Chinese Political System
Foundation part: An Overview of the Political System

- What are the functions and powers of different organs of the state?
- Are the status and role of the President of the state and the General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) being the same?
- What is/are the role(s) of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC)?
- How do the Chinese citizens supervise the Government?
1. Based on the following information, point out the functions of different organs of the state.

I was elected the President of the state in the 10th National People’s Congress (NPC) in 2003. During the same meeting, the NPC decided on the choice of the Premier of the State Council upon my nomination. In 2010, I appointed some state officials according to the decisions of the NPC and its Standing Committee. In 2011, I visited countries such as the United States of America (U.S.A.), Brazil, Argentina and Russia on behalf of China. In the same year, I also received the heads of South Korea and Austria.

Cases of the work of the State Council

- In 2006, the State Council approved the draft Anti-monopoly Law of the People’s Republic of China. Then the draft was submitted to the NPC for deliberation.
- In 2008, the State Council led local governments to take rescue and relief measures to help Wenchuan recover from the earthquake disaster.
- In 2011, the State Council approved the draft “Outline of the 12th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China”. Then the draft was submitted to the NPC for deliberation.
- In June 2012, the Minister of Finance submitted the final report on the implementation of the 2011 budget to the Standing Committee of the 11th NPC.
National People’s Congress

The NPC is the highest organ of state power in the People’s Republic of China (PRC). According to Article 59 of the Constitution, the NPC is composed of deputies elected from the provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities directly under the Central Government and special administrative regions and of deputies elected from the armed forces. All the minority ethnic groups are entitled to appropriate representation.

Some work of the NPC in the past:

- In 2004, amendments to the “Constitution of the People’s Republic of China” was adopted at the 2nd session of the 10th NPC.
- In 2008, Wen Jiabao was approved to be Premier of the State Council for a second five-year term at the 1st session of the 11th NPC.
- In 2012, the Report on the Work of the Government was adopted at the 5th Session of the 11th NPC.
- …
1. Based on the above information, list the names of the organs of the state of different nature.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Natures</th>
<th>Organ of the State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Highest organ of state power</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highest organ of state administration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State organs for legal supervision</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judicial organs of the state</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. How are the President and the Premier of the PRC being decided?

3. Please state the functions of each organ or office according to Source 1 to 4.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Structure of the state</th>
<th>Function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>President</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>State Council</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,3</td>
<td>NPC</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>People’s Procuratorates</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>People’s Courts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. According to Source 3, there are NPC deputies from the armed forces and all the minority ethnic groups. Why is it necessary?

5. Combining the above information, do you think that China is a country of separation of the executive, legislative and judicial powers? Please explain your standpoint.
Hu Jintao and Wen Jiabao assumed the office of the President and the Premier of the State Council in 2003 respectively. In 2008, both of them assumed a second five-year term of office.

The structure of the state
The structure of the state mainly includes the NPC, President of the PRC, State Council, people’s courts and people’s procuratorates. They have different roles and functions to deal with legislative, executive and judicial issues.

National People’s Congress
The NPC is the highest organ of state power. It can amend the Constitution, enact laws, elect the President, decide on the choice of the Premier of the State Council, elect the President of the Supreme People’s Court and the Procurator-General of the Supreme People’s Procuratorate, and decide on the establishment of the special administrative regions and the systems to be instituted there. The NPC is elected for a term of five years and meets in session once a year. The deputies to the NPC are elected from the provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities directly under the Central Government and special administrative regions as well as those elected from the armed forces. All the minority ethnic groups are entitled to appropriate representation. The Standing Committee of the NPC is the permanent body of the NPC.

