

Short Answer Questions

Q. 1. What are the two levels of federalism?

Ans. Federalism has two levels of government:

- (i) One is the government for the entire country that is usually responsible for a few subjects of common national interest.
- (ii) The others are governments at the level of provinces or states that look after much of the day-to-day administering of their state.

Q. 2. What is the role of the judiciary in a federal system?

- Ans. (i)** The Judiciary plays an important role in overseeing the implementation of constitutional provisions and procedures.
- (ii)** In case of any dispute about the division of powers, the High Courts and the Supreme Court make a decision.
- (iii)** The Union and State governments have the power to raise resources by levying taxes in order to carry on the government and the responsibilities assigned to each of them.

Q. 3. Why were the linguistic states created?

- Ans. (i)** The creation of Linguistic States was the first and a major test for democratic politics in our country.
- (ii)** Many old states had vanished and many new states had been created.
- (iii)** Areas, boundaries and names of the states had been changed.
- (iv)** In 1947, the boundaries of several old states of India were changed in order to create new states.
- (v)** This was done to ensure that people who spoke the same language lived in the same state.

Q. 4. How is Panchayat Samiti formed and at what level?

- Ans. (i)** Panchayat Samiti is formed at the block level.
- (ii)** The members of this representative body are elected by all the Panchayat members in that area.
- (iii)** A few Gram Panchayats are grouped together to form a Panchayat Samiti or Block or Mandal.

Q. 5. What is Panchayati Raj?

Ans. (i) Rural local government is popularly known by the name of Panchayati Raj.

(ii) It has been divided into three tiers or three levels.

(iii) At the village level, there is a Gram Panchayat; at the block level, there is a Block Committee and at the district level, there is a Zila Parishad.

Q. 6. What difficulties are faced during local government elections?

Ans. (i) While elections are held regularly and enthusiastically, Gram Sabha's are not held regularly.

(ii) Most State governments have not transferred significant powers to the local governments.

(iii) Nor were they given adequate resources.

Q. 7. "The constitution did not use the word 'Federation' but the Indian Union is based on the principles of federations." Explain this statement.

Ans. The Constitution did not use the word 'Federation' but it has the division of powers into a three tier system of the central government, the state governments and the local governments. The Constitution of India has also mentioned the distribution of legislative powers in the form of three lists namely—Union, State and Concurrent. So each level of the government has its own jurisdiction to legislate. But we have a centralised federation in which Union government carries more powers than the State governments. It is seen in such a way that Union government has 97 subjects, whereas State as well as Concurrent lists have much less number of subjects. Besides, Union government also has the power to legislate on the residuary powers.