

Objective Section _____ (1 mark each)

Q. 1. Consider the following statements regarding language policy of Indian Federation. [CBSE OD, Set 1, 2020]

1. Hindi was identified as the official language.
2. Besides Hindi, there are 21 other languages recognised as scheduled languages.

3. English can be used along with Hindi for official purpose.

Choose the right option from the following :

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| (a) 1 and 3 | (b) 1 and 2 |
| (c) only 1 | (d) 1,2 and 3 |

Ans. (d)

Very Short Answer Type Questions _____ (1 mark each)

Q. 1. What other factors besides politics keep the federations united? [CBSE, Term 1, 2015]

Ans. Culture, cooperation, mutual respect, history and ideology are some other factors which keep the federations united.

Short Answer Type Questions-II _____ (3 marks each)

Q. 1. Describe the rationale behind the implementation of Decentralisation in India. [CBSE OD, Set 1, 2020]

Ans. The rationales behind the implementation of decentralisation in India are :

- (i) India is a vast country; central government is unable to hear the needs of people from different areas.
- (ii) The local government can easily understand the needs and demands of their people.
- (iii) It helps women to participate in decision making process because 33% seats are reserved for women in local government.
- (iv) It takes off burden from central and state government.
- (v) It strengthens democracy.
- (vi) At the local level it is possible for the people to directly participate in decision making.

Q. 2. Describe any three steps taken by the Indian Government towards decentralisation of power in 1992. [CBSE OD, Set 2, 2020]

Ans. The major steps taken towards the decentralisation of powers in India in 1992 are given below :

- (i) It formalised the local self government (Panchayati Raj system).
- (ii) It empowers lower level management or people participation in decision making to solve problems and issues at the local level.
- (iii) To hold regular elections of the local governing bodies.
- (iv) Reserve one third seats for the women in the local self government.
- (v) The state governments are needed for the purpose of sharing some powers and the revenue with local self governing bodies.
- (vi) Prior to 1992, local government bodies were under the control of the government but after 1992, these bodies were given constitutional status. Seats are reserved for SC, ST and OBC in elected bodies and executive head of the Institutions to ensure their equal participation.

Q. 3. Describe any three features of 'federal government'.

OR

Describe any three features of 'unitary government'. [CBSE Delhi, Set 1, 2020]

Ans. The features of 'federal government' are given below:

- (i) There are two or more levels (tiers) of government.
- (ii) Each level of government has its own jurisdiction in matters of legislation, taxation and administration even though they govern the same citizens.
- (iii) Powers and functions of each tier of government is specified and guaranteed by Constitution.
- (iv) The Supreme Court has been given power to settle disputes between federal governments.
- (v) Fundamental provisions of Constitution cannot be altered by any one level of government.
- (vi) The divisions of powers are defined by the Constitution and the legislative power.

OR

The three features of 'unitary government' are given below :

- (i) **Centralisation of Powers :** All powers are centralised in the hands of the central government and the centre is the reservoir of all state powers. In this system, there are no provincial governments and the Constitution empowers the central government to legislate, execute and adjudicate with full might.
- (ii) **Single and Simple Government :** A unitary government is very simple system. With the exception of Britain, there are neither provincial assemblies and executives nor the upper chambers at the center. There is a single central government at the center. There is a unicameral legislature popularly elected. The central legislature is there to legislate, executive to execute and the judiciary to adjudicate without any share.
- (iii) **Uniformity of Laws :** Another characteristic of a unitary government is that the laws of the unitary system, (unlike in a federation), are uniform because laws are made only by a

single central government for the whole state. Laws made by the centre are equally enforced in the rest of the state without any territorial distinction, while in a federation, the nature of the law varies from province to province.

Q. 4. Name any two subjects that are included in Concurrent List. How are laws made on these subjects? Explain.

OR

How is sharing of power between the Union and the State Governments basic to the structure of the Constitution of India? Explain. [CBSE OD, Set 1, 2019]

Ans. Concurrent List includes subjects of common interest to both the Union and State government. These subjects are education, forest, trade unions, marriage, adoption and succession etc.

