



**CLASS X**  
**POLITICAL SCIENCE**  
**UNIT 2**  
**POWER SHARING**

**SOLUTIONS**

**TEXTUAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**A. Give very short answer:**

**Q1. What is meant by horizontal distribution of power?**

**Ans:-** The distribution of power among the three organs of the government i.e., the legislature, executive and judiciary is called horizontal distribution of power.

**Q2. Why is power sharing needed in democracy?**

**Ans:-** Power sharing is needed in democracy because it reduces the possibility of conflicts between social groups since social conflicts often lead to violence and political instability, power sharing is a good way to ensure the political stability.

**Q3. What is the meaning of power sharing?**

**Ans:-** Power sharing is a mechanism in which different organs of the government, different levels of government and various social groups exercises power in their respective areas under a democratic constitution.

**Q4. When was the new Panchayat Raj Act passed?**

**Ans:-** The new Panchayat Raj Act was passed in December 1992.

**B. Give short answer:**

**Q1. What is concurrent list?**

**Ans:-** Concurrent list includes subjects of common interest to both the Union government and the state governments such as education, forest, trade unions, marriage, adoption and succession etc. The list contains 47 items.

**Q2. What is Union List? How many items of subjects are there?**

**Ans:-** Union list includes subjects of national importance such as defence, foreign affairs, communications and currency. It contains 97 items.

**Q3. What is prudential reason of power sharing?**

**Ans:-** The prudential reason of power sharing stress that power sharing will bring out better outcomes. It reduces the possibility of conflicts between social groups. It is a good way to ensure the political stability.



**C. Give long answers (Essay type):**

**Q1. Give a critical appreciation of the Panchayati Raj working at the grass root level of democracy.**

**Ans:-**

**Drawbacks of the Panchayati Raj working at the grass root level of democracy are:**

- (i) Elections for the Gram Sabha are not held regularly.
- (ii) Most state governments including that of Manipur have not transferred significant power to the local government.
- (iii) They have not been given adequate resources.

**Significance of the Panchayati Raj working at the grass root level of democracy are:**

- (i) The Panchayati Raj system helped in strengthening democracy at the grass root level.
- (ii) The system created awareness regarding the working of the democratic institutions at the lowest level.
- (iii) It created opportunities for gaining experience as leaders at the grass root level.
- (iv) It inculcated the habit of democratic participation to the local people.

**Q2. What are the federal provisions and institutions working in Indian federalism?**

**Ans:- The federal provisions and institutions working in Indian federalism are:**

- (i) Two or more levels or tiers of governments the central government, the state government and the local government.
- (ii) Federalism is a system of government in which the power is divided between the national government and state governments.
- (iii) Two level of government--national level and state level.
- (iv) In India, central government cannot pass orders to the state governments because they have powers of their own for which they are not answerable to the central government.
- (v) Both the central and the state governments are separately answerable to the people.

**Q3. What are the key features of federalism?**

**Ans:-**

**The key features of federalism are-**

- (i) There are two or more levels or tiers of government.
- (ii) The same citizens are governed by different forms of government. But each tier has its own jurisdiction in administration.
- (iii) The constitution clearly lays down the jurisdiction of the respective levels of governments.
- (iv) The fundamental provisions of the constitutions cannot be amended unilaterally. For such changes, the consent of both the levels of government is required.
- (v) To ensure financial autonomy, sources of revenue for each level of government are clearly specified.



**D. Objective type questions: Fill up the blanks:**

**Q1. The New Panchayati Raj bill became an Act in April \_\_\_\_\_**

- (a) 1990                      (b) 1991  
(c) 1992                      (d) 1993

**Ans:** (d) 1993

**Q2. The concurrent list has \_\_\_\_\_ items**

- (a) 47                          (b) 48  
(c) 49                          (d) 50

**Ans:** (a) 47

**Q3. Make List I with List II and select the correct answers using the codes given below the lists:**

List I	List II
1. Union of India	A. Prime minister
2. State	B. Sarpanch
3. Municipal Corporation	C. Governor
4. Gram Panchayat	D. Mayor

	1	2	3	4
(a)	D	A	B	C
(b)	B	C	D	A
(c)	A	C	D	B
(d)	C	D	A	R

**Ans:** (C)

**EXTRA QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

**Q1. What are the three organs of government?**

**Ans:-** The three organs of government are the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary.

**Q2. Mention any two characteristics/features of Monarchy or Dictatorship forms of government.**

**Ans:-** Two characteristics/features of Monarchy or Dictatorship forms of government are:

- (i) All power rest with one man or one party.  
(ii) There is complete absence of decentralisation of power.



