

Objective Type Questions

(1 Mark each)

I. Multiple choice questions

1. When was States Reorganisation Commission formed?

- a. In 1951 b) In 1963 c) In 1997 d) In 1953

2. Study the given cartoon and answer the following:



Which one of the following leaders is shown in this cartoon?

- a) Rajiv Gandhi b) I.K. Gujral
c) H.D. Deva Gowda d) A. B. Vajpayee

3. Analyse the information given below, considering one of the following correct options:

It includes subjects of common interest to both the Union Government as well as the State Governments, such as education, forest, trade unions, marriage, adoption and succession. Both the Union as well as the State Governments can make laws on the subjects mentioned in this list.

- a) Concurrent List b) Union List
c) State List d) Government List

4. Which of the following pair is incorrect ?

- a) State government - State List
- b) Central government - Union List
- c) **Central and State - Concurrent List Government List**
- d) Local government - Residuary powers

5.

Column A		Column B	
(i)	Union List	(A)	Education
(ii)	State List	(B)	Computer Software
(iii)	Concurrent List	(C)	Foreign Affairs
(iv)	Residuary Subjects	(D)	Agriculture

- a) (i)-(C), (ii)-(D), (iii)-(A), (iv)-(B)
- b) (i) -(A) , (ii) -(B), (iii) -(C) , (iv)-(D)
- c) (i)-(D), (ii) -(C), (iii)-(A), (iv)-(B)
- d) (i)-(B), (ii)-(A), (iii) - (C), (iv)-(D)

6. The system of Panchayati Raj involves

- a) **The village, block and district levels**
- b) The village, and state levels
- c) The village district and state levels
- d) The village, state and Union levels

7. In case of a clash between the laws made by the centre and a state on a subject in the concurrent list:

- a) the state law prevails
- b) the central law prevails
- c) both the laws prevail within their respective jurisdictions.
- d) the Supreme Court has to intervene to decide.

8. Match the following:

Column A	Column B
A. Union Territory	i) Decision-making body for the entire village
B. Local self	ii) An alliance of more than government two parties

C. Coalition	iii) Representatives' government body at the district level
D. Zila Parishad	iv) Area which is run by the Union/Central government

- a) A-(ii), B-(iii), C-(iv) and D-(i) b) A-(iv), B-(i), C-(iii) and D-(ii)
 c) A-(iv), B-(i), C-(ii) and D-(iii) d) A-(iv), B-(iii), C-(iv) and D-(i)

9. Which of the following subjects is not included in the state list?

- a) Law and order b) National defence
 c) Education d) Agriculture

10. In India's federal system, the state governments have the power to legislate on all those subjects which are included in the:

- a) Union List b) State list
 c) Concurrent list d) Residuary subjects

11. The Constitution of India

- a) divided powers between centre and states in three lists.
 b) divided powers between centre and states in two lists.
 c) listed the powers of the states and left the undefined powers to the state.
 d) Specified the powers of the states and left the residuary powers with the centre.

II. Multiple choice questions

(1 Mark each)

1. What status has been given to Hindi by the Constitution of India?

- a) Regional language b) Official language
 c) National language d) Community language

2. Who is the Head of Urban Local Government?

- a) Sarpanch b) Ward Commissioner c) Mukhiya d) Mayor

3. In which year, a major step was taken towards Decentralisation?

- a) In 1994 b) In 1989 c) In 1992 d) In 1997

4. Major steps towards decentralization taken in 1992 were:

- a) To hold regular elections of Local Government Bodies.
- b) At least one-third of all positions are reserved for women.
- c) State Election Commission has been created in each State.
- d) All of the above.

5.

Column A		Column B	
(i)	Union of India	(A)	President
(ii)	State	(B)	Sarpanch
(iii)	Municipal Corporation	(C)	Governor
(iv)	Gram Panchayat	(D)	Mayor

- a) (i)-(B), (ii)-(A), (iii)-(C), (iv)-(D)
- b) (i)-(A), (ii)-(C), (iii)-(D), (iv)-(B)
- c) (i)-(D), (ii)-(A), (iii)-(C), (iv)-(B)
- d) (i)-(D), (ii)-(C), (iii)-(A), (iv)-(B)

I. Assertion & Reason

Directions : In the following questions, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R). Mark the correct choice as:

- (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (B) Both A and R are true, but R is NOT the correct explanation of A.
- (C) A is true, but R is false.
- (D) A is false but R is true.

1. **Assertion (A)** : Federalism is a system of government in which the power is divided between a central authority and various constituent units of the country.

Reason (R) : Usually, a federation has one level of government

Ans. Option () is correct.

2. **Assertion (A)** : Belgium and Spain have 'holding together' federation.

Reason (R) : A big country divides power between constituent states and national government.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

3. Assertion (A) : The subjects which are not included in Union List, State List and Concurrent List are considered as Residuary Subjects.

Reason (R) : The subjects included those that came after Constitution was made and thus, could not be classified.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

4. Assertion (A) : India has a Federal system

Reason (R) : Under a unitary system, either there is only one level of government or the sub-units are subordinate to Central Government.