President of the PRC
The President of the PRC is elected by the NPC. According to the decisions of the NPC and its Standing Committee, the President of the PRC promulgates statutes, appoints or removes state officials such as the Premier of the State Council, confers state medals, issues order of special pardons, proclaims a state of emergency or a state of war, etc. The term of office of the President of the PRC is the same as that of the NPC. The President of the PRC shall serve no more than two consecutive terms.
State Council
The State Council, that is the Central People’s Government, is the executive body of the highest organ of state power, it is the highest organ of state administration. The Premier assumes overall responsibility for the work of the State Council. There are many ministries and commissions under the State Council. The State Council is responsible for directing and administering economic affairs and urban and rural development, affairs of education, science, culture, public health, civil affairs, etc., and drawing up and implementing the state budget. The term of office of the State Council is the same as that of the NPC. The Premier of the State Council shall serve no more than two consecutive terms.

Supreme People’s Court and Supreme People’s Procuratorate
The Supreme People’s Court is the highest judicial organ. The Supreme People’s Procuratorate is the highest procuratorial organ. Both of them are responsible to the NPC and its Standing Committee.
We can definitely help China to develop democracy and keep the stability of the country by cooperating with the 8 democratic parties.

**Revolutionary Committee of the Chinese Kuomintang (RCCK)**
Most of the RCCK members are former middle and high-ranking Kuomintang officials or personages of middle and upper social strata who once had relations with the Kuomintang. The RCCK also recruits members from those who have ties with Taiwan and support the reunification of the motherland.

**China Zhi Gong Party (CZGP)**
The CZGP is composed of returned overseas Chinese, relatives of overseas Chinese, and noted figures and scholars who have overseas ties.

**China Democratic League (CDL)**
The CDL is mainly made up of senior and middle-level intellectuals engaged in culture and education.

**Chinese Peasants and Workers Democratic Party (CPWDP)**
The CPWDP is mainly composed of intellectuals from health and medical circles.

**China Democratic National Construction Association (CDNCA)**
The CDNCA comprises people from industrial and commercial businesses as well as related intellectuals.

**Jiu San Society (JSS)**
The JSS comprises of senior and middle-level intellectuals engaged in science and technology.

**Taiwan Democratic Self-Government League (TDGSGL)**
The TDGSGL comprises Taiwan natives residing on the mainland.

Source: www.gov.cn, website of the Central People’s Government of the PRC
1. According to Source 1 and your knowledge, what are the characteristics of the multi-party cooperation and the political consultative system? Which political party is the ruling party?

2. Regarding the previous question, what are the advantages and disadvantages of this system?
I saw that President Hu was visiting the U.S.A. when I was watching the news broadcast on TV yesterday. As the leader of the state, he is really busy!

Of course, Hu Jintao was elected by the Central Committee of the CPC as the General Secretary in 2002. In 2003, he was then elected by the NPC as the President of the PRC. After that, he was elected by the NPC as the Chairman of the Central Military Commission in 2005. He is occupied with myriads of state affairs indeed.

As the General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, he is responsible for convening the meetings of the Political Bureau and its Standing Committee and presides over the work of the Secretariat. As the President of the PRC, he is responsible for promulgating statutes and appointing or removing state officials such as the Premier of the State Council according to the decisions of the NPC and its Standing Committee. You can imagine how busy he is.
1. According to Source 2, what are the characteristics of the identity of China’s supreme leader?

2. According to Source 2, please state the differences between the General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee and the President of the PRC.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee</th>
<th>President of the PRC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identity (representing organs)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to be elected</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main duties</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. According to Source 3, what is the role of the NPC in China’s economic development?

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Source 3: The relationship between the CPC and the NPC

Is the CPC the core of the supreme power of China?

Some of the functions and powers of the NPC:
- Examine and approve the state budget
- Examine and approve the plan for national economic and social development
- Amend the constitution
- Appoint and remove top officials of the Government of the PRC

No. of Members and Non-members of the CPC in the 11th NPC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members of CPC</th>
<th>Non-members of CPC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2099</td>
<td>888</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Try It Out

1. According to Source 3, what is the role of the NPC in China’s economic development?
2. According to Source 3, what is the relationship between the NPC and the CPC?

The Chinese People’s Liberation Army is developed from the former Red Army (originally known as the Workers’ and Peasants’ Revolutionary Army) of the CPC. The CPC and the Chinese People’s Liberation Army have a close relationship. Within the CPC, there is a Military Commission of the Central Committee. Within the structure of the state, there is a Central Military Commission. The members of the two commissions are exactly the same.