**Q3. Why do people have a right to be consulted on how they are to be governed in democracy?**

**Ans:-** People have a right to be consulted on how they are to be governed in democracy because a legitimate government is one where citizens through participation acquired a stake in the system.

**Q4. Distinguish between prudential and moral reasons of power sharing.**

**Ans:-** Prudential reason stress that power sharing will bring out better outcomes while moral reason emphasizes the very act of power sharing valuable.

**Q5. What are the different forms of power sharing in modern democracies?**

**Ans:- The different forms of power sharing in modern democracies are-**

- (i) Horizontal power sharing - Power sharing among different organs of the government.
- (ii) Federal division of power - Power sharing between central government and state governments.
- (iii) Vertical distribution of power - Power sharing among central, state and local governments.
- (iv) Power sharing among different social groups.
- (v) Power sharing among political parties, pressure groups, and social movements.

**Q6. Why the horizontal distribution of power is also called ‘a system of checks and balances’?**

**Ans:-** The horizontal distribution of power is also called ‘a system of checks and balances’ because in the horizontal distribution of power, none of the organs of the government can exercise unlimited powers i.e., each organ checks the others.

**Q7. Give an example to show that horizontal distribution of power is a system of check and balances.**

**Ans:-** Although judges are appointed by the executive, the judiciary can check the functioning of the executive or laws made by the legislature.

**Q8. What is the federal division of power?**

**Ans:-** It is the sharing of power between Central and the State Governments.

**Q9. What is community government?**

**Ans:-** A government in which different social groups are given the power to handle the affairs related to their communities is known as community government.

**Q10. What is a coalition government?**

**Ans:-** It is a government in which two or more political parties agreed to form a government when no party gets a majority in the legislature.



**Q11. How is the power of the government distributed horizontally among three organs of the government?**

**Ans:-** Horizontal distribution of power allows different organs of the government placed at the same level to exercise different powers. It ensures that none of the organs can exercise unlimited power.

**Q12. “In India the constitutional arrangement of division of power seems to be heavily tilted towards the centre”. Justify the statement by citing examples. OR What led to determine the spirit of federalism?**

**Ans:-**

- (i) The state government could not exercise their rights as autonomous federal units.
- (ii) The union government tried to undermine the power of the States if they were ruled by a different party.
- (iii) The Union government often misused the constitution and many times dismissed the State governments.

**Q13. Why federal power sharing has been more effective after 1990 than it was in the past?**

**Ans:-** **Federal power sharing has been more effective after 1990 than it was in the past because-**

- (i) After 1990, there was the rise of regional political parties in many states of the country.
- (ii) It was also the beginning of the rise of coalition government.

**Q14. State Vertical Power sharing taken at three different levels.**

**Ans:-** **Power can be shared vertically among government at different levels:**

- (i) Power is distributed between the national government and state government.
- (ii) The same principle can be extended to the levels of government lower than the state government, such as the municipality and panchayat.
- (iii) Power may be shared among different social groups such as religious and linguistic groups.
- (iv) Power is also shared among political parties, pressure groups and social movements while influencing those in power.

**Q15. Explain the ways in which the American type of federation was formed.**

**Ans:-**

- (i) Independent states coming together on their own to form a bigger unit.
- (ii) By pooling sovereignty and retaining identity they can increase their security.
- (iii) All the constituent states usually have equal power.





**Q16. Explain the ways in which the Indian type of federation was formed.**

**Ans:-**

- (i) A large country decides to divide its power between the constituent states and the national government.
- (ii) The central government tends to be more powerful.
- (iii) Very often the constituent units of the federation have unequal power. Some units are granted special power.

**Q17. Whose decision will be final in case of any dispute about the division of power between the Centre and the states of India?**

**Ans:-** The decision of the Supreme Court is final in case of any dispute about the division of power between the Centre and the states of India.

