



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: X	Department: SOCIAL SCIENCE	Subject: Political Science
Chapter 2 Question Bank :2	Topic: Federalism	Year :2026-27

Q 1	Explain the Federal system of government. Ans: • 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. • The national government handles matter of common interest, while state or provincial governments manage daily affairs within their regions. • Both operate independently in their areas of power.
Q 2	Distinguish between Unitary and Federal form of government. Ans: Unitary Government • Either there is only one level of government or the sub-units are subordinate to the Central government. • The Central government can pass orders to the sub-units. • Example: United Kingdom, France, Japan. Federal Government • Usually there are two levels of government-one at the Central level and the other at the State level. Both governments enjoy their power independent of the other. • The Central government cannot pass orders to the State government and it has powers of its own for which it is not answerable to the Central government. • Example: United States, India, Australia.
Q 3	Explain the key features of the federal government. Ans: • There are two or more levels of government. • Different tiers of the government govern the same citizens, but each tier has its own jurisdiction in specific matters of legislation, taxation and administration. • The jurisdictions of the respective levels of the government are specified in the Constitution. • The fundamental provisions of the Constitution cannot be unilaterally changed by one level of the government and such changes require the consent of both the levels of government. • The Supreme court acts as an umpire if disputes arise between different levels of government in the exercise of their respective powers. • Sources of revenue for each level of government are clearly specified in the Constitution to ensure its financial autonomy. • Dual objectives of Federal system are: a) To safeguard and promote the unity of the country. b) Accommodate regional diversity.
Q 4	"There are two kinds of routes through which federations have been formed".

	Which are they? OR “The exact balance of power between the Central and the State government varies from one federation to another”. Explain Ans: There are two kinds of routes through which federations have been formed. They are: Coming Together Federation • This route involves independent states coming together to form a larger group, sharing power while keeping their own identity to feel more secure. • All the constituent states have equal power and are strong. • Example: USA, Switzerland and Australia. Holding Together Federation • In this route a large country divides its power between the constituent states and the central government. • In this federation, central government is more powerful in relation to the states. • Example: India, Spain and Belgium.
Q 5	Explain the distribution of legislative powers between the Union government and the State governments in India. OR “The Constitution provides a three-fold distribution of legislative powers between the Union government and the State governments”. Explain Ans: The Indian Union is based on the principle of “Holding together Federation” Three-fold distribution of legislative powers between the Union government and the State governments are as follows: Union List It includes subjects of national importance which needs a uniform policy throughout the country. Only the Union Government can make laws related to these subjects. Defence, Foreign affairs, Railways, Banking etc. are important Union List subjects. State List It includes subjects of state and local importance such as Police, Trade and Commerce, Agriculture and Irrigation. State legislature alone can make laws on these subjects. Concurrent List It includes subjects of common interest to both the Union government as well as the State government such as Education, Forest, Marriage, adoption and succession. Both the Union as well as the State governments can make laws on these subjects. But in case of a conflict between the Central and the State laws, Central laws only prevail. Residuary Subjects Apart from the above-mentioned subjects there are many new subjects like computer technology, hardware, software etc. which came up after the Constitution was made. According to our Constitution, the Union Government has the power to make laws on these ‘Residuary Subjects’.
Q 6	“All the States in the Indian Union do not have identical powers”. Justify Ans: • All the states in the Indian Union do not have identical powers • Some States such as Assam, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram enjoy special powers under certain provisions of the constitution of India (Article 371) due to their peculiar social and historical circumstances. • These special powers are granted to safeguard the land rights, cultural heritage, and provide priority in government jobs for indigenous communities. Indians who are not permanent residents of this state cannot buy land or house here.

