

Social Studies

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Authors

• **Dr. Safdar Ali Shirazi** Ph.D (Geography),
Associate Professor Geography,
Punjab University, Lahore.

• **Dr. Akhtar Hussain Sandhu** Ph.D (History)
Professor of History,
Government College Civil Lines, Lahore.

• **Muhammad Hussain Ch.,** M. A. (Economics)
Master Trainer,
Training Institute Irrigation Resources,
Lahore

• **Rehman Ullah Ch.,** M. A. (Political Science)
Professor of Political Science.

Translation and Review Committee

- **Dr. Rizwan Ullah Kokab,** Ph.D (History),
Professor Government College University, Faisalabad.
- **Professor Zahid Aziz Khan** M.A (Political Science)
Head of Department (Political Science and Mass Communication)
Government College Township Lahore.
- **Dr. Altaf Malik** PhD English (UK),
Professor of English, Islamia College, Civil Lines, Lahore.
- **Tariq Mahmood Khan,** Professor of English,
Government College Model Town Lahore.
- **Zaheer Ahmad Anjum,** Editor, *The Pakistan Times*, Lahore
- **Saadat Ali Kazmi,** Department of Geography, Aitchison College, Lahore.

Editor

Malik Muhammad Sharif M. A. (History, Economics) M. Ed.
Senior Subject Specialist, Government High School, Khariyan, District Sheikhpura

Director (Manuscripts) : **Mrs. Nisar Qamar**

Deputy Director (Graphics)/Artist : **Aisha Waheed**

Supervision : **Shams-ur-Rehman(S.S. Geography)**

Layout Setting : **Hafiz Inam-ul-Haq**

Federal System of Government



Chapter

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Need to have a Government

In past, different families lived together that were known as a tribe. Every tribe had a leader. Many tribes were living in one region. Often, they would fight with one another and many people were killed in this way. In order to stop these battles, different warlords framed some laws and principles. One who did not abide by the law was punished by tribe and leader. With the passage of time, these tribes jointly became a state and one ruler administered it. Basically, three things are required to run a government:

- i. An institution to frame laws (**Legislature**).
- ii. An institution to implement and enforce the laws (**Executive**).
- iii. An institution to interpret the law (**Judiciary**).

Let us see the institutional working for these three things in our beloved country Pakistan.

The official name of our country is "Islamic Republic of Pakistan". Pakistan means 'the land of the pure'. Republic means democratic system where everyone, living in the country, has a say in the affairs of government. In this sense, Islamic Republic of Pakistan means the land of the pure in which people elect their representatives to rule on their behalf.

When it is said that there is government of the people, it does not mean that every person can take part in the affairs of the country. In this way, affairs of the country cannot be run smoothly. In every locality, people elect their representatives through voting. Thus, a councilor is elected from every locality who tries to solve the problems of people at local level. Then there is a Chairman of the area. One member is elected for Provincial Assembly who knows the problems of the region. In this way, the opinion and affairs of the people, living in a small locality reach from local to

national level and efforts are made to solve the problems.



Important Information

The will of the state is expressed through government.

Structure of Federal Government/Executive

In Pakistan, Federal parliamentary system of government is enforced. Federation of Pakistan includes the four provinces, tribal regions and federal capital Islamabad. The structure of the federal government is explained below:

