Polity & Governance · GS - II

Explain the constitutional composition and election process of the Rajya Sabha. How does its permanent nature contribute to continuity and federal representation in the Indian parliamentary system?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 28/10/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Article 80; Article 83; permanent House; biennial retirement; proportional representation; federal structure; nominated members; legislative continuity

Model Answer

Introduction

The Rajya Sabha, or Council of States, is the Upper House of Parliament. It represents the States and Union Territories and provides continuity in India’s parliamentary system.

Composition and election

1. Constitutional basis: Article 80 provides for a maximum strength of 250 members, including up to 238 representatives of States and Union Territories and 12 members nominated by the President.

2. Election of members: Representatives of States are elected by elected members of their Legislative Assemblies through proportional representation using the single transferable vote. The President nominates members with special knowledge or practical experience in literature, science, art and social service.

3. Permanent nature: Under Article 83(1), the Rajya Sabha is not dissolved. Approximately one-third of its members retire every two years, with members normally serving six-year terms.

Importance

Its continuity allows legislative scrutiny despite changes in the Lok Sabha. Representation of States supports federal deliberation, while nominated members can contribute specialised knowledge to parliamentary debates.

Conclusion

The Rajya Sabha combines continuity, federal representation and legislative review. Its effectiveness depends on constructive debate, informed scrutiny and responsible exercise of parliamentary powers.

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