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

5. Assertion (A) : The Constitution originally provided for a two-tier system of government.

Reason (R) : Later, a third tier of Federalism was added.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

In the given questions (Q.7 and Q.8), there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option from the following:

- a) A is correct but R is wrong
- b) A is wrong but R is correct.
- c) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- d) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.

6. Assertion (A) : The exact balance of power between the central and the state government varies from one federation to another.

Reason (R) : Governments at different levels should agree to some rules power-sharing.

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

7. Assertion (A) : All States in the Indian Union have identical powers.

Reason (R) : Some States enjoy a special status.

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

II. Assertion & Reason

Directions : In the following questions, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R). Mark the correct choice as:

- (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (B) Both A and R are true, but R is NOT the correct explanation of A.
- (C) A is true, but R is false.
- (D) A is false but R is true.

1. **Assertion (A)** : Hindi is identified as the only official language of India.

Reason (R) : It helped in creating supremacy of Hindi speaking people over others.

Ans. Option () is correct.

2. **Assertion (A)** : When power is taken away from Central and State government and given to Local Government, it is called Decentralization.

Reason (R) : The basic idea behind Decentralization is that there are a large number of problems and issues which are best settled at the local level.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

3. **Assertion (A)** : Third-tier of Government is Local Government

Reason (R) : It made democracy stumble.

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

4. **Assertion (A)** : In 1947, the boundaries of several old States of India were changed in order to create new states.

Reason (R) : These include states like Nagaland, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand.

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

5. **Assertion (A)** : Uttar Pradesh is bigger than Russia in area.

Reason (R) : States in India are as large as independent countries of Europe in population.

Ans. Option (D) is correct

I. Very Short Answer Type

(1 mark each)

1. Why was States Reorganisation Commission formed?

Ans: It was formed in 1953 to recommend creation of states on the linguistic basis.

2. Name any one country which follows 'coming together style of federalism.

Ans. Australia.

3. Which subjects are included in the Union List?

Ans: Defence of the nation, foreign affairs, banking, currency and communications.

4. Which type of government has two or more levels?

5. Which subjects falls under the Concurrent List?

Ans: Marriage, education, forest, trade unions, adoption, succession, etc.

6. The system of government in which there is only one level of government is known as _____

Ans. Unitary Government.

7. Banking and Defence are the subjects of _____.

Ans. Union List.

8. Which of the following is a subject of the Union List?

- a) Defence b) Agriculture c) Trade d) Education

9. Which of the following is a subject of the State List?

- a) Currency b) Foreign Affairs c) Banking d) Commerce

10. The popular name of rural government is Panchayat Raj.

Ans. True

11. The chairperson of the municipal corporation is known as the Sarpanch.

Ans. False

12. Match the columns:

Column A	Column B
a. National Defence	i) Rural areas
b. Education	ii) District

c. Local self-government	iii) urban areas
d. Municipal Corporation	iv) State List
e. Zila Parishad	v) Union list

Ans. (a) (v), (b) (iv), (c) (i), (d) (iii), (e) (ii).

13. Name the government having two or more levels of government.

Ans. Federal government has two or more levels of government.

14. Define 'jurisdiction'?

Ans. It is an area of functioning over which someone has legal authority to perform.

15. What are the two main objectives of a federal system?

Ans.

- To safeguard and promote unity of the country
- To accommodate regional diversity

16. What does the 'coming together' involve?

Ans. The 'coming together' involves independent states come together on their own to form bigger unit where the constituent states have equal powers.

17. What is meant by 'holding together federation'?

Ans. It is a federation in which a large country decides to divide its power between the constituent states and the central government. The central government tends to be more powerful.

18. Name the countries having 'coming together' federation and 'holding together' federation.

Ans. Countries having 'coming together' federation are USA, Switzerland, Australia.

Countries having 'holding together' federation are India, Spain, Belgium.

19. What does the third tier of federalism include?

Ans. It includes local body government like Panchayats at village levels and Municipalities in towns and cities.

20. Define Union List.

Ans. It includes the subjects of national importance such as defence, foreign affairs, banking, communications etc. The Union government alone can make laws relating to the subjects mentioned in this list.

21. Why have the subjects like defence, foreign affairs, banking, etc. Been included in the Union List?

Ans. These subjects are of national importance and require a uniform policy for execution.

22. Define State List.

Ans. It contains subjects of state and local importance such as police, trade, commerce etc. The state government alone can make laws relating to the subjects mentioned in the list.

23. Define Concurrent List.

Ans. It includes subjects of common interest to both the union government as well as the state government, such as education, forest, trade union etc. Both the union and as well as the state governments can make Law on these subjects.

24. What are Residuary Powers?

Ans. Residuary powers mean that the Parliament has the right to make laws with respect to the matters that are not mentioned in any of the lists—Union List, State List and Concurrent List.

25. In India's federal system, which level government has the power to legislate on residuary subjects?

Or

Which level of government in India legislates on the residuary subjects?

Ans. Union government

26. Name two states which enjoy special status under certain provisions of Indian constitution.

Ans. Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram.

