



Key Stage 4

# Members of Parliament

Lesson Plan

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## Members of Parliament

### Objectives

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

- Understand the role of Member of Parliament (MP) in the parliament
- Explain how the numbers of MPs are attained in accordance with the respective constituencies
- Understand the conditions of becoming an MP of People's Majlis

### Curriculum Link

Extension of 'role of the parliament administration and the parliament members' topic from Strand 5 of Key Stage 3 Social Studies Curriculum.

GC3.1: Demonstrate understanding of the electoral process in the Maldives and the structure and functions of the government of Maldives.

### Success Criteria

Students will be able to:

- Explain the importance of MPs and their functions at the Majlis.
- Describe how MPs are elected to the parliament and how the number of members are decided
- State the conditions and privileges of being an MP of People's Majlis

### Setting or Resources required

- PPT Slides
- White board
- A4 Papers
- Fact sheet

# Procedure

## Introduction (3 minutes)

Begin the topic by asking the students to name a few MPs they know. Ask students if they know the MPs representing their respective home constituencies.

## Discussion: (15 minutes)

Discuss using the PPT slides.

Who can become an MP?

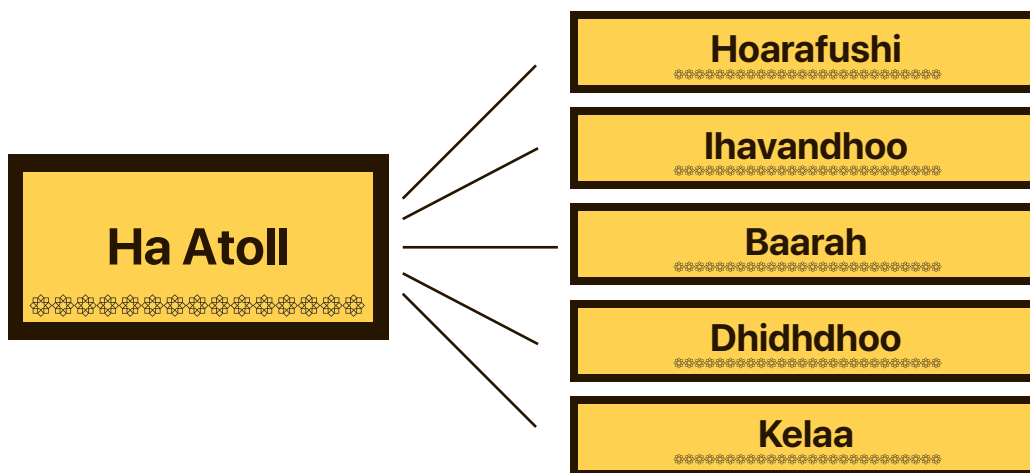
Who cannot become an MP?

What are the roles or positions that an MP cannot hold while serving a term in the Majlis?

Ask students how many MPs are in the Majlis. How is this number decided?

Explain how the number of MPs is decided in relation to the population of the respective constituencies.

For example, according to the information from 2014, the population of HA atoll in total is 21508. And the atoll is divided into 5 total constituencies.



Discuss the different functions of MPs both in the Chamber and the Parliamentary Committees.

Show a small video of how a debate is carried out on the floor, and show some pictures of committee proceedings.

Explain the privileges of MPs.

# Activity (24 minutes)

Role play of a Majlis Committee

Choose a topic relevant to the students, like lowering the voting age to 16.

Prepare terms of reference—a set of 3–4 guidelines—that explain the exact areas that the committee will investigate.

Advantages and disadvantages of having 16-year-old students vote in state elections What changes will be necessary to enable 16-year-old students to vote in elections?

Divide the class into groups of 5 or 6 students, with one from each group joining as committee members. The other 4 or 5 groups are the witness groups like Youth NGO, Election Commission, Democracy NGO, and Ministry of Education

One student from the committee is selected as the chairperson who will run the hearing. Witness groups will answer questions from the committee. One student from each group will be the spokesperson, who will read a short, prepared statement when their group gives evidence. Give about 6 minutes for the committee to prepare questions for the witness groups and also for the witness groups to discuss the issue and decide on their opinion on the issue.

All the students in the witness group must be ready to answer the questions posed by the committee members.

When everyone is ready, the session can begin.

Arrange the room so that committee members and witness groups are facing each other. The committee chair starts the session by introducing the committee, introducing the agenda, outlining the terms of reference, and listing the witness groups.

The committee chair invites the first witness group to state their names and make their opening statement. The spokesperson of the group makes a brief opening statement outlining the group's position and what it hopes the Parliament will do regarding the issue.

The committee chair invites all committee members to ask the witness group questions (4–5) minutes per group). Repeat the above steps until all witness groups have given evidence.

## The committee report

The committee session finishes when the committee chair reads the closing statement. The committee can prepare a short report on the discussions in the session, outlining what the committee decided the Parliament should do about the issue they have investigated.

Committee can read out their report to the class

### **Closure (3 minutes)**

Ask the students if they understood the process of how members work in committees and the functions of the members of parliament. Discuss the importance of MPs' roles in Committees and the Parliament.