

**CBSE CLASS-X Social Science**  
**Important Questions**  
**Political Science Chapter-2**  
**Federalism**

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**5 marks Questions**

**1. What are the causes responsible for very slow progress of Panchayat Raj System in India?**

**Ans.** 1) Lack of awareness: Some people treat it just as an administrative agency, some as an intention of democracy at grass root level and some treat it as a charter of rural, local government. There for lack of awareness and conceptual clarity is one of the reason of slow success of Panchayat Raj.

2) Irregular election: Election should hold after a gap of five years, but still irregularity is there to hold the elections.

3) Relationship of government officials and elected representatives: All work of the Panchayat Raj System is being done by the government officials, but contradiction always comes in between government officials and elected representatives and then it progresses very slowly.

4) Lack of money and other support: The Panchayat Raj institutions lack enough money, administrative support and help from the government officials. That's why its success rate is very slow.

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**2. What are the features of Federalism?**

**Ans.** 1) There are two or more levels of government.

2) Different tiers of government govern same citizens but each tier has its own jurisdiction in specific matters of legislation, taxation and administration.

3) The jurisdiction of respective levels is specified in the constitution. So the existence and authority of each tier of government is constitutionally granted.

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4) Fundamental provisions of the constitutions cannot be unilaterally changed by one level of government and require the constitutions and the powers of government of different levels. The highest court acts as the umpire if disputes arise in the exercise of their respective powers.

5) Sources of revenues are specified to ensure the financial autonomy.

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### **3. Explain how power is shared among different organs of the government.**

**Ans.** 1) Union List: Subjects of national importance like defense, foreign affairs, atomic energy, banking, post and telegraph are included in the Union List. Only the central government can pass laws on the subjects mentioned in the union list because we need a uniform policy on important or national issues throughout the country. The union list has 97 subjects.

2) State List: It comprises those important subjects on which the state government can pass laws. Subjects like police, local government, trade and commerce, agriculture are within the state included in the State list. The state list has 66 subjects.

3) Concurrent List: The concurrent list comprises the subjects which are of common concern both to the centre and state government. Both the centre and state governments can frame laws on these subjects. However if there is a conflict between the central law and state law, over a subject in the Concurrent list, the central law would be effective. The concurrent list has 47 subjects.

4) Residuary Powers: Matters which are not included in the division of powers are known as residuary powers. It was felt that there can be subjects which are not mentioned in either of these lists. The central government has been given the power to legislate on the residuary subjects.

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### **4. Explain the features of third tier of the rural government.**

**Ans.** 1) Rural local government is popularly known by the name Panchayat Raj. Each Village or group of villages in some state has a Gram Panchayat.

2) This is a council consisting of members called Panchs and a president called Sarpanch.

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They are directly elected by the adult population living in the ward or village.

3) The Panchayats work under the supervision of the Gram Sabha. All the voters of the village are the members of Gram Sabha.

4) The local government structure goes right up to the district level. A few Gram panchayats are grouped together to form Block Samiti. The members of all the Block Samitis are elected by the panchayat members of the area.

5) All the Panchayat Samitis or Mandals in a district together constitute the Zila Parishad.

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### **5. Describe the language policy of India?**

**Ans.** 1) The constitution of India does not give the status of national language to any of the language.

2) Though Hindi was identified as the official language but the central government has not imposed Hindi on states where people speak a different language.

3) Besides Hindi there are twenty one other languages recognized as Scheduled languages by the constitution.

4) Most of the states have their own official languages which are used in the offices.

5) Since independence Indian Leaders have adopted a very cautious attitude in spreading the use of Hindi.

6) According to constitution the use of English for official purposes was to stop in 1965 which was not liked by some of the states. So the central government responded by agreeing to continue the use of English along with Hindi as official language.

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### **6. What policies strengthened the federalism of India?**

**Ans.** Linguistic States: Since 1947 many changes have been done in the political map of India. Many old states have vanished and many new states have been created. Areas, boundaries and names of the states have been changed. 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 were created to recognize differences based on culture, ethnicity or geography.

Centre-state relations in India: Earlier in India for a long time, the same party ruled both at centre and state. This meant the state government did not exercise their rights as autonomous federal units. As and when ruling party at state level was different, the parties that ruled at the Central tried to undermine the powers. But after 1990 significant changes occurred. There was rise of regional political parties in many states of the country. This was also the beginning of the era of coalition governments at the centre.

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### **7. What major steps were taken in 1992 towards decentralization?**

**Ans.** 1) Now it is constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections to local government bodies.

2) States are reserved in the elected bodies and the executive heads of these institutions for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes.

3) At least one third of all positions are reserved for women.

4) An independent institution called the state Election Commission has been created in each State to conduct panchayat and municipal elections.

5) The state governments are required to share some powers and revenue with local government bodies. The nature of sharing varies State to state.

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### **8. In what way is the Panchayat Raj experiment Significant? Explain.**

**Ans.** 1) There are now about 36 lakhs elected representatives in the panchayat and municipalities.

2) There is reservation for women, SC and ST in these bodies.

3) This number is bigger than the population of many countries in the world.

4) Constitutional status for local government has helped to deepen democracy in our country. It has also increased women's representation and voice in our democracy.

5) At the same time, there are many difficulties. While elections are held regularly and enthusiastically Gram Sabha are now held regularly.

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**9. Why the exact balance of power between the central and State Governments does vary from one federation to other federations? Explain with example.**

**Ans.** 1) Coming together Federation: In this type of federation independent units come together on their own to form a union or federation. Their main aim is to form a bigger unit, so that by pooling sovereignty and retaining their identity they can increase their security. Federations of USA, Switzerland and Australia are examples.

2) Holding Together Federations: Under this type of federation, the federal government decides to divide its power between the constituent states and the national government. In this, type of government the central government tends to be more powerful vis-a-vis states. Holding together sometimes gives unequal power to constitute states. Some states are granted special powers. India, Spain and Belgium federations are the examples of Holding Together Federations.

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**10. Critically examine the concept of Decentralization in India.**

**Ans.** The need of decentralization is very much recognized in Indian constitution and various attempts have been made to decentralize power to village and towns. Panchayats in villages and municipalities in towns have been set up in all the states of the country.

- 1) But in all practical the concept of decentralization is not very much applied in all the state.
  - 2) The local bodies are directly under the control of state government.
  - 3) The elections to these local bodies are not held regularly.
  - 4) Local governments do not have any powers or resources of their own, like Agriculture and commerce.
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