

Social Studies

(Civics)

Chapter 2: Federalism



Important Questions

Multiple Choice questions-

- The System of Panchayati Raj involves
 - The village, block and district levels
 - The village, and state levels
 - The village district and state levels
 - The village, state and Union levels
- In case of a clash between the laws made by the centre and a state on a subject in the concurrent list:
 - the state law prevails.
 - the central law prevails.
 - both the laws prevail within their respective jurisdictions.
 - the Supreme Court has to intervene to decide.
- Which of the following subjects is not included in the state list?
 - Law and order
 - National defence
 - Education
 - Agriculture
- In India's federal system, the state governments have the power to legislate on all those subjects which are included in the:
 - Union list
 - State list
 - Concurrent list
 - Residuary subjects
- The Constitution of India
 - divided powers between Centre and states in three lists.
 - divided powers between Centre and states in two lists.
 - listed the powers of the states and left the undefined powers to the state.
 - Specified the powers of the states and left the residuary powers with the Centre.
- Which of the following government has two or more levels?
 - Community Government
 - Coalition Government
 - Federal Government
 - Unitary Government
- Which of the following countries is an example of "coming together federation"?
 - U.S.A
 - India
 - Spain

(d) Belgium

8. Here are three reactions to the language policy followed in India. Which of the following holds true in the case of India?

(a) The policy of accommodation has strengthened national unity.

(b) Language based states have divided us by making everyone conscious of their language.

(c) The language policy has only helped to consolidate the dominance of English over all other languages.

9. Consider the following statements on the practice of federalism in India. Identify those which hold true for decentralisation after 1992.

A. Local governments did not have any power or resources of their own.

B. It became constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections to local government bodies.

C. The state governments are required to share some powers and revenue with local government bodies.

D. No seats are reserved in the elected bodies for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes.

(a) B and C

(b) A and C

(c) A and D

(d) B and D

10. In a 'Holding together federation':

A. A large country divides its power between constituent states and the national government.

B. The Central government tends to be more powerful vis-a-vis the States.

C. All the constituent states usually have equal powers.

D. Constituent states have unequal powers.

Which of the above statements are correct?

(a) A, B, C and D

(b) A and D

(c) B and C

(d) A, B and D

11. Which among the following are examples of 'Coming together federations'?

(a) India, Spain and Belgium

(b) India, USA and Spain

(c) USA, Switzerland and Australia

(d) Belgium and Sri Lanka

12. The Union List includes subjects such as:

(a) Education, forests, trade unions, marriages, adoption and succession.

- (b) Police, trade, commerce, agriculture and irrigation.
- (c) Residuary subjects like computer software.
- (d) Defense, foreign affairs, banking, currency, communications.

13. The system of Panchayati Raj involves:

- (a) Village, State and Union levels
- (b) Village, District and State levels
- (c) Village and State levels
- (d) Village, Block and District levels

14. Which one of the following States in India has its own Constitution?

- (a) Uttarakhand
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) J & K
- (d) Nagaland

15. 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 – (ii) and D – (i)

Very Short-

1. Name the Indian state that has its own constitution.
2. What is federalism?
3. What is Unitary Government?
4. Define Gram Panchayat?
5. What is Panchayat Samiti?
6. Define Zila Parishad?
7. What is Mayor?

8. The Subjects like-Defense, Banking and Communication are come under which list?
9. Point out one feature in the practice of federation in India that is similar from that of Belgium.
10. Point out one feature in the practice of federation in India that is different from to that of Belgium.

Short Questions-

1. Why is the central government of India not compelling states to adopt Hindi as their official language?
2. Contrast a federal system of government with a unitary set-up with examples.
3. Highlight the two types of routs through which the federations are formed. Give example.
4. Explain the role of union list, state list and concurrent list with context to India.
5. What are significances of Panchayat Raj?
6. Explain the organization of the local government bodies of urban areas.
7. Differentiate between Federal Government and the Unitary Government.
8. How federalism leads to reservation of seats for different caste groups?
9. What was the Amendment in regard to decentralization?
10. How is the Federal government better than a Unitary Government? Explain with the example of Belgium and Sri Lanka.

