Grassroots Democracy: Local Government in Rural Areas

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. The Gram Sabha is made up of:
   (a) only the government officers **(b)** only the children of the village
   (c) only the Sarpanch **(d)** all adult voters of the village

2. The panchayat at the village level is the:
   (a) Gram Panchayat **(b)** Lok Sabha
   (c) Municipal Corporation **(d)** Gram Sabha

3. What is the name for the elected head of the Gram Panchayat?
   (a) Zila Parishad **(b)** Gram Panchayat **(c)** Gram Sabha **(d)** Sarpanch

4. Which of these is a job of a Gram Panchayat?
   (a) looking after street lights **(b)** making laws for the whole country
   (c) issuing passports **(d)** printing currency notes

5. Which of these is NOT a job of a panchayat?
   (a) repairing village roads **(b)** providing drinking water from handpumps
   (c) issuing passports **(d)** looking after street lights

6. A Gram Panchayat has 21 seats. At least one-third of them must be reserved for women. How many seats is that, at the least?
   (a) 14 seats **(b)** 8 seats **(c)** 7 seats **(d)** 6 seats

7. A village has 600 adult voters. At a Gram Sabha meeting, 75 out of every 100 of them came. How many people attended?
   (a) 450 people **(b)** 8 people **(c)** 150 people **(d)** 525 people

8. A village is divided into 13 wards, each with about 100 voters. About how many voters does the village have?
   (a) 1,300 voters **(b)** 113 voters **(c)** 1,400 voters **(d)** 1,200 voters

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

9. What is the Gram Sabha?

10. Write the correct term: (a) the elected body that does the village's day-to-day work (b) all the adult voters of a village

11. A village with 2,300 voters is divided into 20 wards of equal size. How many voters are there in each ward, and how many panches (ward members) are elected?

12. Which TWO of these are jobs of a Gram Panchayat? (a) looking after street lights (b) issuing passports (c) keeping records of births and deaths

13. A Gram Panchayat receives ₹500,000 in a year and plans to spend 25 out of every 100 rupees on roads. How much is that?

14. A Gram Panchayat has 21 seats, and at least one-third are reserved for women. (a) At least how many seats are for women? (b) How many seats are left for anyone to contest?

15. A Gram Panchayat was elected in 2002. Its term is five years. In which year will the next election be due, and the one after that?

16. Explain in one line who or what each is: (a) Zila Parishad (b) Panchayat Samiti

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

17. Explain the three-tier panchayat system.

18. A Gram Panchayat has ₹900,000. It plans to spend ₹200,000 on roads, ₹400,000 on handpumps and ₹200,000 on street lights. (a) How much will it spend in all? (b) How much will be left? (c) Suggest one more use for the money left, and say who should decide it.

19. A district has 11 blocks, and each block has about 34 Gram Panchayats. (a) About how many Gram Panchayats are there in the district? (b) How many Panchayat Samitis and how many Zila Parishads does the district have? (c) Which tier links the district to the state government?

20. A village has 1,100 adult voters, but only 60 out of every 100 came to the last Gram Sabha meeting. (a) How many came? (b) How many stayed away? (c) Why is it important for more people to attend?

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Answer key

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Q	Answer	Working
1	**(d) all adult voters of the village**	—
2	**(a) Gram Panchayat**	—
3	**(d) Sarpanch**	—
4	**(a) looking after street lights**	—
5	**(c) issuing passports**	—
6	**(c) 7 seats**	21 ÷ 3 = 7
7	**(a) 450 people**	600 ÷ 100 × 75 = 450
8	**(a) 1,300 voters**	13 × 100 = 1,300
9	**A meeting of all the adult voters of a village, where they discuss the work and spending of the Gram Panchayat.**	—
10	**(a) Gram Panchayat (b) Gram Sabha**	—
11	**115 voters in each ward; 20 panches**	2,300 ÷ 20
12	**looking after street lights; keeping records of births and deaths**	issuing passports is done by the central government.
13	**₹125,000**	₹500,000 ÷ 100 × 25
14	**(a) 7 (b) 14**	21 ÷ 3 = 7; 21 − 7
15	**2007 and 2012**	add 5 years each time
16	**(a) Zila Parishad: the panchayat for a whole district (b) Panchayat Samiti: the panchayat for a block of villages**	—
17	**At the village level the Gram Panchayat looks after local needs; at the block level the Panchayat Samiti plans for a group of villages; and at the district level the Zila Parishad plans for the whole district and links it to the state government.**	—
18	**(a) ₹800,000 (b) ₹100,000 (c) any sensible village need, decided with the Gram Sabha.**	—
19	**(a) about 374 (b) 11 Panchayat Samitis (one per block) and 1 Zila Parishad (c) the Zila Parishad**	11 × 34 = 374
20	**(a) 660 (b) 440 (c) so the panchayat hears everyone’s needs and stays answerable to all the villagers.**	—