27. What are Union Territories?

Ans. The areas that are too small to be made an independent state and are so diverse that could not be merged with any of the existing states are called Union Territories.

28. Name any two Union Territories of India.

Ans. Chandigarh and Puducherry

29. How can the fundamental provisions of the Indian constitution be changed?

Ans. The fundamental provisions of the Indian constitution can be changed in a bilateral way wherein the consent of both the levels of government is required.

30. What is the role of judiciary in a federal government?

Ans. The judiciary plays an important role in overseeing the implementation of constitutional provisions and procedures.

31. What ideals are shared through democratic politics in India?

Ans. The spirit of federalism, respect for diversity and desire for living together.

32. Why were the boundaries of several old states of India changed?

Ans. The boundaries of several old states of India were changed to ensure that people speaking same language lived in the same state.

33. What are the two main basis on which new states of India have been created?

Ans. Language and regional ethnicity.

34. What has been the experience of creation of linguistic states?

Ans. The experience of creation of linguistic states has proved that India has become more united.

35. What is coalition government?

Ans. A government by the coming together of two or more political parties is called coalition government.

36. Which judgement of the Supreme Court made Indian federal power sharing more effective?

Ans. Supreme Court declared that Central government cannot dismiss the state government in an arbitrary manner.

37. What does the concept of decentralisation signify?

Ans. The concept of decentralisation signifies -power taken away from central and state government and given to local government at both the urban and rural levels.

38. What was the basic idea behind decentralisation?

Ans. Problems and issues can be best settled at the local level as people know better about their problems and can manage them at their initial levels.

39. For whom, seats are reserved in the local government bodies?

Ans. Seats are reserved for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes. One-third of all are positions are reserved for women.

40. What is a Gram Panchayat?

Ans. It is a council consisting of several ward members, often called panch, and a president or sarpanch. It is the decision-making body for the entire village.

41. How are the members of Panchayat elected?

Ans. They are directly elected by all the adult population living in that ward or village.

42. What is Panchayat Samiti?

Ans. They are directly elected by all the adult population living in that ward or village.

43. What constitutes the Zila Parishad?

Ans. All panchayat samities and mandals in a district together constitute the Zila parishad.

44. Who are the political heads of the municipality and gram panchayat?

Ans. Mayor and Sarpanch are the political heads of the municipality and gram panchayat respectively.

II. Very Short Answer Type

(1 mark each)

1. What status has been given to Hindi by the Constitution of India?

Ans: Official language of the country.

2. Which local body has a 'Mayor' as its head?

Ans: Municipal Corporation.

3. How many languages are included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution?

4. In terms of population which Indian State is as big as Germany?

Ans: Maharashtra.

5. Hindi is mother tongue of how much percent of Indians?

I. Short Answer Type Questions.

(3 marks each)

1. Describe any three features of Indian Federalism.

OR

Describe any three features of 'federal government.'

Ans. (a) Indian federalism is a three-fold distribution based on three lists:

- (i) Union List on which centre makes laws such as defence, currency, etc.
- (ii) State List on which state makes laws such as police, trade, agriculture, etc.
- (iii) Concurrent List on which both Centre and State Legislate, such as education, marriage, etc.

(b) Centre legislates on 'residuary subjects.'

(c) The High Courts and the Supreme Court sort out the disputes between centre and state.

2. Describe any three features of 'unitary government.'

3. Name any two subjects that are included in Concurrent List. How are laws made on these subjects? Explain.

Ans. **Concurrent List** - Education, Forest, Marriage, Adoption and Succession. **(Any two)**

Both the union as well as the state governments can make laws on the subjects mentioned in this list; if their laws conflict with each other, then the law made by the union government will prevail.

4. How is sharing of power between the Union and State Governments basic to the structure of the Constitution of India ? Explain.

Ans. Power sharing as basic structure of Constitution :

- (i) It is not easy to make changes to power sharing arrangement.
- (ii) Parliament can't on its own change this arrangement.
- (iii) Any change to it has to be first passed by both the Houses of Parliament, with at

least 2/3rd majority.

(iv) Then it has to be ratified by legislatures of at least half of the total States.

5. Under which type of federation India comes? Mention any two features of such federation.

Ans. Type of Federation of India:

India comes under 'Holding together federations type'.

Features:

(i) It decides to divide its power between the Constituent States and the National Government.

(ii) In this federation, the Central Government tends to be more powerful than the States.

(iii) In this system, different constituent units of the federation have unequal powers.

Any other relevant point

6. What fundamental change was brought about in the Belgium system of governance in 1993? Contrast it with that of Sri Lanka.

OR

Gove a comparative analysis of Belgian federation and Sri Lankan unitary form of government.

Ans. Belgium and Sri Lanka both shared more or less the same historical background of complex ethnic composition.

After getting independences, Belgium shifted from a unitary to federal form of government under the great constitutional change in 1993. The regional governments were given constitutional powers that were no longer dependent on the central government.

Whereas, Sri Lanka continued to be, for all practical purpose, a unitary system where all the powers are with the National government.

7. What is federalism? Explain with examples.

Ans. Federalism is a system of government in which power is divided between a central authority and various constituent units of the country. Both these levels of governments

enjoy their power independent of the other. For example, in USA and India there are specific jurisdictions specified by the constitution to each level of government.