**Q18. Find out a neighboring country where the majority community wants to force its dominance over others and refuses to share power.**

**Ans:-** In Sri Lanka the majority community wants to force its dominance over others and refuse to share power.

**Q19. What is prudential reason of power sharing?**

**Ans:-** **Power sharing is desirable because-**

- (i) It reduces the possibility of conflict between social groups.
- (ii) Social conflicts often lead to violence and political instability, power sharing is a good way to ensure the political stability.
- (iii) Tyranny of the majority is not just oppressive for the minority it often brings ruin to the majority as well.

**Q20. What is the moral reason of power sharing?**

**Ans:-**

- (i) Power is the very spirit of democracy.
- (ii) People have a right to be consulted on how they are to be governed.
- (iii) A legitimate government is one where citizens through participation acquire a stake in the system.

**Q21. How has the idea of power sharing emerged?**

**Ans:-** The idea of power sharing has emerged against the notion of undivided political power.

**Q.22 What is federalism?**

**Ans:-** Federalism is a system of government in which the power is divided between the national government and the state government or units.



**Q23. What are the two types of federation? OR Mention the two routes to the formation of a federation. OR Differentiate between coming together federation and holding together federation.**

**Ans:-**

- (i) Coming together federation-Under this route, independent states coming together on their own to form a bigger unit. Eg., USA, Switzerland and Australia.
- (ii) Holding together federation- Under this route, a large country decides to divide its power between the constituent states and the national government Eg., India, Spain and Belgium.

**Q24. What are the dual objectives of a federal government/federation?**

**Ans:- The dual objectives of federal government are-**

- (i) to safeguard and promote unity of the country.
- (ii) to accommodate regional diversity.

**Q25. Why was the word ‘federation’ deliberately avoided by the framers of the constitution?**

**Ans:-** The word ‘federation’ was deliberately avoided by the framers of the constitution because of the following reasons-

- (i) The diversity of India in many respects.
- (ii) They did not like the power of secession of the constituent states from the Union.

**Q26. Why are items such as defence, foreign affairs, banking, communication and currency included in the Union list?**

**Ans:-** Items such as defence, foreign affairs, banking, communication and currency are included in the Union list because we need a uniform policy in these matters throughout the country.

**Q27. What is state list? How many items of subjects are there?**

**Ans:-** State list contains subjects of state and local importance such as police, trade, commerce, agriculture and irrigation. It contains 66 items.

**Q28. What is the basic structure of the Indian constitution?**

**Ans:-** The basic structure of the constitution is sharing of power between the Union Government and State Governments.

**Q29. Give two ways of changing the power sharing arrangement in India.**

**Ans:-** The two ways of changing the power sharing arrangement in India are-

- (i) It has to be first passed by at least two-thirds majority of both Houses of Parliament.
- (ii) It has to be ratified by the legislature of at least half of the States.



**Q30. What is decentralization of political power?**

**Ans:-** When some power is taken away from Central and State governments and given to local governments, it is called decentralization.

**Q31. Mention three advantages of decentralization of power/local self-government. OR Give one point of advantage of local self-government.**

**Ans:-** The three advantages of local self-government are-

- (i) There are a large number of problems and issues which are best settled at the local level.
- (ii) The local people know the needs of their locality and can manage things more efficiently.
- (iii) It makes possible for the people to directly participate in decision making.

**Q32. 'In 1992 the constitution was amended to make the third tier of democracy more powerful and effective', Mention the steps taken towards decentralization of power.**

**Ans:-**

- (i) Now it is constitutionally mandatory to hold regular election to local government bodies.
- (ii) There are reserved seats in the elected bodies and the executive heads of these institutions for the ST, SC and OBC.
- (iii) At least one-third of all seats are reserved for women.
- (iv) An independent institution called the State Election Commission has been created in each state to conduct panchayat and municipal elections.
- (v) The State Governments are required to share some powers and revenue with local government bodies.
- (vi) The nature of power sharing is different from state to state.

**Q34. Name the local self-government in rural areas. OR Name the popular name of rural local government.**

**Ans:-** Panchayati Raj is the popular name of rural local government.

**Q35. What are the three levels of Panchayati Raj?**

**Ans:-** The three levels of panchayati Raj are-

- (i) Village level,
- (ii) Block level, and
- (iii) District level.

