

Introduction to the Parliamentary System

Chapter 15: Introduction to the Parliamentary System · Topic 1

Key Concept

In a parliamentary system, the executive branch (government) derives its authority from and is accountable to the legislature (Parliament).

The Prime Minister, as head of government, is typically the leader of the majority party or coalition in the Parliament's lower house.

This system differs from a presidential system, where the executive and legislature are separately elected and more independent of each other.

The parliamentary system promotes accountability, as the government can be questioned and even removed by Parliament through a no-confidence vote.

Quick Revision Notes

- Parliamentary system: executive accountable to legislature.
- Executive derives authority from Parliament.
- PM: leader of majority party/coalition.
- This differs from presidential system.
- Presidential: separate, independent elections.
- Parliamentary system promotes accountability.
- Government can be questioned by Parliament.
- Also removable via no-confidence vote.

Practice Questions

- 1 Discuss how the Prime Minister is chosen.
- 2 Compare parliamentary and presidential systems.
- 3 Discuss what a no-confidence vote means.
- 4 Research how Parliament holds the government accountable.
- 5 Discuss why accountability matters in governance.
- 6 Explain the parliamentary system in your own words.