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Q37

When a bill is referred to a joint sitting of both the Houses of the Parliament, it has to be passed by (a) a simple majority of members present and voting (b) three-fourths majority of members present and voting (c) two-thirds majority of the Houses (d) absolute majority of the Houses Official key: A.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2015 · General Studies · 2 marks · Polity and Governance

Indian Constitution, polity, rights, governance - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a) Official key**

(a) a simple majority of members present and voting. **Article 108** joint sittings decide the bill by a majority of the members of both Houses present and voting-i.e. a simple majority of those present and voting. That is the official key.

(b)

(b) three-fourths majority of members present and voting. No such 3/4 rule exists for a joint sitting. That fraction is used in other special procedures, not here.

(c)

(c) two-thirds majority of the Houses. Two-thirds appears in constitutional amendment (**Article 368**) and some impeachment/removal votes, not in **Article 108**.

(d)

(d) absolute majority of the Houses. Absolute majority (more than half of total membership) is not the **Article 108** formula.

Summary

Official key is (a) a simple majority of members present and voting. A joint sitting under **Article 108** passes the disputed bill by that ordinary majority of those present and voting. Three-fourths, two-thirds and absolute-majority tests belong to other constitutional procedures. Only simple present-and-voting majority is keyed.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Article 108

Joint sitting of Parliament

Presiding officer

Speaker of Lok Sabha

Money Bills

No joint sitting (LS supremacy)

Constitution Amendment Bills

No joint sitting

Past joint sittings

Dowry Prohibition; **Banking Service Commission**; POTA

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