8. 'Federal system has two or more sets of Government.' Justify the statement.

Ans. As federalism is a system of government in which the power is divided between the union and provinces. Usually it has two levels of government.

- a) One is the government for the entire country called central/union government with the subjects of national importance.
- b) The other government is at the level of provinces or states that looks after the matters of state importance. Both the governments enjoy their respective powers independently.
- c) Later, a third tier of federalism was added as local government in the form of panchayats and municipalities or provincial governments.

9. Discuss the dual objectives of federalism. What are the two aspects that are crucial in the practice of federalism?

Ans. As federalism has two or more levels of governments, it has dual objectives.

- a) To safeguard and promote unity of the country.
- b) And to accommodate regional diversity.

These two aspects are crucial for the institution and practice of federalism. The government at different levels should agree to some rules of power sharing.

They should also trust that each would abide by its part of agreement.

Hence, an ideal federal system has both aspects, i.e., mutual trust and agreement to live together.

10. Compare the federations of coming together and holding together type.

Ans.

Coming Together Federation	Holding Together Federation
<p>a) Coming Together Federalism involves independent states coming together on their own to form a bigger unit.</p>	<p>i. In this system the large power or country decides to divide its power between its constituent states and national government.</p>

<p>b) In coming together, units try to increase their security by pooling sovereignty and retaining identity.</p> <p>c) In this category of federations, all the constituent units usually have equal power and are strong vis-a-vis the federal government</p> <p>d) USA, Switzerland and Australia are examples of coming together federations.</p>	<p>ii. In holding together there is absence of pooling sovereignty and retaining identity. In fact, in this federation the central government subordinates over the constituent units.</p> <p>iii. Whereas, in this category, the central government tends to be more powerful vis-a-vis the states. Sometimes constituent units of the federation have unequal powers. For example, in India, Jammu and Kashmir has been granted special status.</p> <p>iv. India, Spain and Belgium are examples of holding together federations.</p>
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11. Examine the holding together nature of Indian federation.

OR

Under which type of federation India comes? Mention any two features of such federation.

Ans. Indian federalism is formed by holding together nature of federalism. It does not give equal powers to its constituent units.

- States have not been given identical powers with union government.
- Few states have been given special status-like Assam, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram in order to protect and preserve their custom, traditions, cultural and linguistic diversity.
- Apart from these some territories of the Indian union like Chandigarh, Lakshadweep or the capital city of Delhi are administered by the union government and, hence, they are known as Union Territories.

12. State an example to prove that in India equal power is not granted to its constituent units.

Ans. Very often different constituent units of the federation have unequal powers. Some units are granted special powers. This might have been done to protect the regional autonomy of the concerned units/state.

- a) All states in the Indian Union do not have identical powers. Some states enjoy a special status like Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.
- b) Some units enjoy very little powers, called Union territories. These territories do not have the powers of a state. The central government has special powers in running these areas.
- c) Indians, who are not permanent residents of this State, cannot buy land or house here. Similar special provisions exist in some other States of India as well.

13. If agriculture and commerce are state subjects why do we have ministers of agriculture and commerce in the Union Government?

Ans. Although agriculture and commerce are the state subjects, we have ministers of agriculture and commerce at the union because of the wider prospect of these subjects regarding inter -state trade. So, a uniform policy has to be legislated.

Secondly, the agricultural and economic experts are part of the Planning Commission. So, we require agricultural and commerce ministers in the Union for policy making.

14. 'Judiciary plays an important role in Indian federalism.' Justify the statement.

OR

In what ways is the judiciary important for Indian federalism?

Ans.

- a) Judiciary with the supreme court at the apex is the sole interpreter of Indian Constitution.
- b) It plays a pivotal role in the implementation of constitutional provisions and procedures.
- c) Judiciary administers both the union and state laws which are applicable to the cases coming up for adjudication.

d) The disputes about the division of powers are settled by the Judiciary.

Hence, judiciary is considered as the guardian of the Indian federalism.

15. Examine the controversy over Hindi and English as the official language.

Ans.

- a) The controversy over the Hindi and English as the official language started when our Constitution made the provision that the use of English for official purpose was to stop in 1965.
- b) However, many non-Hindi speaking states demanded that the use of English should continue. In Tamil Nadu, this movement took a violent form.
- c) So the central government responded by agreeing to continue the use of English along with Hindi for official purpose.
- d) Thus, the flexibility shown by Indian political leaders helped our country to avoid the tense situation like that in Sri Lanka.

16. Discuss the centre-state relations in Indian federalism.

Ans. The centre-state relations of Indian federalism constitute the core of federalism and are regulated by the provisions of Indian constitution. But in reality it depends on how ruling parties and leaders follow these provisions.

Earlier when ruling party at state and centre was different, the union government undermined the power of states and misused the constitution to dismiss and harass the state governments. This undermined the spirit of federalism.

But with the advent of coalition government, with no single party having clear majority, a new culture of power sharing and respect for centre and state governments has begun.

