

Key Stage 3

Understanding 3 Branches of the State

Lesson Plan

Lesson Plan - Key Stage 3

UNDERSTANDING THREE BRANCHES OF THE STATE

Objectives

By the end of the session, students would be able to:

- Develop an understanding of the nature of the government with its three branches of the State (Legislative, Executive, Judiciary).
- Analyze the importance of separation of powers and how this is achieved through the three branches of the State.

Curriculum Link

Social Studies Curriculum Key Stage 3 Strand 5: Governance and Citizenship (Grade 7,8)
GC1.1: Explore the idea of different types of government and the impacts of systems of governance on people's lives (Explore characteristics of democracy (separation of powers))
GC3.1: Demonstrate understanding of the structure and functions of the government of Maldives (Recognizes how the government shares the different powers (separation of powers))

Success Criteria

Students are able to:

- Recognize some of the functions of the three branches of the State
- Describe why separation of powers is important and how each branch checks and balances the powers of the one another

Setting or Resources required

- "List of Powers" Worksheet for each group
- A3 papers for each group
- Fact sheet
- Whiteboard, flipcharts
- PPT Understanding three branches of the State

Procedure

Introduction (20 minutes)

Introduction

Get students' ideas on the terms "Legislature, Executive and Judiciary" by asking if they know about these terms from any previous lessons.

Use PPT and explain the three powers of the State; the Legislative (making laws), Executive (enforcing laws) and Judicial (interpreting laws and determining whether they apply in individual cases). Discuss the powers of each branch with examples.

Explain the term 'separation of powers'? And why it is important?

Separation of powers refers to the division of government responsibilities into distinct branches to limit any one branch from exercising the core functions of another.

Separation of powers into three branches is important because it provides a system of checks and balances. This means each branch checks the exercise of power by the other branch and is accountable to each other. By doing this, abuse of power by one single branch is prevented.

Activity (15 minutes)

Remember & Understand

In small groups, provide students the cutouts of the "List of Powers" Worksheet and a blank A3 paper. Ask them to unscramble and sort it out into three groups and glue the powers where it belongs to in the A3 sheet.

Extension Activity - Apply & Analyse

Sharing power at school activity

1. In small groups students complete a table that outlines the powers and responsibilities of different groups in the school.

A sample table is below:

2. After completing the table, discuss the following questions

- a. How are disagreements at school resolved?
- b. Are the 3 groups working towards a common goal? If so, what is this common goal?
- c. Can students identify any similarities or differences between their school structure and the separation of powers in Maldives?

Group 1 Leadership Staff	Group 2 Teaching Staff	Group 3 Student Leaders
Key People:	Key People:	Key People:
What powers they have?	What powers they have?	What powers they have?
What are their responsibilities?	What are their responsibilities?	What are their responsibilities?

Closure / Conclusion (20 minutes)

Reflect: What they took away from this session and what questions they have?

List of Powers Worksheet

Cutout the powers, mix them up and give to students to categorize into 3 branches

Amendment of the Constitution in accordance with the terms provided
Adoption of laws pertaining to any subject, or the revision or repeal of any legislation, provided that it does not conflict with any Islamic principles
The oversight of the exercise of executive authority, making sure the executive is responsible for the use of its powers, and taking the necessary actions to guarantee the same
Approval of the annual budget and any supplementary budget
Holding of public referendums on issues of public importance
Performance of all duties otherwise expressly required by this Constitution and by law
To carry out executive functions as authorized by the Constitution and laws;
To select the Cabinet; the Parliament must approve each cabinet member;
To establish, manage, and supervise the nation's foreign policy;
To manage political ties with other countries and international organizations;
To proclaim situations of emergency in compliance with the Constitution's provisions;
To appoint the Chief Justice, and Judges of the Supreme Court; after consulting the Judicial Service Commission and confirmation of appointees by the Parliament.

List of Powers Worksheet

Cutout the powers, mix them up and give to students to categorize into 3 branches

Responsible for resolving legal disputes brought before the courts. This includes interpreting laws, reviewing evidence, and making decisions based on the merits of each case.
Has the power to determine the constitutionality of laws or actions of any person or body performing a public function:
Declaration of Invalidity: Decides if a part of the law or action is not valid because it doesn't follow the rules in the Constitution.
Make any order that is just and equitable to fix the problem. It might order compensation to people who were harmed by the invalid law or action. It could also delay the decision for a bit, giving time to fix the issue and make things right.
Decides how far back in time its decision applies. This body can say that its decision doesn't affect things that happened a long time ago, reducing the impact on past events.

List of Powers - Answers

The powers of the Legislature

- Amendment of the Constitution in accordance with the terms provided
- Adoption of laws pertaining to any subject, or the revision or repeal of any legislation, provided that it does not conflict with any Islamic principles.
- The oversight of the exercise of executive authority, making sure the executive is responsible for the use of its powers, and taking the necessary actions to guarantee the same.
- Approval of the annual budget and any supplementary budget.
- Holding of public referendums on issues of public importance.
- Performance of all duties otherwise expressly required by this Constitution and by law.

The powers of the Executive

- To carry out executive functions as authorized by the Constitution and laws;
- To select the Cabinet; the Parliament must approve each cabinet member;
- To establish, manage, and supervise the nation's foreign policy;
- To manage political ties with other countries and international organizations.
- To proclaim situations of emergency in compliance with the Constitution's provisions;
- To appoint the Chief Justice, and Judges of the Supreme Court; after consulting the Judicial Service Commission and confirmation of appointees by the Parliament.

The powers of Judiciary

- The Judiciary operates independently, free from undue influence or interference from the executive or legislative branches of government. This independence is crucial for ensuring fair and impartial decision-making.
- The judiciary is responsible for resolving legal disputes brought before the courts. This includes interpreting laws, reviewing evidence, and making decisions based on the merits of each case.
- The judiciary has the power to determine the constitutionality of laws or actions of any person or body performing a public function:
- Declaration of Invalidity: If a court finds that a law or action goes against the country's Constitution, it can say that part of the law or action is not valid because it doesn't follow the rules in the Constitution.
- Fixing the Problem: The court can make any order that is just and equitable to fix the problem. It might order compensation to people who were harmed by the invalid law or action. It could also delay the decision for a bit, giving time to fix the issue and make things right.
- Limiting the Impact: The court can decide how far back in time its decision applies. This means the court can say that its decision doesn't affect things that happened a long time ago, reducing the impact on past events.