

Federalism

MCQs

Q.1. Which form of power sharing is most commonly referred to as federalism?

- a. Horizontal division of power
- b. Vertical division of power
- c. Division of power among various communities
- d. Sharing of power among political parties

Q.2. Which period saw the rise of regional political parties in many states of the country?

- a. Period after 1990
- b. Period after 2000
- c. Period after 1980
- d. Period after 1970

Q.3. Which are the basic objectives of a federal system?

- a. To safeguard and promote unity of the country
- b. To accommodate regional diversity
- c. To share powers among different communities
- d. Both a and b

Q.4. What are the kinds of routes through which federations have been formed?

- a. One route involves independent states coming together on their own to form a bigger unit
- b. The second route is where a large country decides to divide its powers between the states and the national government
- c. Both a and b
- d. None of these

Q.5. In which Schedule of the Indian Constitution are the 22 scheduled languages included?

- a. Tenth schedule
- b. Eighth schedule
- c. Twelfth schedule
- d. Ninth schedule

Q.6. Which of the following is incorrect regarding a unitary government?

- a. There is either only one level of government or the sub-units are subordinate to the central government.

- b. The central government can pass on orders to the provincial government.
- c. A state government is conservative to central government.
- d. The powers of state governments are guaranteed by the Constitution.

Q.7. Which body conducts the elections to Panchayats and municipalities?

- a. Election Commission
- b. State election Commission
- c. State High Court
- d. Parliament

Q.8. What is true regarding sources of revenue in a federal system?

- a. States have no financial powers or independent sources of revenue.
- b. States are dependent on revenue or funds on the central government.
- c. Sources of revenue for each level of government are clearly specified to ensure its financial autonomy.
- d. States have no financial autonomy.

Q.9. When was the use of English for official purposes stopped?

- a. 1956
- b. 1958
- c. 1960
- d. 1965

Q.10. What is the third tier of government known as?

- a. Village Panchayats
- b. State government
- c. Local self-government
- d. Zila Parishad

Q.11. What is the originally provided system of Constitution of India?

- a. A two-tier system of government.
- b. A three-tier system of government.
- c. A single-tier system of government.
- d. A four-tier system of government.

Q.12. Which level of government in India has the power to legislate on the 'residuary' subjects?

- a. Union government
- b. State government
- c. Local self-government
- d. Both a and b

Q.13. Which of the following is not an example of 'coming together federations'?

- a. India
- b. USA
- c. Switzerland
- d. Australia

Q.14. Which of the following is not an example of 'holding together' federations?

- a. India
- b. Spain
- c. Belgium
- d. Switzerland

Q.15. How many of the world's 192 countries have federal political systems?

- a. Only 50
- b. Only 25
- c. Only 67
- d. Only 103

Q.16. Which of the following subjects is not included in the Union list?

- a. Defence
- b. Foreign affairs
- c. Police
- d. Banking

Q.17. Who makes laws on the subjects contained in the Concurrent List?

- a. Union government
- b. State governments
- c. Both Union and state governments
- d. None of these

Q.18. Which state of India enjoys a special status and has its own Constitution?

- a. Bihar
- b. Uttar Pradesh
- c. Kerala
- d. Jammu and Kashmir

Q.19. Who administers the whole district?

- a. Sarpanch
- b. Mayor
- c. District Magistrate or Collector
- d. Sessions Judge

Q.20. Which language is recognised as the national language by the Constitution of India?

- a. Hindi
- b. English
- c. Tamil
- d. None of these

Questions & Answers

1MARKS

Q.1. What is the system of Panchayati Raj

Ans:- The Village, Block and District level.

Q.2. List the two countries which does not federalism?

Ans:- China and Sri Lanka.

Q.3. How many languages are mentioned in the eighth schedule of the Indian constitution

Ans:-22 Languages.

Q.4.1 How many scheduled languages are recognized by the constitution?

Ans:- Besides Hindi, there are 21 scheduled languages.

Q.5 What is the government at Block level called?

Ans:- Panchayat Samiti

Q.6. Which local govt works at district level?

Ans:- Zila Parishad

Q.7. By what name local govt at urban area called?

Ans:- Municipality and Municipal corporation

Q.8. Who is the chairperson of Municipal Corporation?

Ans:- Mayor

3MARKS

Q.1 What is the real reason for the successes of federalism in India?

Ans- 1. The constitutional provisions are laid out very clearly

2) The nature of democratic politics has ensure its success

3) There is respect for diversity

Q.2 What happened to the centre state relations when different parties ruled at the centre and state levels till 1990?

Ans- When different parties ruled at the centre and state levels the parties at the centre tried to undermine the power of states. The central government misused the constitution often to dismiss the state governments that were controlled by other parties. This is against the spirit of federalism

Q.3 What happened to the centre state relations when different parties ruled at the centre and state levels till 1990?

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Q.4 Give the key features of federalism

Ans- 1. There is two or more level of govt
2. Each tier has its own jurisdiction
3. Any change in the fundamental provisions of the constitution requires consent of both levels of the govt
4. Sources of revenue for each level are specified

Q.5 What major steps taken in 1992 towards decentralization?