Long Questions-

1. Explain five changes towards decentralization brought in the Constitution after the Amendments made in 1992.
2. Is it right to say that India is federal country but the word federalism is not used anywhere in the constitution? Explain.
3. What is the rationale for decentralization of power? Explain the structure of Rural local government in India.
4. How is the Federal government better than a Unitary Government? Explain with the example of Belgium and Sri Lanka.

Assertion Reason Questions:

1. **DIRECTION:** Mark the option which is most suitable:
 - a. If both assertion (A) and reason (R) are true and reason (R) is the correct explanation of assertion (A).
 - b. If both assertion (A) and reason (R) are true, but reason (R) is not the correct explanation of assertion (A).
 - c. Assertion (A) is true, but reason (R) is false.

d. Both assertion (A) and reason (R) are false.

Assertion(A): When power is taken away from central and state governments and given to local governments it is called decentralisation.

Reason(R): At least one third of all positions are reserved for women in local government bodies.

2. **DIRECTION:** Mark the option which is most suitable:

- a. If both assertion (A) and reason (R) are true and reason (R) is the correct explanation of assertion (A).
- b. If both assertion (A) and reason (R) are true, but reason (R) is not the correct explanation of assertion (A).
- c. Assertion (A) is true, but reason (R) is false.
- d. Both assertion (A) and reason (R) are false.

Assertion(A): Belgium shifted from a federal form of government to a unitary government.

Reason(R): Usually, a federation has two levels of government.

Cash Study Questions:

1. Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:

The need for decentralisation was recognised in our Constitution. Since then, there have been several attempts to decentralise power to the level of villages and towns. Panchayat in villages and municipalities in urban areas were set up in all the States. But these were directly under the control of state governments. Elections to these local governments were not held regularly. Local governments did not have any powers or resources of their own. Thus, there was very little decentralisation in effective terms.

A major step towards decentralisation was taken in 1992. The Constitution was amended to make the third tier of democracy more powerful and effective. Now it is constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections to local government bodies. Seats are reserved in the elected bodies and the executive heads of these institutions for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes. At least one-third of all positions are reserved for women. An independent institution called the State Election Commission has been created in each State to conduct panchayat and municipal elections. The State governments are required to share some powers and revenue with local government bodies. The nature of sharing varies from State to State.

- i. What is the basic idea behind decentralization?
 - a. There are a large number of problems and issues which are best settled at the local level.

- b. Besides, at the local level it is possible for the people to directly participate in decision making. This helps to inculcate a habit of democratic participation.
 - c. Local government is the best way to realise one important principle of democracy, namely local self-government.
 - d. All the above.
- ii. Consider the following statements on the practice of federalism in India. Identify those which hold true for decentralisation after 1992.
 - a. B and C
 - b. A and C
 - c. A and D
 - d. B and D
 - iii. In local self-government institutions at least one-third of all positions are reserved for.
 - a. Men.
 - b. Women.
 - c. Scheduled caste.
 - d. Scheduled tribe.
 - iv. Which of these is incorrect, based on the Constitutional Amendment, 1992?
 - a. One-fourth of positions are reserved for women.
 - b. Regular elections should be held to the local government bodies.
 - c. Seats are reserved for SCs, STs and OBCs.
 - d. State Election Commission looks after these elections.
2. Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:

The creation of linguistic States was the first and a major test for democratic politics in our country. Many old States have vanished, and many new States have been created. Areas, boundaries, and names of the States have been changed. In 1947, the boundaries of several old States of India were changed in order to create new States. This was done to ensure that people who spoke the same language lived in the same State. Some States were created not on the basis of language but to recognise differences based on culture, ethnicity or geography. These include States like Nagaland, Uttarakhand, and Jharkhand. When the demand for the formation of States on the basis of language was raised, some national leaders feared that it would lead to the disintegration of the country. The Central Government resisted linguistic States for some time. But the experience has shown

that the formation of linguistic States has actually made the country, more united. It has also made administration easier.

