



IAS Exam Exam

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Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, along with the President form India's parliament for legislative purposes according to **Article 79** of the Indian constitution. The Lok Sabha is known as the House of People or lower house and the Rajya Sabha is known as the Council of States or upper house. Members of Lok Sabha are directly elected on the basis of adult suffrage due to which Loksabha is considered the true representative of the people of India. Rajya Sabha, on the other hand, is indirectly elected. The titles 'Lok Sabha' and 'Rajya Sabha' were adopted by the Indian Parliament in 1954. The primary difference between these two chambers of Parliament is in their respective powers and functions.

In this article, let us learn the conceptual Differences between Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. It will be helpful for UPSC CSE/ IAS Exam Preparation and understanding of the legislative structure of the country. Learning this topic, will not only help in prelims but also in the mains and interview phase of the IAS examination.



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Differences between the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha

Basis for Comparison	Lok Sabha	Rajya sabha
What is it called?	House of people/Lower house of Parliament	Council of states/Upper house of Parliament
Composition related Constitutional provisions mentioned?	Article 81	Article 80
How are its members elected?	Members of Lok sabha are elected by Universal adult suffrage by mode of direct representation to represent their constituencies	Members of Rajya sabha are indirectly elected representative of the Assemblies of states and union territories.
What is the duration of each house? (Article 83)	5 years (unless sooner dissolved by no-confidence motion or can be extended by Parliament while Proclamation of emergency is in operation)	It is a permanent house (Never dissolved, Only 1/3 of members retire every second year)
What are the age criteria? (Article 84)	25 years	30 years
Who is the presiding officer of each house?	Speaker (Article 93)	Vice President of India (Article 64)
What are the functions of the house?	Lok Sabha plays a major role in legislation, due to its strength, Constitutional provisions. Lokasabha has a major role in passing the money bill (Article 110), controlling the council of ministers, and has authority to pass non confidence motion against the government.	Rajya Sabha has a major role in the formation of All India services and declaration of the subject on the state list of the national interest.

Other Relevant Links	
System of Elections to Lok Sabha	Lok Sabha
Presiding Officers of Parliament	Rajya Sabha
Legislative Procedure in State Legislature	Sessions of Parliament, Devices of Parliamentary Proceedings
Budget in Parliament	Joint Sitting of Two Houses

Sovereignty of Parliament	Membership of Parliament
Salaries and allowances of Member of Parliament	Parliamentary Privileges
Issues in functioning of Parliament	Role of Parliament

What is the comparative position of both houses of Parliament?

Following aspects mention comparative position of both houses of parliament:

Aspects	Details
Which House is known for containing the true Representatives of India?	- Lok Sabha is directly elected and the true representative of the people of India. - Rajya Sabha, on the other hand, is indirectly elected.
What is the tenure of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha?	Rajya Sabha is a permanent body, therefore it is never dissolved according to Article 83 of the Indian constitution. However, 1/3 rd of its members retire after every 2 years and then vacant positions are elected according to the principle of indirect representation. Lok Sabha is elected for a definite period of 5 years according to Article 83 of the Indian constitution. - Loksabha's tenure can be increased and it can be dissolved even earlier than the expiry of the term according to different circumstances.
The comparison regarding the Passage of Routine Bills in the Parliament	- When it comes to routine bills, both Houses have equal authority. - However, if the differences between the two houses persist and a Joint sitting of the Parliament(Article 108) is called. - The Lok Sabha will have the upper hand in terms of Joint sitting because its membership exceeds that of the Rajya Sabha. (*Click on the following link to read more about Sessions of the Parliament & Joint Sitting of the Parliament(Article 108))
Why Loksabha is more effective in controlling the Council of Ministers?	Lok Sabha is more effective in terms of controlling the Council of Ministers. - By debating policies and programs and criticizing the administration, the Rajya Sabha can exert some authority. - However, only the Lok Sabha has the authority to pass a no-confidence motion, which, if passed, requires the Council of Ministers to quit.
What powers associated with Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha related to Constitutional Amendments?	Both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha have nearly identical powers when it comes to constitutional amendments, presidential and vice-presidential elections, and impeachment or removal of the president, vice president, Chief Justice, and Supreme Court and High Court judges .
Why Lok Sabha has more powers in terms of Financial Affairs?	Lok Sabha has the upper hand in financial affairs because: According to Article 110 of the Indian Constitution, Money Bill can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha as per the provisions given under Article 109. After having been passed by it, the money bill goes to the Rajya Sabha. - In case of any dispute as to whether a particular bill is a money bill or not, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha gives the decision. His decision is final and it cannot be challenged in any court or even in the Rajya Sabha or the Lok Sabha. - Thus, we can say that the Lok Sabha has final control over the finances of the state. No tax can be levied or collected or changed or abolished without the approval of the Lok Sabha. - The fiscal policies of the government cannot be implemented without the consent of the Lok Sabha.
Which exclusive powers are associated with Rajya Sabha?	Rajya Sabha has exclusive powers in terms of the Formation of All India Services and the Declaration of the subject on the State List to be of national interest. Described as follows:

