Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the constitutional rationale behind prescribing different minimum ages for membership of the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Legislatures.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 28/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Constitutional provisions, political maturity, bicameralism, representation, democratic participation, electoral reforms

Model Answer

The Indian Constitution prescribes different minimum ages for membership of legislative institutions, reflecting their distinct constitutional roles and responsibilities.

Constitutional provisions:

1. Article 84(b) prescribes a minimum age of 25 years for the Lok Sabha and 30 years for the Rajya Sabha.
2. Article 173(b) establishes the same age requirements for State Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Councils, respectively.

Rationale behind the distinction:

- **Institutional maturity:** The higher age requirement for upper houses reflects their intended role in providing experience and continuity in legislative deliberations.
- **Bicameral functioning:** The Rajya Sabha and State Legislative Councils are designed to complement directly elected lower houses through reconsideration of legislation and wider representation.

- **Democratic participation:** The lower age threshold for directly elected houses enables younger citizens to participate in legislative decision-making.
- **Constitutional balance:** Different eligibility requirements recognise the distinct functions of legislative chambers.

Debate on reducing the minimum age:

Reducing the eligibility age could widen political participation, encourage youth leadership and improve representation of younger demographic groups. However, concerns regarding legislative experience, institutional responsibilities and political preparedness also merit consideration.

Any change would require an appropriate constitutional amendment rather than judicial alteration of the prescribed eligibility conditions.

Conclusion: The age requirements represent a constitutional balance between wider democratic participation and institutional responsibilities. Any proposed reform should be assessed through informed parliamentary deliberation.

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