Ans- A three tier democracies were introduced in 1992. A step was taken towards creating rural local self govt. 1) Regular elections to be held for panchayat
2) Seats reserved for SC's and ST s OBC s
3) One third seats reserved for women
4) State govt to share power and revenue with local bodies.

Q6. Examine the holding together nature of Indian Federalism.

Ans: A. States have been not been given identical powers with union government.
B. Few states have been given special status-like Jammu and Kashmir and North eastern states in order to protect and preserve their custom, tradition, culture and linguistic diversity.
C. Apart from these some territories of the Indian union like Chandigarh, Lakshadweep or the capital city of Delhi are administered by union government hence known as Union Territories.

Q7. Write down the features of Coming together federations.

Ans. A. Coming Together Federation involves independent states coming together on their own to form a bigger unit.
B. In coming together units try to increase their security by pooling sovereignty and retaining identity.
C. In this category of federations, all the constituent units usually have equal power and are strong vis-à-vis the federal government.
D. USA, Switzerland and Australia are Coming Together Federations.

Q8. Is it right to say that India is federal country but the word federalism is not used anywhere in the constitution? Explain.

Ans. A. India had emerged as an independent nation after a painful and bloody partition.

B. Soon after independence several princely states become a part of the country.

C. The constitution declared India as a Union of States.

D. Although it did not use the word federation, the Indian Union is based on the principles of federalism. E. India is fulfilling all the requirements which are required for a federal country.

Q9. Why the exact balance of power between the central and State Governments does vary from one federation to other federations? Explain with example.

Ans. The balance of power between the central and the state government varies from one federation to another due to the nature of route adopted by the country like: Coming Together Federations and Holding Together Federation.

A. Coming together Federation: In this type of federation independent units come together on their own to form a union or federation. Their main aim is to form a bigger unit, so that by pooling sovereignty and retaining their identity they can increase their security. Federations of USA, Switzerland and Australia are examples.

B. Holding Together Federations: Under this type of federation, the federal government decides to divide its power between the constituent states and the national government. In this, type of government the central government tends to be more powerful vis-a-vis states. Holding together sometimes gives unequal power to constituent states. Some states are granted special powers. India, Spain and Belgium federations are the examples of Holding Together Federations.

Q10. Critically examine the concept of Decentralization in India.

Ans. The need of decentralization is very much recognized in Indian constitution and various attempts have been made to decentralize power to village and towns. Panchayats in villages and municipalities in towns have been set up in all the states of the country. A. But in all practical the concept of decentralization is not very much applied in all the state.

B. The local bodies are directly under the control of state government.

C. The elections to these local bodies are not held regularly.

D. Local governments do not have any powers or resources of their own, like Agriculture and commerce.

Q11. “Local people know the local problems and its solutions better”. Explain

Ans. A. The local governments take up some of the responsibilities of the Central and State governments.

B. They share some of their burdens and allow them time to concentrate on matters of the state importance and national importance.

C. Much of their time which was hitherto wasted on local problems, could now be devoted to much more important issues.

Q13. Discuss the dual objective of federalism?

Ans. 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.

C. The above two aspects are crucial for the institution and practice of federalism.

The government at different levels should agree to some rules of power sharing.

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

Q14. If agriculture and commerce are state subjects why do we have ministers of agriculture and commerce in the Union Cabinet?

Ans. A. Although agriculture and commerce are the state subjects we have ministers of agriculture and commerce at the union cabinet because the wider prospect of these subjects regarding inter-state trade.

B. A uniform policy has to be legislated for all the states.

C. The agriculture and economic experts are part of the planning commission. So we require agriculture and commerce ministers in the Union for policy making.

Q15. What are the demerits of local self-government?

Ans. A. Irregular elections.

B. Dominance of Upper Caste people.

C. Ignorance, illiteracy and poverty of the villagers.

D. Excessive official control.

E. Lack of Adequate funds.

Q16. What are the powers and responsibilities of village Panchayat?

Ans. A. Preparation plan for economic development and social justice for the village.

B. Implementation of schemes for economic development for the village.

C. It charges and collects all the taxes, duties, tolls and fees.

Q17. Describe the language policy of India?

Ans. A. The constitution of India does not give the status of national language to

any of the language.

B. Though Hindi was identified as the official language but the central government has not imposed Hindi on states where people speak a different language.

C. Besides Hindi there are twenty one other languages recognized as Scheduled languages by the constitution.

D. Most of the states have their own official languages which are used in the offices.

E. Since independence Indian Leaders have adopted a very cautious attitude in spreading the use of Hindi.

F. According to constitution the use of English for official purposes was to stop in 1965 which was not liked by some of the states. So the central government responded by agreeing to continue the use of English along with Hindi as official language.

Q18.Explain the role of Judiciary, Executive and Legislature

Ans. Judiciary:

A. Judiciary plays an important role in ensuring the implementation of various laws and procedure.

B. The supreme court of India has the exclusive authority of settling disputes between the government of India and one or more states or between two states.

C. The high court stands at the head of state's judicial administrations.

D. The Union Territories comes under the jurisdiction of different state high courts.

Legislature:

A. Legislature is our country's law making body

. B. It is an assembly of people's representation with the power to enact laws for our country.

