

### **Part-A (1-mark Question)**

- (A) Written Constitution                   **(B) Flexible Constitution**  
(C) Supremacy of the Constitution       (D) Independent Judiciary

19. In the Federal Government\_\_\_\_\_

- (A) All the powers are vested in the Central Government  
**(B) All powers are divided into Central Government and Regional Government**  
(C) Both A and B                           (D) None of the above  
20. Which of the following is a demerit of the Parliamentary System?  
(A) Compressed representation         (B) Uncertainty of policies  
(C) Temporary Government              **(D) All of the above**

### **Part-B (2-Mark Questions)**

#### **Unit-I**

1. Define the term ‘Constitution’.
2. Classify and define Written and Unwritten constitutions.
3. What is Politics?
4. What is a political system?
5. What are the types of political systems?
6. What is constitutional monarchy?
7. How is constitutional monarchy different from a republic?
8. What are the differences between Democratic and Authoritarian governments?
9. What are the similarities between monarchy and authoritarian governments?
10. What are the differences of totalitarian and authoritarian governments?
11. Define a federal government.
12. What are the differences between a unitary government and a federal government?
13. What are the differences between Parliamentary and Presidential forms of government?
14. Define Indian political system in your own words.
15. What is the basic structure of Indian political system?
16. What are the distinct/salient features of a democracy?
17. Define a republic government.
18. Define a unitary government.

## **Part-B (2-Mark Questions)**

### **1. Define the term 'Constitution'.**

A constitution is primarily a set of rules and principles specifying how a country should be governed, how power is distributed and controlled, and what rights citizens possess. It is usually written down and contained within a single document; the UK is unusual in having an uncodified constitution with many sources.

### **2. Classify and define Written and Unwritten constitutions.**

A written constitution is normally supposed to mean a document or a collection of documents in which the basic rules regarding the main organs and institutions of government are clearly laid down. A written constitution is a deliberate creation and it is a consciously planned system. It may be created by a constituent assembly or a convention. For example, the constitution of India was formulated and adopted by the constituent assembly.

An unwritten constitution reflects the evolutionary nature of free documentation of the rules and regulations. First they are practiced and then by continuous practice, they become part of the constitution. The constitution of Britain is the best example of an unwritten constitution.

### **3. What is Politics?**

Politics is the set of activities associated with the governance of a country, state or an area. It involves making decisions that apply to groups of members. It refers to achieving and exercising positions of governance—organized control over a human community, particularly a state.

### **4. What is a political system?**

A political system is a complete set of institutions, interest groups (such as political parties, trade unions, lobby groups), the relationships between those institutions and the political norms and rules that govern their functions (constitution, election law).

### **5. What are the types of political systems?**

Monarchy, oligarchy, democracy, authoritarian and totalitarian forms of governments are the examples of different types of political systems.

### **6. What is constitutional monarchy?**

A **constitutional monarchy** is a form of government which has a head of state which has little or no role in actual governing. In a constitutional monarchy, all decisions of governance are managed by a legislative body. These legislative bodies can take various forms: some are two-chambered legislatures or parliaments, while others are single-chambered.

### **7. How is constitutional monarchy different from a republic?**

In **constitutional monarchy**, the monarch often has no actual power to govern the state. Often they still exist as the official head of state, though the office is merely symbolic. The king or queen will often greet other heads of state and important figures visiting the country and initiate important ceremonies throughout the country. As a result of this reduced status, the de facto head of state in a constitutional monarchy is often the leader of the legislative body, in many cases, a prime minister.

A **republic** is a form of government in which the country is considered a "public matter", not the private concern or property of the rulers. The primary positions of power within a

republic are attained, through democracy, oligarchy, autocracy, or a mix thereof, rather than being unalterably occupied. As such it has become the opposing form of government to a monarchy and has therefore no monarch as head of state.

#### **8. What are the differences between Democratic and Authoritarian governments?**

A Democratic government is when the system is ruled by the people, the citizen is allowed to form their laws, and the government is serving the people. An Authoritarian government is when the government has complete dictatorship, the laws are set by the government, and the citizens have to obey the government.

#### **9. What are the similarities between monarchy and authoritarian governments?**

A monarchy is a form of government in a state is ruled by an individual who typically inherits the throne by birth and rules for life or until abdication. Monarchs have various titles — king or queen, prince or princess, emperor or empress, duke or grand duke, Shah and Raja, etc. A government which signifies blind trust towards the authority. When obedience to authority is enforced at the expense of personal freedom then it is called as Authoritarian Government. A monarch could be an authoritarian and an authoritarian need not be a monarch.

#### **10. What are the differences of totalitarian and authoritarian governments?**

In an authoritarian system there are a *few* social and economical institutes that are outside of the government's control. So the authoritarian system wants full political power, but do not go beyond that. The totalitarian rule system, on the other hand, wants power over everything. They seek power beyond governmental rule, and begin to intrude into the Ideology of everyone under their rule. The authoritarian ruler is more focused on individual power, while the totalitarian ruler is more of a charming ideologist who claims to have the best interest of the people or the state in mind.