To Know More: The relationship between the CPC and the armed forces

The Chinese People’s Liberation Army is developed from the former Red Army (originally known as the Workers’ and Peasants’ Revolutionary Army) of the CPC. The CPC and the Chinese People’s Liberation Army have a close relationship. Within the CPC, there is a Military Commission of the Central Committee. Within the structure of the state, there is a Central Military Commission.

Knowledge Content

Leadership role of the CPC

The Preamble of the Constitution of the PRC and the Constitution of the CPC both clearly state the leadership role of the CPC, which is the only governing party of China. Leadership by the CPC means mainly political, ideological and organizational leadership. It plays the role as the core of leadership among all other organizations at the corresponding levels. The NPC mainly consists of members of the CPC.

The members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee generally assume important positions in the structure of the state. For example, the President of the state, the Premier of the State Council, the Chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, the Chairman of the National Committee of the CPPCC, etc. They are both leaders of the party and the state and responsible for the party affairs and state duties.
Welcome all of you for serving as the representatives of the National Committee of the CPPCC in assisting the Chinese Government’s governance, and promoting social development. Your term of office will be five years.

What role do you expect to play as a representative of National Committee of the CPPCC?

After being invited to be the representative of National Committee of the CPPCC, I expect I could assist in the state’s operation, and the implementation of laws and rules.

And I expect I can participate in the consultation of economic issues.

I expect to participate in the discussion of important issues of political and social life.
1. According to the information, what is the purpose of establishing the CPPCC?

2. What is the composition of the National Committee of the CPPCC?

3. Why do the representatives of the National Committee of the CPPCC come from different sectors of society?

Although the CPPCC is an important institution of multi-party cooperation and political consultation led by the CPC, the Constitution does not clearly state our statutory powers. We hope to have clearer power and responsibilities.

What is your opinion if you can make some suggestions to the CPPCC?

Representatives of minority ethnic groups and democratic parties

Journalist

Try It Out

1. According to the information, what is the purpose of establishing the CPPCC?

2. What is the composition of the National Committee of the CPPCC?

3. Why do the representatives of the National Committee of the CPPCC come from different sectors of society?
4. Please list one of the functions of the National Committee of the CPPCC.

5. According to the information, what is/are the limitation(s) of the CPPCC?

6. Do you agree to appoint some notables as representatives of the National Committee of the CPPCC? Why?
### To Know More

: Some of the notables that have served in the National Committee of the CPPCC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zhang Yimou</td>
<td>Movie director</td>
<td>Han Hong</td>
<td>Singer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liu Xiang</td>
<td>Athlete</td>
<td>Wang Ming-chuen, Liza</td>
<td>Actress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Li Tzar-kuoi, Victor</td>
<td>Businessmen</td>
<td>Deng Yaping</td>
<td>Athlete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gong Li</td>
<td>Actress</td>
<td>Feng Xiaogang</td>
<td>Movie director</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### To Know More

34 Circles participating in the 11th national committee of the CPPCC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPC</th>
<th>All-China Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revolutionary Committee of the Chinese Kuomintang</td>
<td>Circles of literature and art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China Democratic League</td>
<td>Circles of science and technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China Democratic National Construction Association</td>
<td>Circles of social science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China Association for Promoting Democracy</td>
<td>Circles of economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Peasants and Workers Democratic Party</td>
<td>Circles of agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China Zhi Gong Party</td>
<td>Circles of education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jiu San Society</td>
<td>Circles of sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taiwan Democratic Self-Government League</td>
<td>Circles of press and publication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personages without party affiliation</td>
<td>Circles of medical and health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communist Youth League of China</td>
<td>The group for friendship with foreign countries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CPC: China Communist Party

CPPCC: Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference
The role of the CPPCC