C. The members of the legislature are elected by the people.

D. In addition to enacting laws legislature have the authority to raise taxes, and adopt the budget and other money bills.

Executive:

A. At different organs of government, we find functionaries who take day-to-day decisions, but do not exercise the supreme power on behalf of the people. All those functionaries are collectively known as the executive.

B. Executive is law implementing body.

C. It is a body of persons having major policies, make decisions, and implementing them on the basis of the constitution and laws of the country.

Q19. State any two differences between the local government before and after the Constitutional amendment in 1992.

Ans.

Local governments Before 1992	Local governments After 1992
Elections were controlled by the state and not held regularly.	An independent State Election Commission is responsible to conduct elections regularly.
Local governments did not have any powers or resources of their own.	The State governments are required to share some powers and revenue with local government bodies.

Q20. What policies strengthened the federalism of India?

Ans. A. Linguistic States: Since 1947 many changes have been done in the political map of India. 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 to recognize differences based on culture, ethnicity or geography.

B. Centre-state relations in India: Earlier in India for a long time, the same party ruled both at centre and state. This meant the state government did not exercise their rights as autonomous federal units. As and when ruling party at state level was different, the parties that ruled at the Central tried to undermine the powers. But after 1990 significant changes occurred. There was rise of regional political parties in many states of the country. This was also the beginning of the era of coalition governments at the centre.

C. Language Policy: The constitution of India does not give the status of national language to any of the language. Though Hindi was identified as the official language but the central government has not imposed Hindi on states where people speak a different language. Besides Hindi there are twenty one other languages recognized as Scheduled languages by the constitution. Most of the states have their own official languages which are used in the offices. Since independence Indian Leaders have adopted a very cautious attitude in spreading the use of Hindi. According to constitution the use of English for official purposes was to stop in 1965 which was not liked by some of the states. So the central government responded by agreeing to continue the use of English along with Hindi as official

language

Q21.Explain the organization of the local government bodies of urban areas.

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.

Q22.What are the causes responsible for very slow progress of Panchayat Raj System in India?

Ans. A. Lack of awareness: Some people treat it just as an administrative agency, some as an intention of democracy at grass root level and some treat it as a charter of rural, local government. There for lack of awareness and conceptual clarity is one of the reason of slow success of Panchayat Raj.

B. Irregular election: Election should hold after a gap of five years, but still irregularity is there to hold the elections.

C. Relationship of government officials and elected representatives: All work of the Panchayat Raj System is being done by the government officials, but contradiction always comes in between government officials and elected representatives and then it progresses very slowly.

D. Lack of money and other support: The Panchayat Raj institutions lack enough money, administrative support and help from the government officials. That's why its success rate is very slow.

Q23.Highlight the two types of routs through which the federations are formed. Give example.

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.

Q24.Contrast a federal system of government with a unitary set - up with examples.

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

Q25. Why is the central government of India not compelling states to adopt Hindi as their official language?

- 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.

Q26. What are significances of Panchayat Raj?

- 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.

Q27. How is the Federal government better than a Unitary Government? Explain with the example of Belgium and Sri Lanka.

- 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 reside in one and the 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.

Q28. Discuss why the special status has been given to a few states in India? Explain with the example of Jammu and Kashmir.

- Ans. A. A few states in India have been given a special status in the constitution due to diverse population and regions within the state itself.
B. Special status to Jammu and Kashmir is due to the history of conflict over the state with Pakistan.

- C. The state was given to the Indian Union under very special terms, which provided the state with a unique position in the Indian Union.
- D. This state has its own constitution.

Q29.What was the Amendment in regard to decentralization?

- 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.

Q30.How far is it correct to say that federalism works only in big country?

- Ans. A. Federalism means sharing power among the central and non-central authorities. B. It works in big countries where the area of country is very large and it makes it difficult to be effectively managed through only one level of government.
- C. In such cases different levels of the government are formed to have broad based participation of the people.

Q31.Explain how power is shared among different organs of the government.

POWER is shared among different organs of government such as the legislature, judiciary and executive. It is called horizontal distribution of power because it allows different organs of government placed at the same level to exercise different powers. Such a separation ensures that none of the organs can exercise unlimited power. Each organ checks the others. This results in a balance of power among various institutions. Although, judges are appointed by the executive, they can check the functioning of executive or laws made by the Legislatures. This arrangement is called a system of checks and balances.

Q32.Explain the features of third tier of the rural government.

- Ans. A. Rural local government is popularly known by the name Panchayat Raj. Each Village or group of villages in some state has a Gram Panchayat.
- B. This is a council consisting of members called Panchs and a president called Sarpanch. They are directly elected by the adult population living in the ward or village.
- C. The Panchayats work under the supervision of the Gram Sabha. All the voters of the village are the members of Gram Sabha.
- D. The local government structure goes right up to the district level. A few Gram panchayats are grouped together to form Block Samiti. The members of all the Block Samities are elected by the panchayat members of the area.

E. All the Panchayat Samitis or Mandals in a district together constitute the Zila Parishad