- Only the Rajya Sabha has the power to form a new All India Service or declare a subject on the State List to be of national interest.
- **Article 249** of the Constitution provides that the Rajya Sabha may pass a resolution (by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the Members present and voting), to the effect that it is necessary or expedient in the national interest that Parliament should make laws with respect to **any matter enumerated in the State List**.
- **Article 312** states that if the Rajya Sabha passes a resolution (by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting) declaring that it is necessary or expedient in the national interest to create one or more **All India Services** common to the Union and the States, Parliament will have the power to create by law such services.

Why Lok Sabha (Lower House) is more powerful than Rajyasabha?

- Lok Sabha can express a lack of confidence in the government in the following ways:
 - By failing to pass a motion of thanks for the President's inaugural address.
 - By Rejecting a money bill (To read on how a bill is passed in Indian Parliament, [Money Bill](#))
 - By passing a [censure motion](#) or an [adjournment motion](#)
 - By defeating the government on a vital issue
 - By passing a cut motion.
- Only the Lok Sabha can introduce a money bill under **Article 110**. (In the linked article, aspirants can learn more about Money Bill.)
- Only the Lok Sabha can introduce a financial bill under **Article 110 (1)**. (*click on this link to read more about [*Difference between Finance Bill and Money Bill](#))
- The Speaker of the Lok Sabha determines whether bills are Money Bills, whereas the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha does not have this authority.
- When both chambers meet in a combined session, the Lok Sabha with the greater number of members invariably wins.
- When it comes to the union budget, the Rajya Sabha can only debate it and not vote on grant requests.

What are equal powers of Rajya Sabha compared to Lok Sabha?

There are some important matters in respect of which the Constitution has placed both Houses of Parliament on an equal footing as may be seen from the following list:

- Equal rights with the Lok Sabha in the **election and impeachment of the President (Articles 54 and 61)**
- Equal right with the Lok Sabha in the **election of the Vice-President (Article 66)**
- Equal right with the Lok Sabha to make law **defining parliamentary privileges and also to punish for contempt (Article 105)**
- Equal right with the Lok Sabha to approve the **Proclamation of Emergency (issued under Article 352), Proclamations regarding the failure of the Constitutional machinery in States (issued under Article 356)**
- Equal right with the Lok Sabha to receive reports and papers from various statutory authorities, namely -
 1. **Audit Reports from the Comptroller and Auditor General of India [Article 151(1)].**
 2. **Reports of the Union Public Service Commission. [Article 323(1)].**
 3. **Reports of the Special Officer for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes [Article 338(2)].**
 4. **Report of the Commission to investigate the conditions of the Backward Classes [Article 340(3)].**
 5. **Report of the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities [Article 350 B(2)].**

What are the differences related to the Composition of Lok Sabha and Rajyasabha?

Composition of Lok Sabha		Composition of Rajya Sabha	
Maximum Strength – 552	530 represents the States	Maximum Strength – 250	238 elected indirectly and are representatives of States and Union Territories
	20 are the representatives of the Union Territories		
	2 are nominated by the President of the Anglo-Indian Community		12 are nominated by President
Current strength – 545	530 represent States	Current Strength – 245	233 represent states and Union Territories
	13 represent Union Territories		

	2 are nominated by the President from Anglo-Indian Community		12 are nominated by President
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What is the difference between Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha with respect to the Representation of States?

Lok Sabha	Rajya Sabha
- Members are directly elected by the people from the territorial constituencies in the states. - Election Principle used – Universal Adult Franchise - Eligibility to Vote: Any Indian Citizen of/above 18 years of age	- Members are elected by the elected members of state legislative assemblies. - Election Principle used – Proportional Representation by means of Single Transferable Vote - Allotment of Seats – On the basis of population

Conclusion

The prime reason for two parliamentary houses is the need to prevent the concentration of power in one house and the potential for abuse that this entails. Rajya Sabha reflects the diversity and needs of different states, whereas Lok Sabha addresses general issues regarding people as a whole. The presence of two houses enables each one of them to review the decisions of the other and check its errors. The upper house maintains the federal equilibrium by protecting the interests of states against undue interference from the centre. Bicameralism was introduced through the Government of India Act 1919 in India. Bicameralism helps legislation to undergo double scrutiny. This is best prescribed through the proverb “Jack sober over Jack drunk”. Thus, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are important governing bodies of India that have several functions to perform. Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are essential for the smooth functioning of different states and union territories.