The CPPCC is a Chinese people’s patriotic united front organization which carries out the principle of “great unity, great solidarity and embracing all representative figures”. It is an institution of multi-party cooperation and political consultation led by the CPC. The main functions of the CPPCC are political consultation, democratic supervision and participation in the deliberation and administration of state affairs. The CPPCC is not included in the structure of state in the Constitution. The term of each national committee of the CPPCC is 5 years, the same as that of the NPC. The plenary session of the National Committee of the CPPCC is held once a year, generally in March in conjunction with the annual session of the NPC.
DENG Yujiao incident

DENG Yujiao, a hotel waitress in Hubei Province’s Badong County, scuffled with some local government officials in May 2009, resulting in one death and one injury among two officials. The scuffle was triggered by her refusal to provide sex service to the officials. The investigation by the Badong Public Security Bureau was based on “intentional homicide”. It was later decided that her act of defence exceeded the limit of necessity. The Bureau requested the Badong County People’s Procuratorate to initiate public prosecution. Bitter controversies aroused from different sectors of society after the incident was reported by the media. Different supporting groups were organised to support Deng in the lawsuit, requesting fair and just handling of the case by the authorities. Later in June 2009, the Badong County People’s Court ruled that Deng was guilty of “intentionally inflicts injury” but exemption from punishment was given after considering various factors.

Source: Summarising the reports of various newspapers, 2009.

Incident of “Handicap Cantonese, Promote Putonghua” in Guangdong

In order to provide a more favourable language environment for the 2010 Asian Games in Guangzhou, a member of the Committee for Handling Proposals of the Guangzhou Committee of the CPPCC proposed that Guangzhou Television should be asked to air programmes in Putonghua on its news channel and channel one. Then a member of the Guangzhou Committee of the CPPCC sent out a weibo message which indicated that the Guangzhou Committee of the CPPCC proposed Guangzhou Television to air all programmes in Putonghua on all channels all of the time or during peak-time.

Once the news was spread, fierce complaints were received from netizens. Many people in the online forum generally believed that the Central Government wanted to force the implementation of the policy of “Handicap Cantonese, Promote Putonghua”. Afterwards, the campaign of “Protecting Cantonese” was launched by the citizens of Guangzhou and Hong Kong, which was reported extensively by the media, arousing public concern. The situation finally subsided after the forceful clarification made by the Guangdong authorities.

Source: Summarising the reports of various newspapers, 2010.
1. According to the above information, what are the channels for people to supervise the Government? Please explain your answer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Channels to supervise the Government</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. According to the answer above, which channel do you think is the most effective one? Please explain your standpoint.

3. Combining the information above, can you explain the importance for people to supervise the Government? With reference to sources 1 to 3, explain what will happen if the people cannot supervise their Government effectively?
4. Do you think the channels for Chinese people to supervise the Government are adequate and flawless nowadays? Please explain your answer.
Channels for people’s supervision of the Government

Supervise the Government through the state structure

People can supervise the operation of the Government through people’s congresses at different levels. They can also voice their opinions and suggestions and file complaints to the Government through the letters and visits system. The State Bureau of Letters and Calls is responsible for coordinating the work of the letters and visits system nationally. In addition, people can also file lawsuits through the judicial system to acquire and protect the rights and interests they deserve. The courts are responsible for handling lawsuits, whereas people can have their lawyers to help them fight for their rights and interests in courts.

Supervise the Government outside the state structure

The media also plays the role of supervising the Government by increasing the transparency of the Government, arousing public concern and exerting pressure on the Government. It can ensure that the Government is supervised by the public and act according to people’s interests, and prevent the Government from practising favouritism.

However, people’s congresses, the letters and visits system, the courts and the media, etc. are all operated under the leadership of the CPC. It has been doubted whether these organs can supervise the operation of the Government impartially. It has been suggested that each system should be improved to perfection.
Concept Map of an Overview of the Chinese Political System

- Leading
  - CPC
  - United front organisation for political consultation

- NPC
  - Representing China
  - Executive
  - Judiciary
  - Supreme People’s Court and Supreme People’s Procuratorate

Inside the system

- Letters and visits system

Outside the system

- Channels for people’s supervision of the Government
- Media