

CBSE Test Paper - 03
Chapter - 17 Federalism

1. The area over which someone has legal authority refers to: **(1)**
 - a. Official space
 - b. Jurisdiction
 - c. economic zone
 - d. legalisation
2. In a federation, both the levels of governments enjoy their power _____ of the other. **(1)**
 - a. dependent
 - b. independent
 - c. opposite
 - d. domination
3. The phrase 'decentralisation of power' relates to the: **(1)**
 - a. cooperative government
 - b. three-tier government
 - c. coalition government
 - d. opposition government
4. The Union and State governments have the power to raise resources by _____ in order to carry on the government. **(1)**
 - a. demanding money
 - b. threatening
 - c. levying taxes
 - d. selling goods
5. The Constitution originally provided for a _____ system of government. **(1)**
 - a. two-tier

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- b. four-tier
 - c. one-tier
 - d. three-tier

6. Who is a Mayor? Name two cities which have a Municipal Corporation. **(1)**
7. What is true regarding sources of revenue in a federal system? **(1)**
8. How many countries have federal political systems, according to the source given by Montreal and Kingston, Handbook of Federal Countries, 2002? **(1)**
9. In which year the use of English as an official language was stopped in India? **(1)**
10. How is the Federal government better than a Unitary Government? Explain with the example of Belgium and Sri Lanka. **(3)**
11. What was the new culture of power-sharing developed after 1990? **(3)**
12. Highlight three major distinctions between the federations of 'coming together' type and 'holding together' type. **(3)**
13. What is decentralisation? Examine the significance of decentralisation. **(3)**
14. Assess the need for local government. **(5)**
15. Critically examine the concept of decentralization in India. **(5)**

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Answer

1. b. Jurisdiction

Explanation: Jurisdiction: The area over which someone has legal authority. The area may be defined in terms of geographical boundaries or in terms of certain kinds of subjects.

2. b. independent

Explanation: Usually, a federation has two levels of government. One is the government for the entire country that is usually responsible for a few subjects of common national interest. The others are governments at the level of provinces or states that look after much of the day-to-day administering of their state. Both these levels of governments enjoy their power independent of the other.

3. b. three-tier government

Explanation: There is a need for power sharing within these States. Federal power sharing in India needs another tier of government, below that of the State governments. This is the rationale for decentralisation of power. Thus, it resulted a third-tier of government, called local government.

4. c. levying taxes

Explanation: 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.

5. a. two-tier

Explanation: The Constitution originally provided for a two-tier system of government. The Central and State Government

6. The Municipal Chairperson of a Municipal Corporation in big cities is called a Mayor. Delhi and Mumbai are two such cities which have Municipal Corporations.

7. Sources of revenue for each level of government in a federal system are clearly specified in the Indian Constitution. This is done to ensure its financial autonomy in a

federal system.

8. 25 countries.
9. In 1956
10. If we study the main difference between the federal and the unitary governments, in the present times the federal governments certainly score over the unitary governments, especially when people of different religions, castes and cultures resides in one and same country.
 - A. We have seen in power sharing how a unitary form of government has proved a failure in Sri Lanka while a federal type of government has proved a great success in Belgium.
 - B. In Sri Lanka Unitary government failed to solve the dispute of different sections of the society but in Belgium the federal government gives equal respect to the demands of different sections of the society.
 - C. In Belgium all types of people have been accommodated while in Majoritarianism has been thrust upon the people especially over the minority community in Sri Lanka.
11.
 - The new culture of power-sharing developed after 1990. Many regional political parties have emerged in many states of the country.
 - The regional parties are playing a very vital role in forming the Union government.
 - The era of the coalition has changed the relationship between the centre and state governments since no single party got a clear majority in the Lok Sabha, the major national parties had to enter into an alliance with many parties including several regional parties to form a government at the Centre.
 - This led to a new culture of power sharing and respect for the autonomy of State Governments.
12. The exact balance of power between the central and state governments varies from federation to federation. This balance depends mainly on the historical context on which the federation was formed. There are two kinds of routes through which federations are formed. They are holding together federation and coming together federation.

Holding Together Federation:

- i. Large country decides to divide its power between states and the centre.

- ii. Central government tends to be more powerful.
- iii. Federating units have unequal power.

Coming Together Federation:

- i. Independent states coming together on their own to form a bigger unit.
- ii. All the states have equal power and are strong.
- iii. By pooling sovereignty and retaining identity, they increase their security.

13. "Decentralisation" can be simply defined as the shifting of powers. It can also be defined as the transfer of powers from central and state governments to local governments. It helps in the settlement of large problems. Decentralisation is a major step towards modifying the concept of democracy and federalism. It is very significant for all practical aspects.

- a. It helps in the settlement of a large number of problems and issues at the local level.
- b. It provides a platform for the direct participation of people in decision making. Hence, inculcates a habit of democratic participation.
- c. In another way decentralisation in the form of local self-government is the best way to realise principles of Democracy, i.e. democracy at the grassroots level. Thus, decentralisation is a rationale for the federal concept.

14. Need for local government:

- i. India is a vast country. States in India are as large as a country in Europe.
- ii. Many of these states are internally diverse. That's the reason power-sharing is needed.
- iii. There are a number of problems and issues that are best settled at the local level because people have a better knowledge of the problems in their localities.
- iv. The local people are aware of their needs and can prioritize.
- v. It helps to initiate the process of direct decisionmaking.
- vi. It helps to inculcate the habit of democratic participation.
- vii. Local government is the best way to realize one important principle of democracy, namely local self-government.

15. The need of decentralization is very much recognized in the Indian constitution and

various attempts have been made to decentralize power to village and towns. The basic idea behind decentralisation is that there are a large number of problems and issues which are best settled at the local level. Panchayats in villages and municipalities in towns have been set up in all the states of the country.

- i. But in practical, the concept of decentralization is not very much applied in all the state.
- ii. The local bodies are directly under the control of state government.
- iii. The elections to these local bodies are not held regularly.
- iv. Local governments do not have any powers or resources of their own, like agriculture and commerce.