17. What was the new culture of power sharing developed after 1990?

Ans. The new culture of power sharing developed after 1990 with the rise of regional parties in many states.

- a) The culture marked the beginning of coalition era.

- b) The era of coalition government implies that if no single party gets a clear majority in the Lok Sabha, then the major national parties enter into an alliance with many parties including regional parties to form a government at the centre.

18. Examine the significance of decentralisation.

OR

Explain the advantages of decentralisation

Ans. Decentralisation is a major step towards modifying the concept of democracy and federalism. It is very significant for all practical aspects.

- a) It helps in the settlement of a large number of problems and issues at the local level.
- b) It provides a platform for the direct participation of people in decision making. Hence, inculcates a habit of democratic participation.
- c) In another way, decentralisation in the form of local self government is the best way to realise principles of Democracy, i.e. democracy at the grassroots level.
- d) It reduces the burden of the central as well as state governments. These can concentrate on matters of national or state importance in a better way. Thus, decentralisation is rationale for the federal concept.

19. What issues resulted in undermining effective outcomes of decentralisation.

OR

'There was very little decentralisation in effective terms prior to 1992'. Elaborate.

Ans. Several attempts have been made to decentralise power to the level of villages and towns. But the following issues undermined the effective outcomes.

- a) Panchyats and municipalities were directly controlled by the state governments.
- b) Elections to these bodies were not conducted regularly.
- c) Local bodies were denied their share of power and resources.

20. Describe any three provisions of amendment made in 'Indian Constitution' in 1992 for making 'Three Tier' government more effective and powerful.

Ans. The Constitutional Amendment of 1992 introduced the concrete shape of decentralisation. The three tier democracy has been made more effective. The provisions of Constitutional Amendment are as follows.

- a) It is mandatory to hold regular elections to the local government bodies.
- b) Seats are reserved for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in the elected bodies.
- c) One third i.e., 33 per cent seats has been reserved for women.
- d) State Election commission, an independent institution has been constituted for conducting elections of the local government bodies.
- e) The state governments are required to share some powers and revenue are required to share some powers and revenue with local government bodies.

21. What is Gram Sabha? Describe any four functions of a Gram Sabha.

Ans. All the adult citizen voters in the village are its members. The function of Gram Sabha are-

- a) It elects the members of the Gram Panchyat.
- b) It supervises the overall working of the Gram Panchayat.
- c) It has to approve the annual budget of the Gram Panchyat
- d) It is responsible for reviewing the performance of the Gram Panchyat.

22. Who is a mayor? What are his functions?

Ans. Mayor is the political head of the Municipal Corporation . the mayor is elected annually from among the members of the Corporation. He is the first citizen of the city.

- a) He acts as the chairperson of Municipal Corporation.
- b) He presides over the meetings of the corporation and guides its deliberations.
- c) He regulates the Conduct of business at such meetings.
- d) Mayor is also the proper channel of communication between the Commissioner and the state government.

23. In what ways has the local government deepened our democracy?

Ans.

- a) Constitutional status for local government has helped to deepen democracy in our country. It has increased women's representation and voice in our democracy.
- b) Actually the new system of local government has widened the scope of political participation.
- c) Seats are reserved in the elected bodies and the executive heads of these institutions for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBC. This has increase their participation in decision making.

All these features strengthen the very aspect of our democracy.

24. Explain two achievements and two difficulties of Local Self Government in India.

Ans. Achievements

- a) At the local level, people are able to participate directly in decision making. This has helped to deepen democracy in our country.
- b) It has also increased women's representation and voice in our democracy.

Difficulties

- a) While elections are held regularly and enthusiastically, Gram Sabhas are not held regularly.
- b) Local governments lack adequate resources that make their work difficult.

25. Describe any three features of 'unitary government'.

Ans. The following are the features of the unitary government:

- a) Either there is only one level of government or the subunits that are subordinate to the central government.
- b) It may or may not have a written constitution. The constitution is flexible.
- c) In the unitary system, the state government does not have powers of its own. The central government can pass on orders to the local government.
- d) The unitary system has a single citizenship. Examples: China and France.

II. Short Answer Type Questions.

(3 marks each)

1. State any three major steps taken by the Indian Government towards

Decentralization in 1992

Ans. Major steps that were taken by Indian Government towards Decentralization in 1992 are:

- i) It is constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections to local government bodies
- ii) Reservation of seats in the elected bodies and the Executive Heads of these Institutions for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backwards Classes.
- iii) Reservation of at least one-third of all positions for women.
- iv) Creation of an independent Institution called the State Election Commission in each State to conduct Panchayat and Municipal Elections.
- v) The State Governments are required to share some powers and revenue with local government bodies. The nature of sharing varies from state to state.

2. How has the Panchayati Raj strengthened the Democracy in India? Express your views.

3. Do you take Decentralisation as means to minimise the conflicts? Give your view Point

OR

Describe the significance of Decentralisation

OR

Do you take Decentralisation as means to minimise the conflicts?

Ans. Yes, it helps in the settlement of a large number of problems and issues at the local level.