**Q36. How often are the meeting of Gram Sabha held in a year?**

**Ans:-** The Gram Sabha has to meet at least twice or thrice in a year.





**Q37. Write two functions of Gram Sabha.**

**Ans:-**

- (i) To approve the annual budget of the Panchayat.
- (ii) To review the performance of the Gram Panchayat.

**Q38. Who is the head of the Gram Panchayat?**

**Ans:-** Pradhan/Sarpanch/ Mukhiya.

**Q39. Which is the highest level in the three tier system of the Panchayat Raj? Who is the head of it?**

**Ans:-** The Zilla Parishad is the highest level in the three tier system of the Panchayati Raj. The Chairperson is the head of it.

**Q40. Explain the main provisions of the New Panchayat Raj Act, 1993?**

**Ans:-**

- (i) Three tier structure for Panchayati Raj Institutions
- (ii) 30% of the seat are reserved for woman
- (iii) The tenure of Panchayat bodies is to be 5 years
- (iv) Grand-in aid sought is to be given to Panchayats by States
- (v) To undertake several other activities for the welfare of the society

**Q41. What are the drawbacks/demerits of Panchayati Raj/local self-government (in Manipur)?**

**Ans:-**

- (i) Election for the Gram Sabha are not held regularly
- (ii) Most state government including that of Manipur have not transferred significant power to the local government.
- (iii) They have not been given adequate resources.

**Q42. Which local bodies administer in the hill districts of Manipur?**

**Ans:-** The Village Authorities at the village level and Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) at the district level.

**Q43. What is the main function of the State Election Commission?**

**Ans:-** The main function of the State Election Commission is to conduct Panchayat and Municipal elections.



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**Q44. Give two points which affects the effective working of the local self governments in India before 1992.**

**Ans:-**

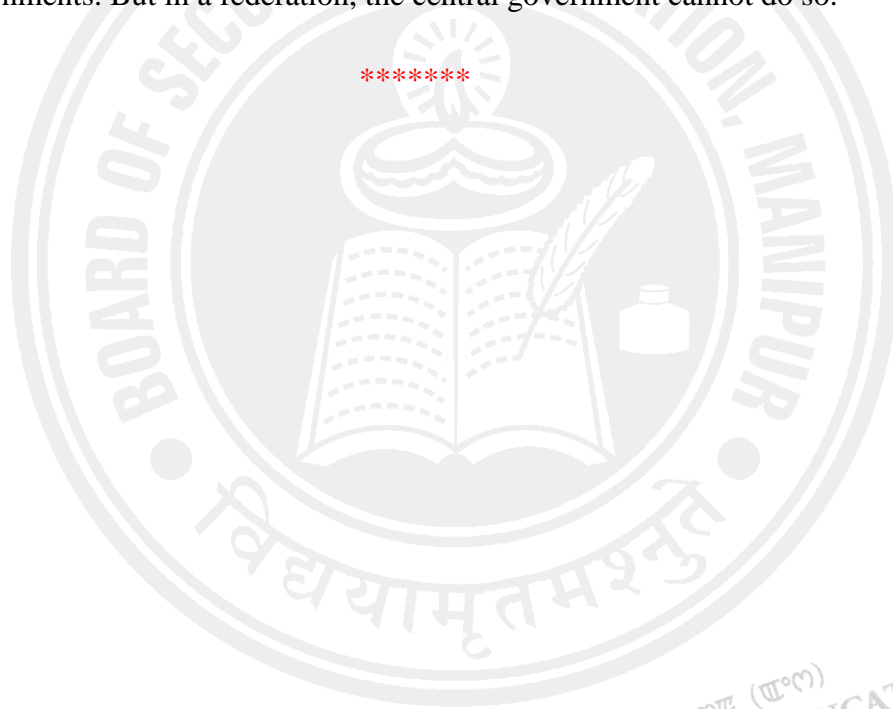
- (i) Panchayats and Municipalities were under the direct control of the state governments.
- (ii) Elections were not held regularly.

**Q45. Write at least three differences between a federation and unitary government.**

**Ans:-**

- (i) In a federation, power is divided between the central government and state governments. Whereas, in unitary governments there is no such division of power.
- (ii) Federation is contrasted with unitary governments where there is only one government or the sub-units are subordinate to the central government.
- (iii) In a unitary government, central government can pass orders to the provincial governments. But in a federation, the central government cannot do so.

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