

~~AUGUST 2009~~

BA-1, Paper-2, Unit-9(a)

THURSDAY
232-133
Week 34

20

08 British House of Lords

09 Composition -

10 upper house or the House of Lords is the
11 of the British Parliament. It has more
12 than 1000 members. There are three categories
of members of House of Lords:

- 13 (1) Hereditary Peers
- 14 (2) Lords Spiritual
- 15 (3) Life Peers

16 Organisation - The Lord Chancellor is the
17 presiding officer of the House of Lords.

18 The Crown appoints several peers to
19 take their place on the "Woolsack" in
20 order of precedence in the absence of
the Lord Chancellor. The House conducts
some of its business in the Committee of
the Whole House, which consists of the
members present. The Lord Chancellor is the
member of the Cabinet. He is usually a
peer, and if he is not, he is raised to
peerage immediately after his appointment

21 Powers and Functions of the House of Lords

(1) Executive Powers and Functions - The
Lords have the right to ask questions, to
seek information from the government

08 on any aspect of administration and to
 09 debate its policies. But the ministers are
 10 not individually or collectively responsible to
 11 the House of Lords. A ministry is
 not obliged to pay any attention to
 a hostile vote in the House of
 Lords.

(2) Legislative Powers and Functions -

13 Any public bill if passed by the House
 14 of Commons in two successive sessions
 and if one year has been elapsed between
 15 the date of the second reading in the
 first sessions in the House of Commons
 and the date on which it is passed
 16 by the Commons for the second time.

(3) Financial Powers and Functions - On
 18 money bills the House of Lords has no
 powers at all. Money Bills if passed
 19 by the House of Commons, should
 become law one month after such
 20 passage, even though the Lords should
 withhold their concurrence. Now
 British Judicial system is separated
 from legislature. So the judicial
 powers and functions of House of
 Lords have finished.