#### **11. Define a federal government.**

A federal government is a system of government that divides the power between a larger central government, and the local and regional governments beneath it. Power is divided among the larger, stronger, central government of a nation, and the smaller state and regional governments within that nation. This is done by assigning certain responsibilities to each sector so that the central government has its own job to do, as do the state and local governments.

#### **12. What are the differences between a unitary government and a federal government?**

In a unitary government, the power is held by one central authority but in a federal government, the power is divided between national government or federal government and local governments or state governments. Federal government has multiple hierarchy levels, with both the central authority and the states (or provinces) both being sovereign. However, in a unitary government there is no hierarchy of sovereign powers for the states.

#### **13. What are the differences between Parliamentary and Presidential forms of government?**

The chief difference between Parliamentary and Presidential forms of government is the extent of power separation between the legislative, the executive and the judiciary. Another major difference between the presidential and parliamentary system is the accountability of the executive to the legislature.

**14. Define Indian political system in your own words.**

India is a sovereign, secular, socialist, federal, parliamentary, democratic, republic government.

**15. What is the basic structure of Indian political system?**

The Indian political system has a robust parliament as the Legislature, the President as the head of Executive and the independent judiciary system. Apart from this, we have an autonomous institution to conduct free elections in India and a statutory, self-regulating Press Council of India for ensuring Freedom of the Press.

**16. What are the distinct/salient features of a democracy?**

The five main characteristics of democracy are (i) Elected representation, (ii) Free Elections to elect the representatives, (iii) Civil liberties, (iv) rule of law and (v) Independent Judiciary.

**17 Define a republic government.**

A **republic** is a form of government in which the country is considered a "public matter", not the private concern or property of the rulers. The leader of republic is called as the President. He or She is elected by the people directly or indirectly. Any democratic government without a monarch is a republic.

**18. Define a unitary government.**

A unitary state is a sovereign state governed as one single unit in which the central government has the supreme power. The Central government can create or dissolve states and other sub-national units. For example, France is a unitary republic.

**Part-C (14 Mark Questions)****1. Define Presidential and Parliamentary Government systems. Compare and Contrast their characteristics with suitable examples.****Parliamentary System****Presidential System****Features:****Features:**

1. Dual Executive.

1. Single executive

2. Majority party rule

2. President and legislators  
elected separately for a fixed term

- |                                  |                                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 3. Collective Responsibility     | 3. Non- Responsibility           |
| 4. Political Homogeneity         | 4. Single Membership             |
| 5. Double Membership             | 5. Domination of president       |
| 6. Leadership of prime minister. | 6. No dissolution of lower house |
| 7. Dissolution of Lower House.   | 7. Separation of powers          |
| 8. Fusion of powers.             |                                  |

- | <b>Merits</b>                                 | <b>Demerits</b>                                |
|---|--|
| 1. Harmony between legislature and executive. | 1. Conflict between legislature and executive. |
| 2. Responsible government.                    | 2. Non-responsible government.                 |
| 3. Prevents despotism.                        | 3. May lead to autocracy.                      |
| 4. Wide representation.                       | 4. Narrow representation.                      |

- | <b>Demerits:</b>                | <b>Merits</b>                     |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Unstable government.         | 1. Stable government.             |
| 2. No continuity of policies.   | 2. Definiteness in policies.      |
| 3. Against separation of powers | 3. Based on separation of powers. |
| 4. Government by amateurs.      | 4. Government by experts          |

1. The Parliamentary system of government is one in which there exists a harmonious relationship between the legislative and executive body, while the judiciary body works independently. As against this, in Presidential form of government, the three organs of the government work independently of each other.

2. In Parliamentary form of government, the executive is divided into two parts, i.e. the Head of the State (President) and the Head of the Government (Prime Minister). On the contrary, the President is the chief executive of the Presidential form of Government.

3. In the Parliamentary form of government, the executive body, i.e. the Council of Ministers is accountable to the Parliament for its acts. Conversely, in the Presidential form of Government, there is no such accountability, i.e. the executive body is not accountable to the Parliament for its acts.

4. Fusion of powers exists in the Parliamentary system, whereas the powers are separated in Presidential system.

5. In Parliamentary form, only those persons are appointed as ministers in the executive body who are the members of Parliament. Unlike, in Presidential form, persons other than those working in the legislature can be appointed as secretaries.

6. In Parliamentary government, the Prime Minister has the power to dissolve the lower house before the completion of its term. As opposed, the President cannot dissolve the lower house, in Presidential government.

7. The tenure of the executive is not fixed in Parliamentary government, as in, if a no-confidence motion is passed in the Parliament, the Council of Ministers is dismissed. Contrary to this, the executive has a fixed term in the Presidential government.