- (i) It provides a platform for the direct participation of people in decision-making
- (ii) In another way, Decentralisation in the form of 'Local Self-Government' is the best way to realise principles of Democracy.

4. Describe the three-tier system of Indian federation.

Ans. Three-tier system means three levels of Government. The Indian Constitution was originally provided with a two-tier system of government:

- (i) The Union Government or the Central Government.
- (ii) The State Governments.
- (iii) But, later a third-tier of Federalism was added in the form of Panchayats at the rural level and municipalities at the urban level. Every level enjoys separate jurisdiction.

I. Long Answer Type Questions.

(5 mark each)

1. State any five important features of Federalism.

OR

Explain any five key features of Federalism.

OR

Mention any five main features which make India a federal country.

Ans. Key features of Federalism:

- (i) There are two or more levels (or tiers) of government.
- (ii) Different tiers of government govern the same citizens, but each tier has its own jurisdiction in specific matters of legislation, taxation and administration.
- (iii) The jurisdictions of the respective levels or tiers of government are specified in the Constitution.
- (iv) The fundamental provisions of the Constitution cannot be unilaterally changed by one level of government. Such changes require the consent of both the levels of government.
- (v) Courts have the power to interpret the Constitution and the powers of different levels of government. The Highest court acts as an umpire if disputes arise between different levels of government in the exercise of their respective powers.

2. Why did the makers of our Constitution declare India to be a 'Union of States'?

Why were some sub-political units of India given a special status?

Ans. India became a Union of States because it consisted of both British-Ruled territories as well as many princely states. Some sub-political units of India have a special status.

- i) French and Portuguese-Ruled territories were given the status of Union Territory.
- ii) Jammu & Kashmir joined India on a special condition.
- iii) Some units were too small to become independent states. They were made Union Territories.

iv) States in the north-east have been given a special status as they have a large tribal population with a distinct history and culture.

3. Describe any five features of federal government.

OR

What are the main features of federalism?

OR

Describe any three features of 'federal government'.

Ans. Federal Government is a set of government in which powers are distributed between a central authority and various constitutional units.

The key features of a federal government are as follows:

- a) **Two or more levels of Government:** In a federal government there are two or more levels of government at the state. Provincial and local levels. As an exception, in India, we have third level of government i.e., at the local level.
- b) **Constitutional Status:** Federalism provides constitutional guarantees for the existence and authority of each tier of government. The jurisdiction of the respective levels or tiers of government are specified in the constitution.
- c) **Independent Judiciary:** Independent judiciary is the essence of federal government. Here courts have the power to interpret the constitution and the powers of the different levels of government. The highest court acts as an umpire, if a dispute arises between different levels of government in the exercise of their respective powers.
- d) **Financial Autonomy:** In order to ensure financial autonomy federalism provides specified sources of revenue for each level of government. Every level is free in its own way to impose taxes and raise funds from remunerative enterprises.
In this way a federal government has dual objectives i.e., to safeguard and to promote unity of the country by way of mutual trust and agreement to live together
- e) **Distribution of Powers:** In federalism different tiers of government govern the same citizens, but each tier has its own jurisdiction in specific matters of legislation, taxation and administration.

4. On what type of principles is the Indian union based? Describe the three fold distribution of legislative powers between Union Government and the State Governments.

OR

What is the basic nature of Indian federal system?

OR

How are the powers divided between the states and centre? Explain with examples.

OR

Name any two subjects that are included in concurrent list. How are laws made on these subjects? Explain.

Ans. The Indian Union is based on the principle of holding together federation' i.e., the Union to the unit rather than from the units to the union. Our Constitution says that India shall be a Union of states. It is basically a federal system with striking unitary features. Hence, it is also called Quasifederal.

The power sharing arrangement in our country is mainly based on the quasifederal nature of the federation. The constitution, therefore, clearly provides a three-fold distribution of legislative powers between the union government and the state government. These folds are:

a. Union List: Union list is the first fold of the three List system. It includes subjects of national importance because we need a uniform policy on the Union List subjects throughout the country. The parliament is solely empowered to enact laws on the Union List subjects. Defence, atomic energy, foreign affairs, railways, banking, posts and telegraphs are the important Union List subjects.

b. State List: State List is the second fold of the three-fold division. This list contains subjects of state and local importance such as police, trade and commerce, agriculture and irrigation. The state legislature alone can make laws relating to the subjects mentioned in the state list.

c. Concurrent List: This list constitutes the third fold of the List system. The Concurrent list includes subjects of common interest to both, the Union government as

well as the State government, such as education, forests, trade unions, marriages, adoption and succession. Both the Union as well as the State governments can make laws on the Concurrent List.

But in case of a conflict between the Central and the State Laws, Central law prevails. Any change in the constitution cannot be done by the Parliament alone. It requires two-thirds majority of both the houses of Parliament.

5. What makes India a federation?

OR

Mention any five features which make India a federal country.