Other Relevant Links	
Indian Polity UPSC Notes	Parliament and State legislature
Union Executive & State Executive	Preamble of the Constitution
Lok Sabha	Rajya Sabha
Role of Parliament	Difference between Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha
President	Governor
Union Executive	State Executive
Chief Minister	Prime Minister
Constituent Assembly of India	Sources of the Constitution
Constitution of India-Overview	Citizenship (Article 5-11)
Union Territories	Directive Principles of State Policy
Fundamental Rights (Article 12 to 35)	Fundamental Duties

Question: Why Rajya Sabha is termed as Upper House? ▢

Question: When was Bicameralism introduced in India? ▢

Question: How many members are nominated in Rajya Sabha? ▢

Question: What is the Minimum age for being a member of Lok Sabha? ▢

Question: What is the Minimum age for being a member of Rajya Sabha? ▢

Question: Who is presiding officer in Lok Sabha?

□

Question: Who is the presiding officer of the Rajya Sabha?

□

Question: How many members are nominated in Lok Sabha?

□

Question: Which House of the Parliament is known as the Permanent Body?

□

Question: Which House of the Parliament is responsible for the formation of All India Services and Declaration of the subject on the State List to be of national interest?

□

Question: What is the current strength of Lok Sabha?

□

Question: What is the current strength of Rajya Sabha?

□

Question: Who is the head of Indian Parliament?

□

Question: What is Indian Parliament?

□

UPSC Mains Practice Question:

1. Rajya Sabha has been transformed from a 'useless stepney tyre' to the most useful supporting organ in the past few decades. Highlight the factors as well as the areas in which this transformation could be visible. (Mains 2020)

MCQ

Question: Rajya Sabha calls for a joint sitting of the Parliament during the passage of [UPSC 2012]

1. Ordinary Legislation
2. Money Bill
3. Constitution Amendment Bill

Select the correct answer using the codes given below :

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a) [See the explanation](#)

□

Question: An amendment to the Constitution of India can be initiated by the: [UPSC 1999]

1. Lok Sabha
2. Rajya Sabha
3. State Legislature
4. President

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) 1, 2 and 3
- (c) 2, 3 and 4
- (d) 1 and 2

Answer: (d)[See the explanation](#)

Question: In India, if a religious sect/community is given the status of a national minority, what special advantages is it entitled to? (UPSC 2011)

- 1. It can establish and administer exclusive educational institutions.
- 2. The President of India automatically nominates a representative of the community to Lok Sabha.
- 3. It can derive benefits from the Prime Minister’s 15-Point Programme.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (c)[See the explanation](#)

Question: When the annual Union Budget is not passed by the Lok Sabha, (UPSC 2011)

- (a) the Budget is modified and presented again
- (b) the Budget is referred to the Rajya Sabha for suggestions
- (c) the Union Finance Minister is asked to resign
- (d) the Prime Minister submits the resignation of the Council of Ministers.

Answer: (d)[See the explanation](#)

Question: Consider the following statements: (UPSC 2012)

- 1. Union Territories are not represented in the Rajya Sabha.
- 2. It is within the purview of the Chief Election Commissioner to adjudicate the election disputes.
- 3. According to the Constitution of India, the Parliament consists of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha only.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) None

Answer: (d)[See the explanation](#)

Question: Regarding the office of the Lok Sabha Speaker, consider the following statements: (UPSC 2012)

- 1. He/She holds the office during the pleasure of the President.
- 2. He/She need not be a member of the House at the time of his/her election but has to become a member of the House within six months from the date of his/her election.
- 3. If he/she intends to resign, the letter of his/her resignation has to be addressed to the Deputy Speaker.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) None

Answer: (b)[See the explanation](#)



Question: Consider the following statements regarding a No- Confidence Motion in India: (UPSC 2014)

1. There is no mention of a NoConfidence Motion in the Constitution of India.
2. A Motion of No-Confidence can be introduced in the Lok Sabha only.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (c) [See the explanation](#)



Other Relevant Links	
Indian Polity Notes	Indian Economy Notes
Art and Culture Notes	Governance Notes
Ancient India History Notes	Medieval India History Notes
Modern India History Notes	Geography Notes
Science And Technology Notes	Environment And Ecology Notes
Post Independence Notes	Society Notes
Internal Security Notes	Ethics Notes
Disaster Management Notes	World History
International Relations	Social Justice Notes
CSAT Notes	Government Scheme Notes

*The article might have information for the previous academic years, please refer the official website of the exam.

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