

ANSWER KEY & MARKING SCHEME · CBSE CLASS 11**Executive**

Political Science · Chapter 4 · Use this with the Board Paper · Companion to Quick Drill

HOW TO USE

Attempt the Board Paper first (closed-book, full time). Then come here. For 2-mark+ questions, compare your answer to the model. For 3-4 mark questions, also consult the **Topper Templates** below — these show the exact step-by-step structure that scores full marks per CBSE marking-scheme conventions.

MODEL ANSWERS · BOARD PAPER**Section A — Very Short Answer (1 mark each, 4 Qs)****Q1. Who appoints the Prime Minister of India? [1 mark]**

Ans: The President appoints as Prime Minister the leader of the party or coalition that commands a majority in the Lok Sabha.

Q2. Under which Article is the President bound to act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers? [1 mark]

Ans: Article 74.

Q3. Which body recruits members of the All-India and higher Central Services? [1 mark]

Ans: The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

Q4. How is the President of India elected? [1 mark]

Ans: Indirectly, by an electoral college of the elected members of both Houses of Parliament and the elected members of the State Legislative Assemblies.

Section B — Short Answer I (2 marks each, 3 Qs)**Q5. Differentiate between the political executive and the permanent executive. [2 marks]**

Ans: The POLITICAL executive consists of elected leaders — the Prime Minister and ministers — who take policy decisions and are accountable to the people; they change with elections. The PERMANENT executive consists of professional, politically neutral civil servants who advise ministers and implement policies and who remain in service across governments, working under the political executive.

Q6. Why does having a President not make India a presidential system? [2 marks]

Ans: In a presidential system one elected President is BOTH head of state and head of government (as in the USA). In India the President is only the head of STATE (a nominal figure), while the head of GOVERNMENT is the Prime Minister, who is drawn from and answerable to the legislature. India is therefore parliamentary, not presidential, despite having a President.

Q7. State any two discretionary powers of the President of India. [2 marks]

Ans: (i) When no party or coalition has a clear majority in the Lok Sabha (a hung Parliament), the President uses discretion in deciding whom to appoint as Prime Minister. (ii) The President may send the advice of the Council of Ministers back for reconsideration once, and may also return a bill (other than a money bill) once for reconsideration (suspensive veto).

Section C — Short Answer II (3 marks each, 3 Qs)**Q8. Explain the principle of collective responsibility of the Council of Ministers. [3 marks]**

Ans: (i) The Council of Ministers is jointly answerable to the Lok Sabha for all its decisions and policies, not merely each minister for his own department. (ii) If the Lok Sabha passes a vote of no-confidence, the ENTIRE Council, including the Prime Minister, must resign — they 'sink or swim together'. (iii) It also requires cabinet solidarity: every minister must publicly support a cabinet decision, and one who cannot agree must resign rather than oppose it. This principle is the keystone of the parliamentary system, keeping the executive continuously accountable to the elected legislature.

Q9. Why is the Prime Minister called the real head of the executive? Give three reasons. [3 marks]

Ans: (i) The PM leads the majority in the Lok Sabha and is appointed on that basis, so the government runs under his leadership. (ii) The PM chairs the Cabinet, steers its decisions, allocates departments and advises the President on the appointment of all ministers. (iii) Since the President normally acts on the aid and advice channelled through the PM (Article 74), and the Council functions under him, the PM effectively directs the entire Union government — even though formal acts are issued in the President's name.

Q10. Describe the role of the bureaucracy (civil services) in the Indian executive. [3 marks]

Ans: (i) The bureaucracy is the PERMANENT executive — professional officials such as the IAS and IPS who advise ministers with their expertise and implement government policies. (ii) It is politically NEUTRAL, serving whichever party is in power, and provides continuity and administrative skill that elected leaders cannot supply alone. (iii) It works UNDER the political executive — ministers take the final, accountable decisions — and is recruited through the independent UPSC on merit, which keeps it impartial.

Section D — Long Answer / Passage-Based (4 and 7 marks, 2 Qs)

Q11. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow: 'There shall be a Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister at the head to aid and advise the President who shall, in the exercise of his functions, act in accordance with such advice. The President may require the Council of Ministers to reconsider such advice and the President shall act in accordance with the advice tendered after such reconsideration.' (a) Which Article of the Constitution does this passage reflect? (b) Who is described here as the real executive? (c) What does this passage tell us about the position of the President? (d) Name one situation in which the President can use his own discretion. [4 marks]

Ans: (a) Article 74. (b) The Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister is the real executive. (c) The President is the NOMINAL / constitutional head who must normally act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers; he may ask for reconsideration once but must then accept the repeated advice. (d) When no party has a clear majority in the Lok Sabha (a hung Parliament), the President can use discretion in choosing whom to appoint as Prime Minister.