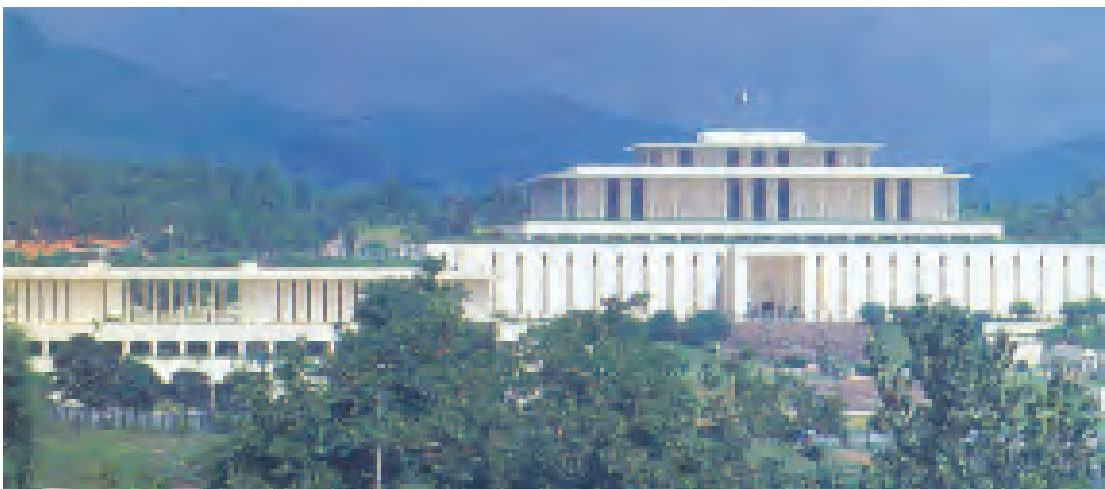
Constitution

The set of basic rules according to which the system of a state is governed is known as constitution.

The President of Pakistan

The President of Pakistan is the head of state and Supreme Commander of armed forces of the country. It is the highest office of the state. President with his specific authority can accept or reject the appeals of the condemned prisoners.

It is necessary for the President of Pakistan to be a Muslim. His age should be at least forty five years. In Pakistan, President is elected by the Senate, National Assembly and four Provincial Assemblies. The tenure for the office of the President is five years.



The President House, Islamabad

Parliament/ Legislature

The Parliament of Pakistan consists of two houses. The upper house is called the Senate and the lower house is called National Assembly.

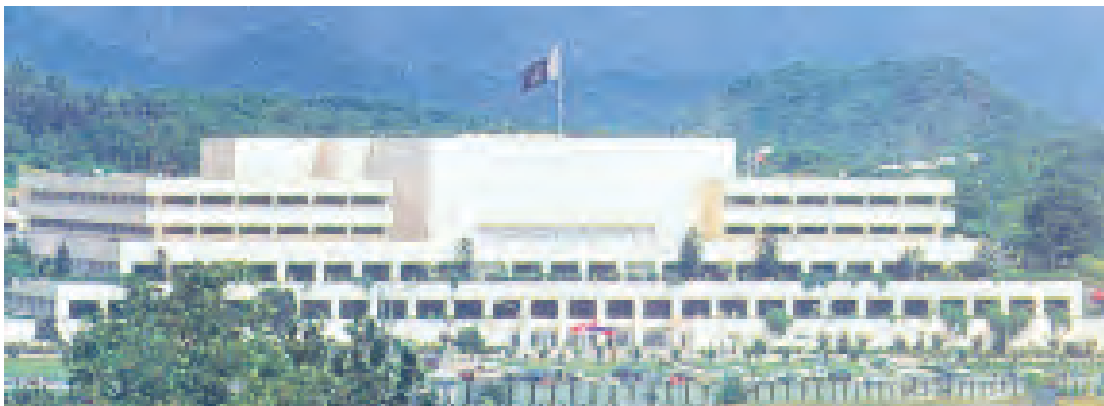
Senate

The members of the Senate are elected by the members of National Assembly, four Provincial Assemblies and the members of National Assembly from FATA. The total number of members of Senate is 104. They are elected in an equal number from all four provinces. Besides this, professionals like doctors, engineers and religious scholars are also given representation in the Senate. Senators retire after their term is over and new members are elected in place of them. It is mandatory for a member of Senate to be 30 years old. To run the proceedings of the Senate, the members elect Chairman and Deputy Chairman.

National Assembly

National Assembly makes laws. The total number of its members is 342. People elect their representatives by voting in the elections. These elected representatives are called members of National Assembly. They represent their voters and present their demands to the government for solution.

All members of the National Assembly are elected from all provinces of Pakistan, i.e. Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and the areas under administration of the federal government. They represent their areas in National Assembly and are called Members of



Parliament House, Islamabad

National Assembly (MNAs). They are elected for five years. The Speaker presides over the sessions of National Assembly. Important national and international affairs are discussed in the National Assembly.



Session of National Assembly

Prime Minister

Prime Minister looks after the administrative affairs of the country. There are several Federal departments that run the system of the country. Each department is headed by a Federal Secretary who works under the supervision of Federal Minister.

According to the Constitution, National Assembly is elected after every five years. Members of National Assembly are elected in these elections. Prime Minister is elected by the members of the party which is in majority. If a party does not have a clear majority in the assembly, then different parties make alliance with one another and elect the Prime Minister. Prime Minister has his own Secretariat.



