

Class X - Social Science

Democratic Politics

Federalism

CBSE NOTES

Federalism - Mastery Worksheet

Strengthen your foundation with key concepts and basic applications.



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Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

1. Compare and contrast the 'coming together' and 'holding together' types of federations with examples.

Hint: Focus on the formation process and power distribution between central and state governments.

2. Explain the dual objectives of federalism with reference to India.

Hint: Think about unity in diversity and how federalism supports this.



Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

3. How does the Indian Constitution ensure the autonomy of states while maintaining a strong central government?

Hint: Consider the distribution of powers and the role of the judiciary.

4. Discuss the significance of the linguistic reorganization of states in India.

Hint: Reflect on how language shapes identity and governance.



Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

5. What are the challenges faced by local governments in India despite constitutional amendments?

Hint: Think about the gap between policy and implementation.

6. Analyze the role of coalition governments in strengthening federalism in India.

Hint: Consider the impact of political diversity on governance.



Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

7. How does the Indian federal system accommodate the special needs of some states?

Hint: Look for constitutional provisions that address regional uniqueness.

8. Compare the language policy of India with that of Sri Lanka and its outcomes.

Hint: Focus on inclusivity versus majoritarianism.



Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

9. Explain the importance of the State Election Commission in the context of local government.

Hint: Think about the role of independent institutions in democracy.

10. Discuss the impact of the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments on women's participation in local governance.

Hint: Consider the transformative potential of affirmative action.



Check your answers with the solutions below.

1. Compare and contrast the 'coming together' and 'holding together' types of federations with examples.

Solution: The 'coming together' federations are formed by independent states coming together to form a bigger unit, like the USA, Switzerland, and Australia. These federations usually have equal power among constituent states. On the other hand, 'holding together' federations are formed by dividing power between the central government and constituent states, like India, Spain, and Belgium. In these, the central government tends to be more powerful, and some states may have special powers.

2. Explain the dual objectives of federalism with reference to India.

Solution: Federalism in India aims to safeguard and promote the unity of the country while accommodating regional diversity. This is achieved through a three-tier system of government, clear distribution of powers, and constitutional provisions that ensure autonomy and cooperation between different levels of government.

3. How does the Indian Constitution ensure the autonomy of states while maintaining a strong central government?

Solution: The Indian Constitution ensures state autonomy through a three-fold distribution of legislative powers (Union List, State List, and Concurrent List), constitutional guarantees for the existence and authority of each tier of government, and an independent judiciary to resolve disputes. However, the central government has residuary powers and can legislate on subjects not mentioned in any list, ensuring its strength.

4. Discuss the significance of the linguistic reorganization of states in India.

Solution: The linguistic reorganization of states in India, starting from 1947, was significant as it recognized linguistic and cultural identities, making administration easier and strengthening national unity. It addressed regional aspirations and reduced tensions, proving that accommodating diversity can unite the country.



Check your answers with the solutions below.

5. What are the challenges faced by local governments in India despite constitutional amendments?

Solution: Despite the 1992 constitutional amendments, local governments in India face challenges like irregular gram sabha meetings, insufficient transfer of powers and resources from state governments, and lack of significant financial autonomy. These issues hinder the effectiveness of decentralization.

6. Analyze the role of coalition governments in strengthening federalism in India.

Solution: Coalition governments have strengthened federalism in India by necessitating power-sharing and respect for state autonomy. Since the 1990s, the rise of regional parties and coalition politics at the center has led to more inclusive decision-making and reduced arbitrary dismissal of state governments, enhancing the federal spirit.

7. How does the Indian federal system accommodate the special needs of some states?

Solution: The Indian federal system accommodates special needs through provisions like Article 371, which grants special powers to states like Assam, Nagaland, and Mizoram due to their unique social and historical circumstances. This includes protection of land rights, culture, and preferential employment.

8. Compare the language policy of India with that of Sri Lanka and its outcomes.

Solution: India's language policy promotes Hindi as the official language while recognizing 22 other scheduled languages, ensuring linguistic diversity and unity. In contrast, Sri Lanka's policy of favoring Sinhala led to tensions and demands for federalism by Tamil leaders. India's flexible approach has avoided such conflicts.



Check your answers with the solutions below.

9. Explain the importance of the State Election Commission in the context of local government.

Solution: The State Election Commission is crucial as it ensures free and fair elections to local government bodies, reinforcing democratic decentralization. It conducts elections for panchayats and municipalities, empowering local governance and ensuring regular political participation at the grassroots level.

10. Discuss the impact of the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments on women's participation in local governance.

Solution: The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments have significantly increased women's participation in local governance by reserving at least one-third of all positions in panchayats and municipalities for women. This has empowered women, enhanced their representation, and brought gender perspectives into local decision-making.



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