Ans. The Constitution declared India as a Union of states. The following points clearly show that the Indian Union is based on the principles of federalism—

- i. Under a federal government different tiers of the government govern the same citizens. India too has three levels of government- Union, State and Local.
- ii. There is a three-fold distribution of legislative powers between the Union government and the State governments in the three lists-Union, State and Concurrent lists.
- iii. This sharing of power is basic to the structure of the Constitution and it cannot be changed easily by the Parliament alone. It requires two-thirds majority of both the Houses of Parliament.
- iv. In a federation, judiciary solves the disputes between different levels of government. In case of any dispute, the High Courts and the Supreme Court make a decision.

6. How is federation practised in India?

OR

Explain democratic policies adopted by Government of India which made it a successful federation.

Ans. Like other federalism, in India constitution a provisions are necessary for the success of federalism, but these are not sufficient for its practical application. If the federal experiment has succeeded in India, it is not merely because of the clearly laid out

constitutional provisions. The real success of federalism in India can be attributed to the nature of democratic politics in our country i.e.,

- a) Spirit of freedom
- b) Respect for diversity
- c) Desire for living together
- d) Secular outlook

Major tests or experiments for the success of federalism were:

- i. Linguistic States: The first and a major test for democratic politics in our country was the creation of linguistic states. In 1947, the boundaries of several old states of India were changed to ensure that people who spoke the same languages lived in the same state. The formation of linguistic states has made the country more united and also made the administration easier.
- ii. Each state in India has its own official language.
- iii. Constitution of India provides for the use of English along with Hindi for official purposes.
- iv. Most of the government work in each state takes place in the official language of the concerned state.
- v. Promotion of Hindi continues to be the official policy of the government of India but promotion does not mean that the central government can impose Hindi on states where people speak a different language.

Thus,

II. Long Answer Type Questions.

(5 mark each)

1. Explain any five provisions of the Constitutional Amendment of 1992 that strengthened the Third Tier of Government in India

OR

What is the meaning of Decentralisation? Explain any four provisions that have been made towards Decentralisation in India after the Constitutional Amendment in 1992.

Ans. (i) Decentralisation : When power is taken from the Central and State Governments and is given to Local Government, it is called Decentralisation. The Constitution was amended in 1992 to make the Third Tier of Democracy more powerful and effective.

ii) Provisions of the Constitutional Amendment of 1992 are:

- (a) Now it is mandatory to hold regular elections to local government bodies.
- (b) Seats are reserved for the elected bodies and for the post of the Executive Heads of these Institutions for SCs, STs and OBCs.
- (c) At least one-third of all positions are reserved for women.
- (d) An independent Institution called State Election Commission has been created in each State to conduct Panchayat and Municipal Elections.
- (e) The State governments are required to share some powers and revenue with local government bodies.

2. Why has Federalism succeeded in India? Which were the policies adopted by India that ensured this success? Explain.

Ans. Federalism has succeeded in India due to the nature of democratic policies in our country.

The policies adopted by India to ensure this success are:

- i) **Linguistic States:** After Independence, the boundaries of several old states were changed in order to create new states. The creation of Linguistic States is the first and a major test for democratic politics in our country.
- ii) **Language Policy:** The second test for the Indian Federation is the language policy. The Indian Constitution did not give the status of National Language to any one of the language.
- iii) **Centre-State Relations:** Restructuring the Centre State relations is one more way in which Federalism has been strengthened in practice.
- iv) **Decentralisation of Power:** Power in India has been decentralised to the local government. The local government includes Panchayats in villages and municipalities in Urban areas.

II. Competency Based Questions.

(4 marks each)

Case Based MCQs

I. Read the given extract and answer the questions that follow:

A second test for Indian federation is the language policy. Our Constitution did not give the status of national language to any one language. Hindi was identified as the official language. But Hindi is the mother tongue of only about 40 per cent of Indians. Therefore, there were many safeguards to protect other languages. Besides Hindi, there are 21 other languages recognised as Scheduled Languages by the Constitution. A candidate in an examination conducted for the Central Government positions may opt to take the examination in any of these languages. States too have their own official languages. Much of the government work takes place in the official language of the concerned State. Unlike Sri Lanka, the leaders of our country adopted a very cautious attitude in spreading the use of Hindi. According to the Constitution, the use of English for official purposes was stopped in 1965. However, many non-Hindi speaking States demanded that the use of English should continue. In Tamil Nadu, this movement took a violent form. The Central Government responded by agreeing to continue the use of English along with Hindi for official purposes. Many critics think that this solution favoured the English-speaking elites. Promotion of Hindi continues to be the official policy of the Government of India. Promotion does not mean that the Central Government can impose Hindi on States where people speak a different language. The flexibility shown by Indian political leaders helped our country avoid the kind of situation that Sri Lanka finds itself in.

Answer the following MCQs by choosing the most appropriate option.

1. What was the first and major test for democratic politics in our country?
 - a) The creation of linguistic states
 - b) The creation of the language policy
 - c) The creation of new federal states
 - d) The creation of new federal territories
2. A candidate in an examination conducted for the Central Government positions has to opt for which language?

c) Both Hindi and English

d) Any of the 22 languages recognised as Scheduled Languages by the Constitution.