Q12. Distinguish between the parliamentary and presidential systems of government, and explain why India adopted the parliamentary system. [7 marks]

Ans: Differences (4.5): (i) Head of state vs head of government — in a PARLIAMENTARY system the two are separate (in India, the President as head of state and the Prime Minister as head of government), whereas in a PRESIDENTIAL system one elected President is both (as in the USA). (ii) Relationship with the legislature — the parliamentary executive is drawn FROM and is part of the legislature, while the presidential executive is elected separately and kept distinct under a separation of powers. (iii) Accountability and tenure — a parliamentary government is continuously responsible to the legislature and can be removed by a no-confidence motion, so it has no fixed term; a presidential executive serves a FIXED term and cannot be voted out mid-term by the legislature. India's choice (2.5): India adopted the parliamentary system at both the Union and State levels because it ensures the executive remains continuously accountable to the elected representatives of the people; the framers were also familiar with this system from the colonial period and judged that, for a large and diverse country, day-to-day accountability mattered more than the rigid stability of a fixed presidential term.

★ **TOPPER TEMPLATE — 4-mark question: 'Distinguish between the parliamentary and presidential systems of government.'** (also 3-mark or 6-mark)

CBSE SQP 2019, 2021, 2023; School Annual 2020, 2022 — extremely common

Step 1 [1 mark]	Head of state vs head of government	'In a PARLIAMENTARY system the offices of head of state and head of government are separate — in India the President is head of state and the Prime Minister is head of government. In a PRESIDENTIAL system one person, the President (as in the USA), is BOTH head of state and head of government.'
Step 2 [1 mark]	Relationship with the legislature	'In a parliamentary system the executive is drawn FROM the legislature and is collectively responsible to it; in a presidential system the executive is elected separately and is NOT part of the legislature (separation of powers).'
Step 3 [1 mark]	Accountability and tenure	'In a parliamentary system the government survives only while it holds the confidence of the lower house and can be removed by a no-confidence motion; a presidential executive serves a fixed term and cannot be voted out mid-term by the legislature.'
Step 4 [1 mark]	India's choice	'India adopted the parliamentary system at both the Union and the State level because it ensures continuous accountability of the executive to the elected representatives of the people.'

COMMON LOSS OF MARKS:

- Saying India is presidential because it has a President — a fatal conceptual error.
- Listing differences without naming the system each point belongs to.
- Forgetting the accountability/no-confidence point, which is the defining feature.

★ **TOPPER TEMPLATE — 5-6 mark question: 'Explain the powers of the President of India / Discuss the position of the President.'**

CBSE SQP 2020, 2022; School Annual 2019, 2023

Step 1 [2 marks]	Executive and legislative powers	'EXECUTIVE: all executive actions of the Union are taken in the President's name; the President appoints the Prime Minister, other ministers, Governors, judges and Ambassadors. LEGISLATIVE: the President summons and prorogues Parliament, addresses it, and every bill becomes law only with the President's assent; the President can return a bill once (suspensive veto).'
Step 2 [2 marks]	Judicial, emergency and discretionary powers	'JUDICIAL: the President can grant pardons and reprieves (Article 72). EMERGENCY: the President can proclaim a national, state or financial emergency. DISCRETIONARY: in a hung Parliament the President chooses whom to appoint as PM, and may ask the Council of Ministers to reconsider its advice once.'
Step 3 [2 marks]	Position — nominal head bound by Article 74	'Despite this long list, the President is the NOMINAL head: under Article 74 the President must normally act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister. Real power lies with the PM and the Council. The President is thus a constitutional head who symbolises the unity of the nation rather than an active ruler.'

COMMON LOSS OF MARKS:

- Listing powers but never stating the binding rule of Article 74 — caps at 3-4/6.
- Claiming the President actually governs the country.
- Omitting the discretionary band, leaving the answer one-sided as a pure rubber stamp.

★ **TOPPER TEMPLATE — 3-4 mark question: 'Explain the principle of collective responsibility.'**

CBSE SQP 2021; School Annual 2022, 2024

Step 1 [1 mark]	Definition	'Collective responsibility means the Council of Ministers as a whole is jointly answerable to the Lok Sabha for all its decisions and policies, not merely each minister for his own department.'
Step 2 [1 mark]	Sink or swim together	'If the Lok Sabha passes a vote of no-confidence against the Council of Ministers, the ENTIRE Council — including the Prime Minister — must resign. They stand or fall together.'
Step 3 [1 mark]	Cabinet solidarity	'Every minister is bound to publicly support a cabinet decision; a minister who cannot agree must resign rather than oppose it in public. This is what keeps the government united before Parliament and the people.'
Step 4 [1 mark]	Why it matters	'Collective responsibility is the keystone of the parliamentary system; it ensures the executive is continuously accountable to the elected legislature.'

COMMON LOSS OF MARKS:

- Confusing collective with individual responsibility.
- Not stating that the WHOLE Council resigns on a no-confidence vote.
- Missing the cabinet-solidarity dimension.

MARKING SCHEME — GENERAL NOTES

- Section A (1-mark) answers must be exact — a wrong office or wrong Article earns zero; no partial credit.
- For 'parliamentary vs presidential' questions, each point must name WHICH system it describes; bare lists earn at most half marks.
- For presidential-powers questions, full marks require the Article 74 'nominal head' conclusion, not just a list of powers.
- Do not confuse INDIVIDUAL responsibility (each minister for his department) with COLLECTIVE responsibility (the whole Council to the Lok Sabha).
- In passage-based questions, answers must be drawn from or consistent with the given extract; award marks point-wise as per the sub-parts.