



Key Stage 4

Understanding our Parliament

Lesson Plan

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Objectives

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

- Develop an understanding of what parliament is and who is an MP
- Understand the process of how parliament works.
- Summarise the role of parliament in governance.

Curriculum Link

Extension to the Social Studies Curriculum Strand 5: Governance and Citizenship (Grade 7,8) in the sub-strand Structure and function of the Government.

GC3.1: Shows awareness about the structure of the government of the Maldives

Key Stage 4 Curriculum Strand 5: Governance and Citizenship

GC 1.1: Develop awareness regarding the rule of law in a democratic system.

Success Criteria

Students will be able to:

- Describe how MPs represent the people
- Explain in detail about the important elements of a Majlis sitting and how their work is carried out

Setting or Resources required

- A question set
- A3 sheets
- Whiteboard, flipcharts
- PPT on Understanding our Parliament

Procedure (25 minutes)

Introduction

Invite students to share a contemporary social topic that they are aware of.

Relate the issues students shared to introduce the topic 'Parliament'.

Say – Today in this session we are going to explore how parliament works and its role in governance.

Use the PPT to discuss the details of the structure and procedures in the parliament

Make the point 1. Parliament is one of the three main organs of the state, and it is the highest unicameral legislative body in the nation that enact, amend, and review the Constitution.

Explain the terms Unicameral and Bicameral

Unicameral legislature: When there is only one House of Parliament. In other words only one chamber, or body, that makes decisions.

A bicameral legislature has two chambers, often with different procedures and powers, that ultimately must work together to make policy and exercise other legislative powers and responsibilities.

Make the point 2. Parliament consists of members who are elected to represent citizens of the country. Explain the process of election of members to the Parliament based on the population and Constituencies (Refer to factsheet for more information).

Key points to be explained: what are administrative divisions (Idhaaree Dhaairaa)? What is an electoral constituency (Inthikhaabee Dhaairaa)? How are Constituencies formulated and by whom? How many Members for each Constituency? Who can become an MP? What can MPs do and not do?

Use the PPT to discuss the details of the structure and procedures in the parliament

Key points: Majlis sessions per year, Speaker/Deputy Speaker of Majlis, Secret ballot, Ordinary sittings and extra ordinary sittings, Quorum

Activity (10 minutes)

Apply & Analyze

Trivia game for understanding our parliament

Work in groups of four to five and then each group can choose a group name and provide each group an A3 sheet of paper to display their answers.

Display using power point the following template of Trivia points.

What is parliament?	How Parliament works?	What is its role in government?
200 Points	200 Points	200 Points
400 Points	400 Points	400 Points
600 Points	600 Points	600 Points
800 Points	800 Points	800 Points
1000 Points	1000 Points	1000 Points

Use the question set prepared for this session and the questions will range from easiest to hardest. Each category has five questions ranging from easy to hard. The less points the easier the question is and the more points the harder the question is.

Display in PowerPoint

For example: Category –What is Parliament?

Difficulty 200 points

Question: Maldives parliament is what type of legislative body?

Each group will get a turn to choose what question and the range of difficulty for the question. Then the teacher or facilitator shows the questions for that range of points. For example a group chooses what is parliament – 200 points then teacher/facilitator shows that question and each group writes their answers on their A3 sheets and share them to the teacher to see if they got it correct. Then if any group gets it correct they get 200 points but if the group that chose the category and level of difficulty and this group gets the questions wrong they lose 200 points but everyone else will not as they were not the ones who chose the category and level of difficulty. The group with the most points wins the game.

Closure/Conclusion (5 minutes)

Reflect: chose randomly few students and ask them to share what they have learnt from this session.

Sample Question Bank

What is Parliament?

1. How many members are required to make up the quorum? 200
 2. What are the two major Committees involved? 400
 3. Who is the Sergeant at Arms? 600
 4. What is the role of the Counsel General? 800
 5. What is the primary role of the Speaker of the Majlis? 1000
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How does Parliament work?

1. Who upheld the agenda for each Majlis meeting? 200
 2. On what purpose the Chamber of the Majlis is used? 400
 3. Describe three conditions that must be met for a Majlis session to finish before the end time specified in the relevant regulations. 600
 4. Give an example of a state legislature that is bicameral and list one drawback. 800
 5. In a meeting that the Majlis Speaker and Deputy Speaker are unable to attend, what procedure must be followed? 1000
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What is its role in governance?

1. Majlis is the only authority that can change the existing Constitution (true or false) 200
2. Government ministers introduce the majority of bills into parliament (true or false) 400
3. List any two powers pursuant to People's Majlis? 600
4. Provide two mechanisms that People's Majlis use to prevent the others from growing too powerful? 800
5. What is the purpose of selective and standing committees? 1000