3. Which non- Hindi speaking State demanded that the use of English should continue after 1965?

a) Hyderabad

b) Chennai

c) Tamil Nadu

d) Kerala

4. How many languages are included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution?

a) 21 languages

b) 20 languages

c) 25 languages

d) 22 languages

II. Read the given extract and answer the questions that follow:

How many languages do we have in India? The answer depends on how one counts it. The latest information that we have is from the Census of India held in 2001. This census recorded more than 1500 distinct languages which people mentioned as their mother tongues. These languages were grouped together under some major languages.

For example, languages like Bhojpuri, Magadhi, Bundelkhandi, Chhattisgarhi, Rajasthani, Bhili and many others were grouped together under 'Hindi'. Even after this grouping, the Census found 114 major languages. Of these 22 languages are now included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution and are therefore, called 'Scheduled Languages'. Others are called 'Non-Scheduled Languages'. In terms of languages, India is perhaps the most diverse country in the world.

Answer the following MCQs by choosing the most appropriate option:

1. How many languages are spoken in India?

a. More than 1200

b. More than 1100

c. More than 1400

d. More than 1300

2. Bhojpuri, Magadhi, _____, Rajasthani and many others were grouped under 'Hindi'.

a. Bundelkhandi

b. Urdu

c. Kashmiri

d. Bengali

3. How many languages are included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution?

a) 18

b) 20

c) 21

d) 22

4. In terms of _____, India is perhaps the most diverse country in the world.

a) Population

b) languages

c) Forests

d) religious

III. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Let us get back to the contrast between Belgium and Sri Lanka that we saw in the last chapter. You would recall that one of the key changes made in the Constitution of Belgium was to reduce the power of the Central Government and to give these powers to the regional governments. Regional governments existed in Belgium even earlier. They had their roles and powers. But all these powers were given to these governments and could be withdrawn by the Central Government. The change that took place in 1993 was that the regional governments were given constitutional powers that were no longer dependent on the central government. Thus, Belgium shifted from a unitary to a federal form of government. Sri Lanka continues to be, for all practical purposes, a unitary system where the national government has all the powers. Tamil leaders want Sri Lanka to become a federal system. Federalism is a system of government in which the power is divided between a central authority and various constituent units of the country. Usually, a federation has two levels of government. One is the government for the entire country that is usually responsible for a few subjects of common national interest. The others are governments at the level of provinces or states that look after much of the day-to-day administering of their state. Both these levels of governments enjoy their power independent of the other. In this sense, federations are contrasted with unitary governments. Under the unitary system, either there is only one level of government or the sub-units are subordinate to the central government. The central government can pass on orders to the provincial or the local government. But in a federal system, the central government cannot order the state government to do something. State government has powers of its own for which it is not answerable to the central government. Both these governments are separately answerable to the people.

Answer the following questions on the basis of the above passage:

a) What change took place in 1993 in Belgium?

b) What is Federalism? How many levels of government are there in federation?

c) 'Federations are contrasted with unitary government'. Explain.

Ans.

- a) The change that took place in Belgium in 1993 was that the regional governments were given constitutional powers that were no longer dependent on the Central Government. Belgium shifted from a unitary to a federal form of government.
- b) Federalism is a system of government in which the power is divided between a central authority and various constituent units of the country. Usually, a federation has two levels of government. One is the government for the entire country that is usually responsible for a few subjects of common national interest and the other are governments at the level of provinces or states that look after much of the day-to-day administering of their state.
- c) Under the unitary system, either there is only one level of government or the sub-units are subordinate to the Central Government. The Central Government can pass on orders to the provincial or the local government. But in federal system, the Central Government cannot order the state government to do something. State government has powers of its own for which it is not answerable to the Central Government. Both these governments are separately answerable to the people.

IV. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

An experiment in Brazil:

A city called Porto Alegre in Brazil has carried out an extraordinary experiment in combining decentralisation with participative democracy. The city has set up a parallel organisation operating alongside the municipal council, enabling local inhabitants to take real decisions for their city. The nearly 13 lakh people in this city get to participate in making the budget for their own city. The city is divided into many sectors or what we call wards. Each sector has a meeting, like that of the gram sabha, in which anyone living in that area can participate. There are some meetings to discuss issues that affect the entire city. Any citizen of the city can participate in those meetings. The budget of the city is discussed in these meetings. The proposals are put to the municipality that takes a final decision about it.

About 20,000 people participate in this decision making exercise every year. This method has ensured that the money cannot be spent only for the benefit of the colonies where rich people live. Buses now run to the poor

experiment has taken place in some areas in Kerala. Ordinary people have participated in making a plan for the development of their locality.

Answer the following questions on the basis of the above passage:

- (i) Which city of Brazil has carried out an extraordinary experiment? What was the experiment?**
- (ii) What has the city set up and why?**
- (iii) What has this method ensured its people?**

Ans.

- i) A city called Porto Alegre in Brazil has carried out an extraordinary experiment in combining decentralisation with participative democracy.
- ii) The city has set up a parallel organisation operating alongside the municipal council, enabling local inhabitants to take real decisions for their city.
- iii) This method has ensured that the money cannot be spent only on the benefit of the colonies where rich people live. Buses now run to the poor colonists and builders cannot evict slum-dwellers without resettling them.



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