

2

FEDERALISM

PREVIOUS YEARS' QUESTIONS

2019

Short Answer Type Questions [3 Marks]

1. Name any two subjects that are included in Concurrent List. How are laws made on these subjects? Explain. [AI Ajmer]

Ans. The Concurrent list includes subjects like education, forests, trade unions, marriages, adoption and succession. (any two)

Both the Union as well as the State governments can make laws on the Concurrent list. But in case of a conflict between the Central and the State laws, Central law prevails.

2. How is sharing of power between the Union and the State Governments basic to the structure of the Constitution of India? Explain. [AI Ajmer]

Ans. The power sharing arrangement in our country is mainly based on the quasifederal nature of the federation. The constitution, therefore, clearly provides a three-fold distribution of legislative powers between the union government and the state government. These folds are:

- (a) **Union List:** Union List is the first fold of the three List system. It includes subjects of national importance because we need a uniform policy on the Union List subjects throughout the country. The Parliament is solely empowered to enact laws on the Union List subjects. Defence, atomic energy, foreign affairs, railways, banking, posts and telegraphs are the important Union List subjects.
- (b) **State List:** State List is the second fold of the three-fold division. This list contains subjects of state and local importance such as police, trade and commerce, agriculture and irrigation. The state legislature alone can make laws relating to the subjects mentioned in the State List.
- (c) **Concurrent List:** This list constitutes the third fold of the List system. The Concurrent list includes subjects of common interest to both, the Union government as well as the State government, such as education, forests, trade unions, marriages,

adoption and succession. Both the Union as well as the State governments can make laws on the Concurrent List. If their laws conflict with each other, the law made by the Union Government will prevail.

2018

Short Answer Type Question [3 Marks]

3. Describe any three provisions of amendment made in 'Indian Constitution' in 1992 for making 'Three-Tier' government more effective and powerful. [CBSE]

Ans. The Constitutional Amendment of 1992 introduced the concrete shape of decentralisation. The three-tier of democracy have been made more effective. The provisions of Constitutional Amendment are as follows:

- (a) To hold regular elections to the local government bodies has been made compulsory.
- (b) Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in the elected bodies.
- (c) One third *i.e.*, 33 per cent seats to be reserved for women.
- (d) To conduct election for the local government bodies at rural and urban level, State Election Commission, an independent institution, has been constituted.
- (e) The State governments are required to share some powers and revenue with local government bodies. (any three)

2018 (Compartment)

Short Answer Type Question [3 Marks]

4. Under which type of federation India comes? Mention any two features of such federation. [CBSE]

Ans. India comes under the 'holding together federation'. The following are the features of such federation. The following are the features of such federation.

- (a) In this system the large power or country decides to divide its power between its constituent States and national government.
- (b) In holding together there is absence of pooling sovereignty and retaining identity.
- (c) In fact, in this federation the central government subordinates over the constituent units.
- (d) Whereas, in this category, the central government tends to be more powerful vis-a-vis the states. Sometimes constituent units of the federation have unequal powers. For example, in India, Jammu and Kashmir has been granted special status. (any two)

2016

Very Short Answer Type Questions [1 Mark]

5. How many seats are reserved for women in the local bodies in India? [CBSE]

Ans. At least one-third of the seats are reserved for women in the local bodies in India.

6. What other factors besides politics keep the federations united? [CBSE]

Ans. Besides politics other factors that keep federations united are:

- (i) Power sharing arrangements between the central and state governments
- (ii) Independent role of judiciary
- (iii) Language ethnicity
- (iv) Response to conflicting claims and
- (v) Active participation of the people.

(any two)

Short Answer Type Question [3 Marks]

7. Explain the vertical division of power giving example from India. [CBSE]

Ans. The power shared among the different levels of the government is known as the vertical distribution of power. It involves higher and lower levels of government. These levels are the Union government, the State government and the Local government. In India, the Union government is at the highest level. The government at the provincial or regional level is the State government. The Indian Constitution has further laid down the provision of distribution of power. This division of power is further extended to the levels of the government lower than the state governments. They are also called Municipal Corporations and the Municipalities in urban areas and Panchayati Raj in rural areas.

Each level of the government exercises its power. There is no specification of the system of checks and balances. Each level has its own powers and areas of jurisdiction and no level can interfere in each other's functioning. Such an arrangement ensures deepening of democracy.

Long Answer Type Question [5 Marks]

8. Explain democratic policies adopted by Government of India which made it a successful federation. [CBSE]

Ans. The following democratic policies have helped India to be a successful federation.

- (i) The powers of the central and state governments have been clearly separated under the Union, State and Concurrent Lists. It removes the possibility of any type of interference in the functioning of the central and state governments.

- (ii) A three-tier system of governance has been approved under the Union, State and Local governments. They govern the people at their respective levels.
- (iii) Some states like Jammu and Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh have been given special status so as to maintain their autonomy.
- (iv) The fundamental structure of the Indian Constitution cannot be unilaterally changed by the Parliament. Any amendment in the Constitution needs the approval of both the houses of the Parliament and at least half of the total states.
- (v) The sources of income of different levels of the government has been clearly stated in the Constitution to avoid any conflict.

2015

Very Short Answer Type Question [1 Mark]

9. What is the official post for the chairperson of a municipal corporation? [CBSE]

Ans. Mayor is the official post for the chairperson of a municipal corporation.

Short Answer Type Question [3 Marks]

10. Compare the federations of *coming together* type and *holding together* type? [CBSE]

Ans. The following are the differences between *coming together* type and *holding together* federations.

