

Class – 10

SST

Political science

Chapter-2

Federalism

Short/Long answer type questions

1. "India has a large cultural, regional and religious diversity but there is unity among people". What factors are responsible for this? Elaborate.

Ans: - i. Right to equality.

ii. No discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, region and religion.

iii. SCs and STs have some seats reserved and do get representation.

iv. Right to freedom of religion and cultural and educational rights.

2. Explain the factors that make federal government in India so attractive.

Ans: - i. Federalism has succeeded in India because of the nature of the democratic politics of the country. This ensures the spirit of federalism, respect for diversity and desire for living together.

ii. There is a clear distribution of powers and revenue between the different levels of government.

iii. The Indian Constitution clearly allocates power to different levels of government-- the three lists of power.

iv. The Supreme Court has been given the power to solve federal disputes.

v. There is a mutual trust and agreement between the government at different levels.

3. Explain any five key features of federalism.

Ans.: - Key features of federalism.

i. There are two or more levels of government.

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

iii. The jurisdiction of the respective levels or tiers of government are specified in the constitution.

iv. The fundamental provisions of the Constitution cannot be unilaterally changed by one level of government. Such changes require the consent of both the levels of government.

v. Courts have the power to interpret the Constitution and the powers of different levels of government. The highest court acts as an umpire if disputes arise between different levels of government in the exercise of their respective powers.

4. Explain five changes towards decentralisation brought in the constitution after the amendments made in 1992.

Ans: - i. Decentralisation: When power is taken from the central and state governments and is given to local government, it is called decentralisation. The Constitution was amended in 1992 to make the third tier of democracy more powerful and effective.

ii. Provisions of the Constitutional Amendment of 1992 are:

a. Now it is mandatory to hold regular elections to local government bodies.

b. Seats are reserved in the elected bodies and the executive heads of these institutions for SCs, STs and OBCs.

c. At least one-third of all positions are reserved for women.

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

e. The state governments are required to share some powers and revenue with local government bodies.

5. Why has federalism succeeded in India? Which were the policies adopted by India that ensured this success? Explain.

Ans: - Federalism has succeeded in India due to the nature of democratic policies in our country. The policies adopted by India to ensure this success:

i. Linguistic States : After independence , the boundaries of several old states were changed in order to create new states. The creation of linguistic states is the first and a major test for democratic politics in our country.

ii. Language Policy: The second test for the Indian federation is the language policy. The Indian Constitution did not give the status of national language to any one of the languages.

iii. Centre-State Relations: Restructuring the centre-state relations is one more way in which federalism has been strengthened in practice.

iv. Decentralisation of Power: Power in India has been decentralised to the local government includes panchayats in villages and municipalities in urban areas.