Prime Minister House, Islamabad

Cabinet

Prime Minister has to fulfil many national and international responsibilities. He cannot handle the affairs of the country all alone. He appoints ministers for his help. The number of ministers is decided by him according to the Constitution. All the Federal Ministers constitute Federal Cabinet. They are made heads of different departments like commerce, finance etc. To run administration of a department, a state official is appointed as secretary. There are many government officials under the Secretary. The meetings of Federal Cabinet are called in which important policy decisions are made through mutual consultation. Performance of different government departments is also evaluated in such meetings.

Judiciary/Supreme Court

The Supreme Court is situated in Islamabad. However, it has its benches in the four provincial capitals where the judges of Supreme Court hear cases. Supreme Court is the highest judicial court of Pakistan. Its head is called Chief Justice of Pakistan. The Supreme Court hears appeals against the decisions of the High Courts. It is custodian of the constitution of the country and protects the fundamental human rights. It gives constitutional advice to the President on national affairs. The verdicts of the Supreme Court are final.



Supreme Court of Pakistan, Islamabad

Relations between Federal and Provincial Governments

Like federal government provincial governments are also formed through elections. Constitution of Pakistan divides the powers between Centre and the provinces. Federal government is responsible for the defence with the help of Army, Air Force and Navy. Moreover, the relations with foreign countries, trade and commerce, central planning, federal taxes and coordination among the provinces fall under its responsibilities. Provincial government looks after the departments of services and administration, Home, Law, Education, Agriculture, Health and Provincial Taxes, etc.

Role of Political Parties

Political parties are very important part of democracy. They create political awareness in the people. Political parties include problems of people in their manifesto and struggle to come into power to resolve those problems..

Important Rights of Citizens according to the Constitution of 1973

The 1973 Constitution of Pakistan includes rights for the citizen of Pakistan. They are known as fundamental rights. The state of Pakistan

cannot deprive any citizen of these rights neither a law can be made against these fundamental human rights. The constitution guarantees these rights for all individuals. The state is responsible for the fulfilment of these rights. Some fundamental rights are as under:

- i. Every citizen is free to live according to his belief and faith. They are given the security of life and property without any discrimination. It is the constitutional obligation of the government to respect their honour and dignity.
- ii. Every citizen has the right of trade, business or to adopt any lawful profession.
- iii. Every citizen has the freedom to write and speak.
- iv. Every citizen has the right to sell and buy property.
- v. Any group having its own different language, script and culture has the right to secure and develop it.

Different Ways to Solve the National Problems

Problems can only be solved through dialogue. To solve the national problems, it is necessary to have the atmosphere of cooperation among different political parties in the Parliament.

All decisions should be taken with consensus. Today Pakistan is facing many issues among these issues terrorism is a burning issue. For solution of this issue, a national action plan was framed with consensus of all the political parties and due to this national action plan steps like operation Zarb-e-Azab and Raddul-Fasad were taken Which are showing positive results for eradication of terrorism in Pakistan.

EXERCISE

1. Give answers to the following questions.
 - i. What is the name of the highest court of Pakistan?
 - ii. Who takes our problems to the government?
 - iii. What is the head of the Supreme Court of Pakistan called?
 - iv. Tell the number of the members of National Assembly.
2. Fill in the blanks.
 - i. Every tribe has one.....

- ii. The official name of our country is
- iii. The head of Supreme Court is called
- iv. The highest court of Pakistan is.....

Practical Work (Activities)

- i. Students with the help of teacher, should prepare a chart of relations among different Courts of Pakistan and display it in the classroom.
- ii. Identify a major problem in your locality with the help of your teachers, parents and other people and think how government can solve this problem.
- iii. Teacher should tell their students about the law making process in Pakistan.
- iv. With the help of your teacher, design a plan to help rural population about illiteracy and cleanliness.
- v. With the help of your teacher, compare the establishment of Provincial government with the Central Government.
- vi. Teacher should let the students compare the duties of the legislature, executive and judiciary.

Points to think

- i. My friend has arranged a party on his success in the examination. We wish to do all the arrangements of party in a good way. For this, give us your suggestions, how can we do all the tasks in good manner?
- ii. If we say that we run our government together, how can it be possible?
- iii. There is improper road and sewerage system in our locality. We complained to the member of the Provincial Assembly of our area. He talked to the head of the Town Committee but he said that they have no money. Tell after thinking, what will our member of Provincial Assembly do?