Federalism

Standard difficulty · 20 questions · 40 marks · Time: 37 minutes

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: ____ / 40

Write full answers in Sections B and C. Answers are on the last page — try every question first!

Section A — Choose the correct answer — 8 × 1 = 8 marks

1. A system in which power is divided between a central authority and constituent units is:

(a) monarchy **(b)** dictatorship
(c) unitary government **(d)** federalism

2. Which of these subjects is on the Union List?

(a) currency **(b)** adoption **(c)** trade unions **(d)** marriage

3. Who heads a zilla parishad?

(a) the governor **(b)** the sarpanch
(c) the zilla parishad chairperson **(d)** the district collector

4. Changing the Centre–State arrangement needs a two-thirds majority in each House of Parliament. If 96 members vote, at least how many must vote in favour?

(a) 64 members **(b)** 48 members **(c)** 32 members **(d)** 67 members

5. What is meant by “decentralisation”?

(a) a government of two or more parties
(b) giving power to local government
(c) an area run with special powers by the Centre
(d) subjects on no list, decided by the Union

6. In Census 2011, 1.26% of people spoke Assamese and 4.58% spoke Gujarati. What is the difference?

(a) 3.82 percentage points **(b)** 5.84 percentage points
(c) 4.32 percentage points **(d)** 3.32 percentage points

7. At least one-third of seats in panchayats are reserved for women. In a panchayat of 25 members, at least how many seats are for women?

(a) 11 seats **(b)** 12 seats **(c)** 9 seats **(d)** 16 seats

8. Changing the Centre–State arrangement needs ratification by at least half of the State legislatures. Suppose there are 20 States. At least how many must ratify?

(a) 10 States **(b)** 14 States **(c)** 20 States **(d)** 13 States

Section B — Short answer — 8 × 2 = 16 marks

9. What is the difference between “coming together” and “holding together” federations?

10. Union, State or Concurrent List? (a) trade within a State (b) foreign affairs

11. Is each a “coming together” or “holding together” federation? (a) India (b) Australia

12. Explain each term: (a) residuary subjects (b) jurisdiction

13. From the Census 2011 table: Urdu 4.19%, Odia 3.10%, Malayalam 2.88%. What is their combined share?

14. In Census 2011, 3.61% of people spoke Kannada. Suppose a region of 213,000 people had the same share. About how many speak Kannada, to the nearest whole number?

15. Suppose a district has 288 gram panchayats with 11 members each. How many members are there in all, and at least how many seats in each panchayat are for women (one-third, rounded up)?

16. In Porto Alegre, Brazil, nearly 13 lakh (1,300,000) people can take part in budget-making. Suppose 31,000 took part in a year. What percentage is that, to two decimal places?

Section C — Longer answers — 4 × 4 = 16 marks

17. Give the key features of federalism.

18. Match each with its list: (a) education (b) agriculture (c) defence. Choose from: Union List; State List; Concurrent List.

19. (a) A gram panchayat has 23 members; at least one-third of seats are for women. At least how many is that? (b) Who heads a gram panchayat, and who oversees it? (c) Give two problems of local government in India.

20. (a) In Census 2011, Hindi was spoken by 43.63% and Marathi by 6.86%. What is the difference? (b) Out of 17,000,000 people, about how many speak Marathi? (c) Why does India have no national language?

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Answer key

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Q	Answer	Working
1	**(d) federalism**	—
2	**(a) currency**	—
3	**(c) the zilla parishad chairperson**	—
4	**(a) 64 members**	two-thirds of 96
5	**(b) giving power to local government**	—
6	**(d) 3.32 percentage points**	4.58 − 1.26
7	**(c) 9 seats**	one-third of 25, rounded up
8	**(a) 10 States**	half of 20, rounded up
9	**Coming together: independent states pool sovereignty (USA, Switzerland). Holding together: a large country divides power (India, Spain, Belgium).**	—
10	**(a) State List (b) Union List**	—
11	**(a) holding together (b) coming together**	—
12	**(a) subjects on no list, decided by the Union (b) the area of legal authority**	—
13	**10.17%**	4.19 + 3.10 + 2.88
14	**7,689**	3.61% of 213,000
15	**3,168 members; at least 4 in each**	288 × 11; one-third of 11
16	**2.38%**	31,000 ÷ 1,300,000 × 100
17	**Two or more levels of government; same citizens under each; powers set out in the constitution; basic provisions changeable only by both levels; courts as umpire; specified revenue sources; and the dual aim of unity and respect for diversity.**	—
18	**(a) Concurrent List (b) State List (c) Union List**	—
19	**(a) 8 (b) the sarpanch; the gram sabha (c) Gram sabhas are not held regularly, and States have not given local bodies enough powers or money.**	one-third of 23, rounded up
20	**(a) 36.77 percentage points (b) about 1,166,200 (c) To respect its many languages; Hindi is official alongside**	43.63 − 6.86; 6.86% of 17,000,000

Q	Answer	Working
	21 other Scheduled Languages, and no language is imposed.	