Q 7	What are called Union Territories? Ans: • There are some units of the Indian Union which enjoy very little power. These are areas which are too small to become an independent state but which could not be merged with any of the existing states. • Areas like Chandigarh, Lakshadweep, the capital city of Delhi etc. are called the Union Territories. These territories do not have the powers of a state. • The central government has special powers in running these areas.
Q 8	“The creation of linguistic States was the first and a major test for democratic politics in our country”. Justify the statement. Ans: • 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 like Uttarakhand, Nagaland and Jharkhand were created not on language basis but on the basis of Culture, Geography or Ethnicity. • The Central government resisted linguistic states for some time because some national leaders feared that it would lead to disintegration of the country. • But the experience has shown that the formation of linguistic States has actually made the country more united and also made administration easier.
Q 9	Examine the language policy of India as an important aspect of our Constitution OR “The flexibility shown by Indian political leaders helped our country to avoid the kind of situation that Sri Lanka finds itself in” Justify Ans: • Our Constitution did not provide the status of National language to any one language. Hindi was identified as the official language. Besides Hindi, there are 22 other languages recognized as Scheduled Languages by the Constitution and candidates appearing for Central Government exams have the option to take the test in any of these recognized languages. • The controversy over the Hindi and English as the official language started when Indian Constitution made the provision that the use of English for official purposes was to stop in 1965. • However, many non-Hindi speaking states (Hindi is the mother tongue of only about 40 per cent of Indians) demanded that the use of English should continue and 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. • Thus, the flexibility shown by Indian political leaders helped India to avoid the tense situation like that in Sri Lanka.

Q10	Explain the Centre-State relations of Indian federalism. OR What was the new culture of Power sharing developed in India after 1990? Ans: • Centre-State relations in India are guided by the Constitution, but how they work depends on how political parties follow the rules. • In the past, when different parties ruled the Centre and States, the Central government sometimes misused its power to remove State governments, which hurt the idea of Federalism. • After 1990, Regional parties became stronger, leading to a new way of power sharing. • The era of Coalition government implies that if no single party gets a clear majority, then the major national parties enter into an alliance with many parties including regional parties to form a government at the centre. • This system now respects state autonomy more and has made power sharing more balanced and effective than before.
Q11	What is ‘Decentralization’? What is the basic idea behind it? Ans: • When power is taken away from the Central and the State governments and given to the Local government, it is called ‘decentralization’. • The basic idea behind decentralization is that there are a large number of problems and issues which are best settled at the local level. • People have better knowledge of problems in their localities. • They also have better ideas on where to spend money and how to manage things more efficiently. • 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. Local self-Governments are the training schools for Democracy.
Q11	“The Constitution was amended to make the third-tier of Democracy more powerful and effective”. Explain OR “A major step towards Decentralization was taken in 1992”. Justify Ans: Steps taken by the constitution to make the third –tier of Democracy more powerful and effective are: • It is mandatory to conduct regular elections to the local government bodies. • Seats are reserved 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. • State government share some powers and revenue with the local bodies.
Q12	Briefly explain the structure of Rural local government. Ans: Rural local government popularly known as Panchayati Raj has three level system.

	a) Village level - Each village or group of villages in some States has a Gram Panchayat and it is a council consisting of ward members called the Panch and a President called the Sarpanch. - They are directly elected by all the adult population living in that ward or village and it is the decision-making body for the entire village. - The Panchayat works under the supervision of the Gram Sabha which has to meet at least twice or thrice a year to review the performance of the Gram panchayat and also to check the annual budget of the Panchayat. b) Block level - A few Panchayats are grouped together to form a Panchayat samiti or Block or Mandal. - The members are elected by all the Panchayat members of that area and the elected head is known as Pradhan. c) District level - All the panchayat samitis or mandals in a district together constitute the Zilla (district) parishad. Most members of the Zilla parishad are elected. - Members of the Lok Sabha and MLAs of that district and some other officials of other district level bodies are also its members. Zilla parishad chairperson is the political head of the Zilla parishad.
Q13	Briefly explain the structure of Urban local government. Ans: Municipalities are set up in towns and Municipal corporations are set up in big cities. Both Municipalities and Municipal corporations are controlled by elected bodies consisting of people's representatives. Municipal chairperson is the political head of the Municipality. Mayor is the political head of the Municipal Corporation.