<i>Coming Together Federation</i>	<i>Holding Together Federation</i>
(a) Under this, independent states come together on their own to form a bigger unit.	Under this, a large country decides to divide its power between the constituent units and the national government.
(b) All constituent states usually have equal power and the states enjoy certain amount of autonomy.	Under this, central government tends to be more powerful.
(c) The main aim of this federation is to pool their sovereignty and maintain their separate identity to increase their security.	In this type of federation, there is an absence of pooling sovereignty and maintaining identity.
(d) Some examples are USA, Australia and Switzerland.	Some examples are India, Belgium and Spain.

Long Answer Type Question [5 Marks]

11. How are the legislative powers divided between the Union government and the State Governments? [CBSE]

Ans. The legislative powers are divided between the Union Government and the State Governments by the Constitution of India. The constitution is supreme in the country and the legislative powers are divided into various areas of government jurisdiction into three lists—Union List, State List, Concurrent List.

- (a) **The Union List:** Union List includes subjects like defence, foreign affairs, banking, currency and communications. The Union Government alone can make laws relating to these subjects.
- (b) **The State List:** State list contains subjects like police, trade, commerce, agriculture and irrigation, which come under the jurisdiction of the State Governments. Only the State Legislatures can make laws on these subjects.
- (c) **The Concurrent list:** The Concurrent list contains items like education, forest, trade unions, marriage, adoption and succession, which are of common interest to both the Union government and the State Governments. Both can make laws on these subjects. However, in case of any conflict, the law made by the Union Government will prevail.

2014

Long Answer Type Question [5 Marks]

12. Which five provisions of Indian Constitution make India a full-fledged federation? [CBSE]

Ans. A federation is a country in which the powers are divided between the union and its constituents. India is an example of *holding together* federation, where the country decides to create constituent units, thereby dividing the powers and duties between the centre and the states.

The following are the five provisions that make India a full-fledged federation.

- (a) **Two or more levels of government:** We have a federal system whereby the constitution has more than two tiers of the government, viz. the Union Government, State Governments and Local Government. This implies that there are more than two levels of government administration among which powers are divided and duties are given.
- (b) **Three Lists:** The powers are divided between the Centre and the States by three Lists: Union list, State List and Concurrent list.
Union List deals with the issues relating to the Centre, State List deals with the issues relating to the States and Concurrent List deals with the matters of both the Centre and the States.

- (c) **Rigid Constitution:** The Government of India is governed by the Constitution of India and it is considered the Supreme Power in the Country. It is not an easy task to amend the constitution. For a constitutional provision to be amended, it requires ratification by half of the State Legislatures, failing which the Constitution cannot be amended.
- (d) **Bicameral Legislature:** India has a bicameral legislature which means that the Parliament consists of two houses, viz, the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. One represents the country and the other represents the interest of the constituent states.
- (e) **Financial Autonomy:** The revenue sources of both the Centre and States have been clearly defined, that ensures financial autonomy to both the Centre and the States. In layman's language, the Centre and the State have different sources of income, which means they are independent of each other when it comes to revenue.
- (f) **Independent Judiciary:** Independent judiciary is the essence of federal government. Here, courts have the power to interpret the constitution and the powers of the different levels of government. In India, the highest court—the Supreme Court—acts as an umpire if a dispute arises between the different levels of government in the exercise of their respective powers. (any five)

2012

Short Answer Type Question [3 Marks]

13. Explain five changes towards decentralization brought in the Constitution after the amendments made in 1992. [CBSE]

Ans. Refer to Ans. 3

Long Answer Type Questions [5 Marks]

14. What is federalism? Distinguish between the federations of come together type and hold together type. Mention two countries each for both the types of federations. [CBSE]

Ans. Federalism is a system of government in which the power is divided between a central authority and various constituent units of the country. Both these levels of the government—the central and the state—enjoy their power independent of the other.

For rest of the answer, Refer to Ans. 10

15. How has federalism succeeded in India? What policies adopted by India have ensured this success? [CBSE]

Ans. Refer to Ans. 12

2011

Short Answer Type Question [3 Marks]

16. Distinguish between *coming together* and *holding together* type of federations. [CBSE]

Ans. Refer to Ans. 10

Long Answer Type Question [5 Marks]

17. The creation of linguistic states was the first and the major test of democratic politics in our country. Justify the statement. [CBSE]

Ans. The creation of linguistic states was the first and the major test of democratic politics in our country.

- (a) After 1947, the boundaries of several old states of India were proposed to be changed to ensure that people who spoke the same language lived in the same state. It was felt that it would ease administrative constraints also.
- (b) Some states like Nagaland were not created on the basis of language but because of their distinct culture, ethnicity and geography.
- (c) When the demand for the formation of linguistic states rose, some leaders feared that it would again lead to disintegration.
- (d) This idea was thus resisted for some time fearing any further tension or conflict within the country.
- (e) But when the actual creation of states was done on the basis of language, it so proved that the country was more united. This process did away with all fears and tension. Thus, the framing of the language policy was the test for Indian federation. It inspired the confidence in different language speaking people that no language will be imposed on them. In a way *Language policy* has strengthened the unity and integrity of India.

2010

Very Short Answer Type Questions [1 Mark]

18. Define the term federalism.

[Delhi]

Ans. Federalism is a system of government in which the power is divided between a central authority and various constituent units of the country. Both these levels of the government the central and the state—enjoy their powers independent of each other.

19. Name any two subjects which are included in the Union List.

[Delhi]

Ans. Foreign affairs and defence are included in the Union List.

Short Answer Type Questions [3 Marks]

20. Explain the threefold distribution of legislative powers between the Union Government and the State Governments.

[All India]

Ans. Refer to Ans. 2

21. Explain any four features of federalism.

[Foreign]

Ans. Refer to Ans. 12

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