



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: X	Department: SOCIAL SCIENCE	Date of submission:
QUESTION BANK	Topic: Federalism (Civics)	Year:2021-22

1.What is Federalism?

Ans:

- Federalism is a system of government in which power is divided between a central authority and various constituent units of the country.
- Both these levels of governments enjoy their power independent of each other
- For example, in India there are specific jurisdictions specified by the constitution to each level of government

2. On what type of principles is the Indian union based? How are the powers divided between the states and centre?

OR

Explain the distribution of Legislative powers between Union government and State governments

Ans:

The Indian Union is based on the principle of “holding together federation”

The constitution clearly provides a three-fold distribution of legislative powers between the union government and the state governments.

These folds are:

a) Union List

It includes subjects of national importance because we need a uniform policy on the Union List subjects throughout the country. It has 97 subjects and Parliament only has the right to enact laws on these subjects.

Defence, foreign affairs, railways, banking etc. are important Union List subjects

b) State List

It includes subjects of state and local importance. It has 66 subjects and the state legislature alone can make laws on these subjects. Police, trade and commerce, agriculture and irrigation are important subjects coming under State List

c)Concurrent List

It includes subjects of common interest to both, the Union government as well as the State government, such as education, forests, marriages, 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 prevails.

d)Residuary List

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'.

3. "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 later on, the experience has shown that the formation of linguistic States has actually made the country more united.
- It has also made administration easier.

4. 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 but given the status of official language to Hindi. Besides Hindi 21 other languages are recognized as Scheduled Languages.
- Each state has its own official language and most of the government work in each state takes place in the official language of the concerned state.
- 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 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.

5. Explain the centre-state relations of Indian Federalism

OR

How far centre- State relations strengthened Federalism

OR

What was the new culture of power sharing developed in India after 1990?

Ans:

- The centre-state relations of Indian federalism are regulated by the provisions of Indian

Constitution but in reality, it depends on how ruling parties follow these provisions.

- Earlier when ruling party at centre and state was different, the Union government undermined the power of states and misused the constitution to dismiss and harass the state governments. This undermined the spirit of federalism.
- The new culture of power sharing developed after 1990 with the rise of regional parties in many states and this marked the beginning of Coalition government.
- 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.
- Thus, with the new culture of power sharing more respect for centre and state governments has begun.

6. What is decentralization? What is the basic idea behind it?

Ans:

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7. "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:
- Now It is mandatory to conduct regular elections to local government.
- Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Communities in the elected bodies and the executive heads of local government.
- At least one-third of all positions are reserved for women.
- An independent institution called State election commission conducts elections.
- State government share some powers and revenue with local bodies.

8. 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 panch, and a president called Sarpanch.

The panchayat works under the supervision of 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. The members are elected by all the panchayat members of that area and the elected head is known as Pradhan or Block Development Officer (BDO)

c) District level

All the panchayat samitis in a district together form the Zilla Parishad and Zilla parishad chairperson is the head of the Zilla parishad.

9. Briefly explain the structure of Urban local government

Ans:

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10. Explain the major features of federalism.

Ans:

Features of federalism are

- There are two or more levels of government.
- Different levels of government govern the same citizens, where each level has its own jurisdiction in specific matters of legislation, taxation and administration.
- Existence and authority of each level of government is constitutionally governed.
- The fundamental provisions of the Constitution cannot be unilaterally changed. Such changes require the consent of both the levels of government.
- Courts have the power to interpret the Constitution and powers of the different levels of government. The highest court acts as the umpire if any dispute arises between different levels of governments.
- Sources of revenue for each level of government are specified to ensure its financial autonomy.
- Federal system has dual objectives. To safeguard and promote unity of the country, and to accommodate regional diversity.