -

The US - vice president.

US - vice president is like a right hand to USA president. The age factor and term of office (4-year)

of V-president is same as of President.

Duties:-

- 1- Political visits.
- 2- Succession (If President has died then V.P is his successor)
- 3- V.P is the President of senate
- 4- He attend meetings and lead committee according to President advice

The Congress of USA.

It has two houses - HOR (435) ^{→ directly elect for 2 years,} and senate (100) ^{indirectly elected for 6 years and 2/3rd retired after every 2 years.}

Power & Functions:-

- 1- Legislation
- 2- Investigative power

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- 3- Financial power
 - 4- Powers upon executive (Like on President for unconstitutional decisions.
 - 5- Impeachment
 - 6- Amendment.
 - 7- To control staff.

these are 3 separate questions. discuss them separately with separate start and ending.

USA Senate: Most powerful senate in the world. -

currently, it is a flawed structure and cannot be evaluated as different separate questions.

USA senate is the most powerful senate in the world due to the following authorities of USA senate as compared to others.

Factors which contribute to the Power of U.S.A. Senate :-

1- Small membership:

The membership of US senate is small of hundred number. And that small

membership has made it more compact & efficient body. The small no of senators gives men of talent a better chance to show their strength and become known to the country at large.

Longer Tenure :-

A senator is elected for a term of six years which is a longer tenure although one third senators retire after every two years but, they are generally re-elected. Because of long tenure outstanding politicians are attracted toward senate.

Greater influence :-

The senators are seasoned politicians and have greater skills than their friends in the lower house. As a result they enjoy greater influence among the public.

Freedom of speech:-

The senators of USA has freedom of speech beyond the limit of time. So, it is a prominent factor in the abundance of USA senate.

Direct Election:-

In other democratic countries, members of upper house are elected indirectly while

Solidarity of Senate:-

The USA senate is the only senate in the world which has unity and solidarity irrespective of the political affiliations of the members.

All the senators raise their voice as one man voice against any irregularity.

Absence of Parliamentary Government,

USA has Presidential form of government which make it's senate superior in the whole world. In Parliamentary form of government, lower house is more powerful while in Presidential form upper house enjoys executive powers.

Equal powers in the field of Legislation:-

American senate has equal powers in the field of legislation. Money and non-money bills are approved from senate also along with lower house. Senate is empowered to amend or reject bills.

Executive Powers:-

The American senate is the only upper house in the world which has some direct executive powers because President can make no

appointment without the consent
of senate

Court of Trial:-

The senate can make
court of trials for
the impeachment of president,
vice president, other
high officials and even
judges.

Power to appoint committees:-

The senate is empowered to
appoint investigating committees
for various administrative
matter and to expose the
errors of administration.

USA senate comparison with British Upper HOUSE (HOL).

It was once a very powerful
chamber but now it has
become so weak - It has no
share in financial legislation
HOL has no control over executive

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It has no share in appointments while USA senate enjoys the all above mentioned authorities

Comparison of US senate with Indian Rajya Sabha:-

Indian Rajya Sabha is weaker than Lok Sabha, it is indirectly elected. Although in case of impeachment

and ordinary bill both indian houses enjoys the same right while in case of

disputed bills Lok Sabha is superior. Money bills are

introduced only in Lok Sabha

After approved they passed to Rajya Sabha which

just delay bill for 14 days.

So, Indian senate has no

absolute power over approval

of bill and no control over minister of Lok Sabha while USA senate enjoys all these rights

Legislative procedure:-

- Introduction of bills.
- Committee stage
- Debate
- Voting
- 2nd house
- Conference committee
- Presidential assent
- Veto or approved
- Become law

Committee system in USA political system.

→ Standing committee:

Discussion on any bill before sending it into HOR and senate, occurs in standing committee

→ Specialized standing committee.

Sometimes standing committee make some specialized standing committees for further discussion on any bill.

→ Specialized committee

Specialized committee is
formed for any special
type of budget.

Joint committee :-

Joint committee work
for both houses of
USA congress.

Investigative committee :-

Investigative committee are
formed for investigation
of judges and other
high ministers.

Conference committee :-

Conference committee work
for the resolution of
dispute between American
congress both houses.

The Supreme Court :-

9 judges not fixed
Retirement age - 79 years.
Not removed but impeachment.

Powers :-

- 1 - Original cases.
- 2 - Appellate jurisdiction.
- 3 - Appeals of circuit courts.

- Interpretation of Constitution
- Guardian of constitution
- Development of constitution
- Judicial review

Political parties in US -

Two party system

Democrats vs Republic

Symbol
↓
Donkey

Symbol
↓
Elephant

Both

Capitalism supporter.

The US Federation,

13 colonies expanded to
50 states.

Distribution of power.

- 1- Central powers
↓
Just powers of centre.
- 2- Concurrent powers
Powers distributed b/w states & centre.
- 3- Reserved powers.
Powers just reserved to states.
- 4- Separate govts
All states are independent & have separate govts but under the central govt.

Criticism on USA political system & on senate.

ee/ Terry Moe and William Howell "criticize on USA

Political system in their book
"One of them is President,
Populism and Crisis of
Democracy". This book argues
that US is facing historic
crisis that threaten it's
democratic system of govt.
Some of the problems that
this book mentioned are.

- 1- Unequal treatment of people
on basis of colour
- 2- The improper influence of
money in politics.
- 3- Partisan polarization &
extremism.

Some of the reforms
that this book mentioned
are

- 1- Expanding the govt work for
people plan
- 2- Reinventing govt by streamlining
the govt organization chart,
reducing bureaucracy, empowering
frontline workers.
- 3- Strengthening democracy by protecting.

voting rights,
gerrymandering
enhancing

reducing
and by
civic education

Perspectives on the Senate:-

Viewpoint of KRISTIN
EBERHARD (Director
of Democracy & Climate
Research, Sightline Institute).

→ "Convert the senate into a
Citizen's Assembly"
Because of the following
reasons.

- 1- Undemocratic Senate - Half
of the nation's population
represented by 18 senators,
while 52 senators represent
only 18% of American.
- 2- Racial disparities:- White
American have nearly twice
as much representation as
Black & Hispanic Americans

Proposed solution - A citizen
assembly proposed better solution if chosen

by lottery to better
represent all Americans.

Viewpoint of ROBERT WILKES
SENIOR CORRESPONDENT,
Divided we Fall.

→ " Don't Break the Senate
Because

- 1 - Imp of state representation =
Each state get two senators
regardless of population.
- 2 - Role of senate = It acts as a
deliberative counterweight to
the House of Representation.
- 3 - USA is not like
Europe in which mostly
countries like France, all
power is centralized in Paris
which seems like unica-
meral and it's threat
to democracy.

According to PETER CERTO,
(SENIOR EDITORIAL MANAGER,
Institute for policy studies)

eg Senate is threat to USA
democracy, Here's how to fix
it.

Peter Corrao says:

these do not seem the answers of questions but random and scattered notes.

1- Imbalance & erosion of democracy
Senate | Republicans represent
15 bn fewer American than
Democrats contributing to
an anti democratic system.

2- Filibuster obstruction?

Republican have ✓ used the
filibuster to block popular
legislation & maintain their
minority power

structure of the answer needs massive improvement. no proper ending, start or body.

Proposed solution:

attempt again separately.

1- Eliminate or restrict
the filibuster and
add new states to
rebalance the senate
and the Electoral
College.