Both the State and the Union governments can make laws on these subjects. But if the laws made by both the government contradict each other, or a dead lock is created, then the law made by the Union government will prevail.

OR

Sharing of power between the Union and the State governments is very basic to the structure of the Constitution. The Constitution has distributed the legislative powers between the State government and Union government by dividing the subjects in Union list and State list, on which, these governments can make laws respectively. There is a Concurrent list as well on which, both the governments can make laws. Also, State governments enjoy their own power in states like Jammu and Kashmir. Parliament on its own cannot change the power sharing arrangement. Any change to it had to be first passed by both the houses of Parliament, with at least 2/3 majority. Then it has to be ratified by legislature of at least half of the total states. This distribution of power is well embedded in the provisions of the Constitution and is thus, its basic structure.

Q. 6. Describe any three provisions of amendment made in 'Indian Constitution' in 1992 for making 'Three-Tier' government more effective and powerful.

[CBSE, 2018]



Topper's Answers

Introduction : Amendment in constitution 1992, has strengthened decentralisation, provided local govt with power and resources, by :-

(a) It is constitutionally mandatory to hold regular and free elections to local bodies (Panchayats and municipal corporations, other urban and rural local bodies)

(b) Reservation of seats in local bodies and executive heads for scheduled classes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes.

(c) $\frac{1}{3}^{\text{rd}}$ of the seats reserved for women.

(d) Independent State Election Commission set up to conduct municipal and panchayats elections.

(e) State govt are supposed to transfer some power and resources to local bodies. This ^{distribution} varies from state to state.

Conclusion : It is very effective, has deepened democracy and voice of women.

Ans. A major step towards decentralisation was taken in 1992. The constitution was amended to make the third tier of democracy more powerful and effective:

- (i) Now it is constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections for local government bodies
- (ii) Seats are reserved in the elected bodies and the executive heads of these institutions for SC/ST/Backward classes. Atleast one third of all positions are reserved for women.
- (iii) An independent institution called the State Election Commission, has

been created in each state to conduct Panchayat and Municipal elections.

- (iv) The State Governments are required to share some powers and revenue with local government bodies.

Q. 4. Which features of Panchayati Raj do you like the most and why? Explain.

[CBSE, Term 1, 2016]

Ans. There are so many features of Panchayati Raj system. But the feature I like the most is that there are seats reserved for women. About $\frac{1}{3}$ seats are reserved for women in the rural local bodies. In my point

of view it is a revolutionary step which works for women empowerment and it creates leadership quality in the women of India, which is almost half of the population of the country.

Q. 7. Explain the three major provisions of the Constitutional Amendment of 1992 which really strengthened the third tier of democracy in India?

[CBSE, Term 1, 2015]

Ans. Amendment of 1992 is the 73rd amendment of the constitution which added part IX to the constitution of India en-

titled as “panchayats.” The major provisions of this amendment are:

- (i) Creation of State Election Commission to conduct elections to Panchayati Raj institutions.
- (ii) In order to review the financial position of the Panchayati Raj institution, each state to setup a State Finance Commission for five years.
- (iii) Tenure of Panchayati Raj institution fixed at five years and creation of three tier Panchayati Raj structure at zila, block and village level.



Long Answer Type Questions _____ (5 marks each)

Q. 1. Why has federalism succeeded in India? Which three policies adopted by India have ensured this success?

[CBSE, Term 1, 2016]

Ans. Federalism is the system of government in which power is shared among the different institutions not within the single constitution body.

The constitution outlines the detail of power and functioning of the governments at different levels.

India has tried to accommodate all its diversities in its federal set up.

The policies that ensures success are:

- (i) **Linguistic states:** States are divided on the basis of the language spoken in the state or region.
Eg. Marathi is the language of Maharashtra, Assamese is the language of Assam.
- (ii) **Language policy:** All languages have equal rights. There is no state language in the country.
- (iii) **Centre state relations:** Powers are distributed among the two states and centres.