**Question: Discuss the composition, functions and powers of the State Council of China.**

**Answer**

The State Council of China is described as the Central Government of China. It is the centre for executive decision making. Under the new Constitution, the State Council has replaced the Government Administration Council which existed before 1954. The State Council is the biggest organ of state administration.

**Composition:**

It is composed of the Premier, number of Vice- Premiers, the Ministers, heads of commissions and the Secretary General. The Premier is appointed by the National People’s Congress upon the recommendation of the central committee of the Communist Party. The other members of the State Council are appointed by the National People’s Congress upon the recommendation of the premier. The State Council is responsible and accountable to the National People’s Congress or when the National People’s Congress is not in session to its Standing Committee. Under the leadership of Premier, the functions of the State Council are managed. The State Council meets in a monthly plenary session.

**Powers and functions:**

As a highest executive body of the People’s Republic of China, the State Council exercises the following powers:

1. It formulates administrative measures, issues decisions and orders and ensures their execution in accordance with the constitution, laws and decrees
2. Coordinates work of ministries and commissions
3. Submits report to the National People’s Congress on law or other matters
4. Maintains public order and safeguards the rights of the citizens
5. Revises or annuls inappropriate decisions and orders issued by local administrative organs of the state
6. Directs the conduct of foreign affairs
7. Guides the building up of the defence forces
8. Appoints or removes the administrative personnel according to the provision of law
9. Puts into effect the national economic plans and the state budget
10. Directs and administers economic affairs and urban and rural development, affairs of education, science, culture, public health, physical culture and family planning
11. Protects the legitimate rights and interest of Chinese nationals residing abroad and within the country
12. Approves the geographic division of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government, and approves the prefectures, counties, autonomous counties and cities
13. Examines and decides on the size of administrative organs and, in accordance with the law, appoints removes and trains administrative officers, appraises their work and rewards and punishes them
14. Establishes an auditing body to supervise the audit of revenue and expenditure of all departments under the state council and of the local governments at different levels and those of state financial and monetary organizations and undertakings
15. Finally, the State Council may exercise such other functions and powers as may be vested in it by the National People’s Congress or its Standing Committee.

Thus, the State Council is the highest administrative organ of china. Its powers and functions are most significant. It is responsible to the National People’s Congress or to the Standing Committee when National People’s Congress is not in session. It performs important governmental functions at the top level. So it is the centre of direction for the People’s Republic of China