**2. Adjudge whether India have a Federal or Unitary form of government? Substantiate your arguments with salient features of Indian Constitution.**

A unitary state is a sovereign state governed as one single unit in which the central government has the supreme power. Despite its federal features, the Indian Constitution also possesses the following unitary or Non-federal features:

**1. Strong Centre**

The division of powers is in favour of the Centre and highly inequitable from the federal angle. Firstly, the Union List contains more subjects than the State List. Secondly, the more important subjects have been included in the Union List. Thirdly, the Centre has overriding authority over the Concurrent List. Finally, the residuary powers have also been left with the Centre, while in the USA, they are vested in the states. Thus, the Constitution has made the Centre very strong.

**2. States Not Indestructible**

Unlike in other federations, the states in India have no right to territorial integrity. The Parliament can by unilateral action change the area, boundaries or name of any state.

Moreover, it requires only a simple majority and not a special majority. Hence, the Indian Federation is “an indestructible Union of destructible states”. The American Federation, on the other hand, is described as “an indestructible Union of indestructible states”.

### **3. Single Constitution:-**

Usually, in a federation, the states have the right to frame their own Constitution separate from that of the Centre. In India, on the contrary, no such power is given to the states. The Constitution of India embodies not only the Constitution of the Centre but also those of the states. Both the Centre and the states must operate within this single-frame. The only exception in this regard is the case of Jammu and Kashmir which has its own (state) Constitution.

### **4. Flexibility of the Constitution:-**

The process of constitutional amendment is less rigid than what is found in other federations. The bulk of the Constitution can be amended by the unilateral action of the Parliament, either by simple majority or by special majority. Further, the power to initiate an amendment to the Constitution lies only with the Centre. In US, the states can also propose an amendment to the Constitution.

### **5. No Equality of State Representation:-**

The states are given representation in the Rajya Sabha on the basis of population. Hence, the membership varies from 1 to 31. In US, on the other hand, the principle of equality of representation of states in the Upper House is fully recognised. Thus, the American Senate has 100 members, two from each state. This principle is regarded as a safeguard for smaller states.

### **6. Emergency Provisions:-**

The Constitution stipulates three types of emergencies—national, state and financial. During an emergency, the Central government becomes all powerful and the states go into the total control of the Centre. It converts the federal structure into a unitary one without a formal amendment of the Constitution. This kind of transformation is not found in any other federation.

### **7. Single Citizenship:-**

In spite of a dual polity, the Constitution of India, like that of Canada, adopted the system of single citizenship. There is only Indian Citizenship and no separate state citizenship. All citizens irrespective of the state in which they are born or reside enjoy the same rights all over the country. The other federal states like US, Switzerland and Australia have dual citizenship, that is, national citizenship as well as state citizenship.

## **8. Integrated Judiciary:-**

The Indian Constitution has established an integrated judicial system with the Supreme Court at the top and the state high courts below it. This single system of courts enforces both the Central laws as well as the state laws. In US, on the other hand, there is a double system of courts whereby the federal laws are enforced by the federal judiciary and the state laws by the state judiciary.

## **9. All-India Services:-**

In US, the Federal government and the state governments have their separate public services. In India also, the Centre and the states have their separate public services. But, in addition, there are all-India services (IAS, IPS, and IFS) which are common to both the Centre and the states. The members of these services are recruited and trained by the Centre which also possess ultimate control over them. Thus, these services violate the principle of federalism under the Constitution.

## **10. Integrated Audit Machinery:-**

The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India audit the accounts of not only the Central government but also those of the states. But, his appointment and removal is done by the president without consulting the states. Hence, this office restricts the financial autonomy of the states. The American Comptroller-General, on the contrary, has no role with respect to the accounts of the states.

## **11. Parliament's Authority Over State List:-**

Even in the limited sphere of authority allotted to them, the states do not have exclusive control. The Parliament is empowered to legislate on any subject of the State List if Rajya Sabha passes a resolution to that effect in the national interest. This means that the legislative competence of the Parliament can be extended without amending the Constitution. Notably, this can be done when there is no emergency of any kind.

## **12. Appointment of Governor:-**

The governor, who is the head of the state, is appointed by the President. He holds office during the pleasure of the President. He also acts as an agent of the Centre. Through him, the Centre exercises control over the states. The American Constitution, on the contrary, provided for an elected head in the states. In this respect, India adopted the Canadian system.

## **13. Integrated Election Machinery:-**

The Election Commission conducts elections not only to the Central legislature but also to the state legislatures. But, this body is constituted by the President and the states

have no say in this matter. The position is same with regard to the removal of its members as well. On the other hand, US has separate machineries for the conduct of elections at the federal and state levels.

#### **14. Veto Over State Bills:-**

The governor is empowered to reserve certain types of bills passed by the state legislature for the consideration of the President. The President can withhold his assent to such bills not only in the first instance but also in the second instance. Thus, the President enjoys absolute veto (and not suspensive veto) over state bills. But in US and Australia, the states are autonomous within their fields and there is no provision for any such reservation.