

Q#1.

How does the system of checks and balance work in U.S political system? Explain with examples.

Introduction

The concept of checks and balances is a core part of U.S Constitution. It is linked to

Montesquieu's theory of separation of powers, which aimed to stop any single person or group from gaining too much power. The U.S system divides the government into three separate branches
i) executive (ii) legislative
iii) Judicial

How does this system works.

The U.S Constitution divides the government into :

1. Legislative Branch (Congress)
2. Executive Branch (President)
3. Judicial Branch (Courts)

Each branch is independent, but each one also has power to check or limit others. This creates balance of power and prevents any one branch acting on alone or becoming too strong.

Congress

Can approve:

budget, reject presidential appointments, override vetoes and impeach officials.

attempt these parts in detail by giving subheadings.

The President

can veto laws, appoint judges (with Senate approval), and issue executive orders.

The Courts

can stop laws or actions that go against (i) Constitution (ii) Fundamental human rights.

This structure leads to system where cooperation is needed, but abuse of power is harder. The system encourages balance, stability and fairness in government.

this was the main part of the qs asked.

Examples

(1)

Senate Rejection of Treaty of Versailles (1919)

After World War I, President Woodrow Wilson helped write the Treaty of Versailles including idea of League of Nations. However, the U.S. Senate refused to approve the treaty.

Significance: This shows that legislative branch can block executive actions, especially in foreign policy. The President can make treaties, but the Senate must ratify them under Art II, Section 2 of the constitution.

(2)

The Iran-Contra Scandal and Independent Investigation (1980s)

During President Ronald Reagan's term, some officials secretly sold weapons to Iran and sent the money to rebels in Nicaragua, violating U.S. laws. A law allowed an independent investigator to examine the

case, leading the charges against several officials.

Significance: This example shows how Congress and the Judiciary can limit executive power by creating laws and holding officials accountable for illegal actions.

(3) Senate Refusal to Confirm Merrick Garland (2016)

In 2016, President Barack Obama nominated Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court. The Senate, controlled by opposing party, refused to even hold a vote.

Significance: The Senate used its power to block the president's judicial appointment, showing how checks can be used through procedure and politics.

add more arguments.

a 20 marks answer should have around 15 arguments and be on 7-9 pages.

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