- i. Select the two bases on which new states of India have been created.
 - a. Religion and geography.
 - b. Language and regional culture.
 - c. Culture and religion.
 - d. Language and community.
- ii. Which state of India was first formed on the bases of language?
 - a. Karnataka.
 - b. Tamil Nadu.
 - c. Andhra Pradesh.
 - d. Telangana.
- iii. Here are four reactions to the language policy followed in India. Which are true in the case of India?
 - a. Language based states have divided us by making everyone conscious of their language.
 - b. The policy of accommodation has strengthened national unity.
 - c. The language policy has only helped to consolidate the dominance of English over all other languages.
 - d. It led to the disintegration of the country.
- iv. Which was the first test for democratic politics in our Country?
 - a. Caste problem.
 - b. Language problem.
 - c. Problems related to union territories.
 - d. Creation of linguistic state.

MCQ Answers-

1. Answer: a
2. Answer: b
3. Answer: b
4. Answer: b
5. Answer: a
6. Answer: c
7. Answer: a

8. Answer: a
9. Answer: a
10. Answer: d
11. Answer: c
12. Answer: d
13. Answer: d
14. Answer: c
15. Answer: c

Very Short Answers-

1. Ans. Jammu and Kashmir
2. Ans. Federalism is a system of government, under which power is divided between a central authority and its various constituent units.
3. Ans. In unitary government there is only one level of government and if sub units are there, that are subordinate to the central government.
4. Ans. It is council consisting of several ward members at village level, often called the Panch and the head is Sarpanch.
5. Ans. A few Gram Panchayats are grouped together to form a Panchayat Samiti or Block or a Mandal.
6. Ans. All the panchayat Samitis or Mandals in a district together constitute the Zila Parishad.
7. Ans. Mayor is the head of a Municipal Corporation.
8. Ans. .Union List
9. Ans. In both countries there are two or more levels of Government.
10. Ans. In Belgium Community Government is there, but in India such type of provision is not there.

Short Answers-

1. Ans.

- a) India is multilingual country. According to the census of 1991 recorded more than 1500 distinct languages, people mentioned their mother tongues.
- b) Hindi is mother tongue of only 40% of the people of India.
- c) There are 21 languages recognized by the constitution.
- d) In states of Southern India there has been violent opposition to Hindi.

2. Ans.

- a) Federalism has at least two levels of government.

- b) The central government is responsible for subjects of national importance.
- c) The state government looks after the daily administration of the states.
- d) In Unitary system there is only one level of government and if any subunits are there that remains subordinate to the central government.

3. Ans.

- a) When independent states come together and form a federation is coming together route. Example: USA, Switzerland and Australia.
- b) When a country decides to divide its power between the constituent state and the national government that is holding together route. Example: India, Spain and Belgium.

4. Ans.

- a) Union list includes those subjects which are of national interest and on which a uniform policy is needed in the whole country. The Union Government makes laws on these subjects. Example, defense, foreign affairs and banking.
- b) State list includes subjects of state and local importance example, police, trade, agriculture etc.
- c) Concurrent list includes subjects of common interest to the Union Government and the State Government, Example: Education, forest etc.

5. Ans.

- a) It is the third level of Indian Federal System.
- b) This level gives a chance to the people to become the representatives of people.
- c) There are 36 lakhs elected representatives in the local bodies.
- d) There is reservation for women, SCs and STs.
- e) They strengthen the democratic system of India.

6. Ans.

- a) Local Government bodies exist in urban areas also. In Towns there are municipalities and in big cities there are municipal corporations.
- b) Both municipalities and municipal corporations are controlled by elected bodies consisting of people's representatives.
- c) Municipality is headed by the chairman and Municipal Corporation is headed by the Mayor.

7. Ans.

- a) In the unitary system power is centered with the central authority and in federal system, power is allotted to the state and local level government.
- b) In Federal system power is allocated separately to the central and state level governments. In Unitary system there is no separate unit of the government.

c) In Federal system the focus is on national and state issues and in unitary system, the focus is completely on gaining power.

d) In country like France, Italy, Japan and UK use unitary system. The countries like US, Canada, Argentina, Australia, Austria, India, and Switzerland use federal system of government.

8. Ans.

a) Federalism means sharing power among the central and non central authorities. it seeks to give equal representation to all the constituent units.

b) Even in the constituent units or in states, there is diversity in the population with respect to language, religion, caste and culture.

c) To give equal opportunity and voice to various social groups, there is reservation for some categories like SCs, STs, OBCs and women in some areas.

d) This reservation aims to give power to the socially weaker sections of the society to give them an equal chance and representation in the political system.

9. Ans.

a) In 1992, 73rd Amendment Act gave constituent status to the Panchayati raj institution.

b) It created the third tier of federalism in India below the central government level and the state government level.

c)The Objective of this Amendment was to make democracy more powerful and effective by giving power to the grassroots units of self government.

10. Ans.

a) If we study the main difference between the federal and the unitary governments, in the present times the federal governments certainly score over the unitary governments, especially when people of different religions, castes and cultures resides in one and same country.

b) In chapter Power Sharing we have seen how a unitary form of government has proved a failure in Sri Lanka while a federal type of government has proved a great success in Belgium.

c) In Sri Lanka Unitary government fails to solve the dispute of different sections of the society but in Belgium the federal government gives equal respect to the demands of different sections of the society.

d) In Belgium all types of people have been accommodated while in Majoritarianism has been thrust upon the people especially over the minority community in Sri Lanka.

Long Answers-

Answer 1.

- Decentralization: When power is taken from central and state governments and is given to local government, it is called decentralization. The Constitution was amended in 1992 to make the third tier of democracy more powerful and effective.
- Provisions of the Constitutional Amendment of 1992 are:
 - (i) Now it is mandatory to hold regular elections to local government bodies.
 - (ii) Seats are reserved in the elected bodies and the executive heads of these institutions for SCs, STs and OBCs.
 - (iii) At least one-third of all positions are reserved for women.
 - (iv) An independent institution called State Election Commission has been created 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.

Answer 2.

- India had emerged as an independent nation after a painful and bloody partition.
- Soon after independence several princely states become a part of the country.
- The constitution declared India as a Union of States.
- Although it did not use the word federation, the Indian Union is based on the principles of federalism.
- India is fulfilling all the requirements which are required for a federal country.

Answer 3.

The basic idea behind decentralization:

- Large number of problems and issues are best settled at the local level because people have better knowledge of their local problems.
- It helps in promoting direct participation.

Structure of Rural Local Government:

- Zila Parishad: All the mandals in a district together constitute the Zila Parishad. Most of the members are elected and headed by a chairperson.
- Panchayat Samiti or Mandal or Block: The members of this body are elected by the entire panchayat members in that area. A few Gram Panchayats are grouped together to form this government body.
- Gram Panchayat: A council consisting of several ward members often called Panch. The president is called sarpanch. It is the decision-making body for the entire village.

Answer 4.

- a) If we study the main difference between the federal and the unitary governments, in the present times the federal governments certainly score over the unitary

governments, especially when people of different religions, castes and cultures resides in one and same country.

b) In chapter Power Sharing we have seen how a unitary form of government has proved a failure in Sri Lanka while a federal type of government has proved a great success in Belgium.

c) In Sri Lanka Unitary government fails to solve the dispute of different sections of the society but in Belgium the federal government gives equal respect to the demands of different sections of the society.

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Assertion Reason Answer:

1. (b) If both assertion (A) and reason (R) are true, but reason (R) is not the correct explanation of assertion (A).
2. (d) Both assertion (A) and reason (R) are false.

Case Study Answer:

1. i (b) Besides, at the local level it is possible for the people to directly participate in decision making. This helps to inculcate a habit of democratic participation.
- ii. (c) A and D
- iii. (d) Scheduled tribe.
- iv. (d) State Election Commission looks after these elections.
2. i (a) Religion and geography.
- ii. (b) Tamil Nadu.
- iii. (c) The language policy has only helped to consolidate the dominance of English over all other languages.
- iv. (c) Problems related to union territories.