

**CBSE CLASS X**  
**Social Science (087)**QUESTION PAPER  
*AI-generated question paper***Code: IQ1XDX****Questions: 37****Maximum Marks: 76****Generated: 2026-06-26 09:32****SELECTIONS USED**

Subject	Social Science
Lessons	2 Federalism
Level of understanding	Exam-ready
Question selection	CBSE board paper, whole lesson (~80 marks across Sections A-E)
Model	claude-sonnet-4-6

Composition — Difficulty: 13 straightforward · 15 medium · 9 deep | Types: 15 MCQ · 6 Very short · 6 Short · 4 Assertion–reason · 3 Long · 3 Case-based | Sections: A 19Q/19m · B 6Q/12m · C 6Q/18m · D 3Q/15m · E 3Q/12m

**Q1.** straightforward exam-ready**[1]**

Which of the following best describes a federal system of government?

- ((A)) The central government holds all powers and delegates some to provinces at its discretion.
- ((B)) Power is divided between a central authority and constituent units, each enjoying independent authority.
- ((C)) The legislature, executive and judiciary share power at the national level.
- ((D)) Elected officials exercise supreme power without any constitutional limits.

- A The central government holds all powers and delegates some to provinces at its discretion.
- B Power is divided between a central authority and constituent units, each enjoying independent authority.
- C The legislature, executive and judiciary share power at the national level.
- D Elected officials exercise supreme power without any constitutional limits.

◆ **Federalism****Q2.** straightforward exam-ready**[1]**

USA, Switzerland and Australia are examples of which type of federation?

- ((A)) Holding together federation
- ((B)) Coming together federation
- ((C)) Unitary federation
- ((D)) Concurrent federation

- A Holding together federation
- B Coming together federation
- C Unitary federation
- D Concurrent federation

◆ **Federalism**

**Q3.** straightforward exam-ready**[1]**

Which of the following subjects is included in the Concurrent List of the Indian Constitution?

- ((A)) Defence
- ((B)) Banking
- ((C)) Education
- ((D)) Agriculture

- A Defence
- B Banking
- C Education
- D Agriculture

◆ Federalism

**Q4.** straightforward exam-ready**[1]**

What is the term used for areas like Chandigarh, Lakshadweep and Delhi that are too small to be independent States but cannot be merged with existing States?

- ((A)) Scheduled Areas
- ((B)) Union Territories
- ((C)) Autonomous Districts
- ((D)) Special Zones

- A Scheduled Areas
- B Union Territories
- C Autonomous Districts
- D Special Zones

◆ Federalism

**Q5.** straightforward exam-ready**[1]**

Which institution is responsible for conducting panchayat and municipal elections in each State?

- ((A)) Election Commission of India
- ((B)) State Legislature
- ((C)) State Election Commission
- ((D)) Zilla Parishad

- A Election Commission of India
- B State Legislature
- C State Election Commission
- D Zilla Parishad

◆ Federalism

**Q6.** medium exam-ready**[1]**

Read the following statements about the Union List and choose the correct option:

- I. It includes subjects of national importance.
- II. Both Union and State Governments can make laws on it.
- III. Defence and foreign affairs are part of it.
- IV. Banking and currency are included in it.

- ((A)) Only I, II and III are correct.
  - ((B)) Only I, III and IV are correct.
  - ((C)) Only II, III and IV are correct.
  - ((D)) Only I, II and IV are correct.
- A Only I, II and III are correct.
  - B Only I, III and IV are correct.
  - C Only II, III and IV are correct.
  - D Only I, II and IV are correct.

◆ Federalism

**Q7.** medium exam-ready**[1]**

In 'holding together' federations, which of the following is generally true?

- ((A)) All constituent units have equal powers and are strong vis-à-vis the federal government.
  - ((B)) Independent states come together voluntarily to form a bigger unit.
  - ((C)) The Central Government tends to be more powerful than the States.
  - ((D)) The constituent units can withdraw from the federation at any time.
- A All constituent units have equal powers and are strong vis-à-vis the federal government.
  - B Independent states come together voluntarily to form a bigger unit.
  - C The Central Government tends to be more powerful than the States.
  - D The constituent units can withdraw from the federation at any time.

◆ Federalism

**Q8.** straightforward exam-ready**[1]**

Which year marked the constitutional amendment that made local government a more powerful and effective third tier of democracy in India?

- ((A)) 1947
  - ((B)) 1976
  - ((C)) 1992
  - ((D)) 2000
- A 1947
  - B 1976
  - C 1992
  - D 2000

◆ Federalism

**Q9.** straightforward exam-ready

[1]

The political head of a Zilla Parishad is the:

- ((A)) Collector
  - ((B)) Sarpanch
  - ((C)) Zilla Parishad Chairperson
  - ((D)) Mayor
- A Collector
  - B Sarpanch
  - C Zilla Parishad Chairperson
  - D Mayor

◆ Federalism

**Q10.** medium exam-ready

[1]

Consider the following statements about the amendment process of the Indian Constitution's power-sharing arrangement and choose the correct option:

- I. The Parliament alone can change the power-sharing arrangement between Union and States.
- II. Any change must be passed by both Houses of Parliament with at least two-thirds majority.
- III. After Parliament passes it, at least half the State legislatures must ratify it.
- IV. The President's assent is the only requirement for such a change.

- ((A)) Only I and IV are correct.
  - ((B)) Only II and III are correct.
  - ((C)) Only I, II and III are correct.
  - ((D)) Only II, III and IV are correct.
- A Only I and IV are correct.
  - B Only II and III are correct.
  - C Only I, II and III are correct.
  - D Only II, III and IV are correct.

◆ Federalism

**Q11.** straightforward exam-ready

[1]

How many languages are recognised as Scheduled Languages by the Indian Constitution?

- ((A)) 14
  - ((B)) 18
  - ((C)) 22
  - ((D)) 28
- A 14
  - B 18
  - C 22
  - D 28

◆ Federalism

**Q12.** medium exam-ready**[1]**

Read the following statements about the Gram Sabha and choose the correct option:

- I. It consists of all voters in the village.
- II. It must meet at least twice or thrice a year.
- III. It approves the annual budget of the gram panchayat.
- IV. Its decisions can be overruled by the Block Samiti at any time.

- ((A)) Only I, II and III are correct.
  - ((B)) Only II, III and IV are correct.
  - ((C)) Only I, III and IV are correct.
  - ((D)) All four are correct.
- A Only I, II and III are correct.
  - B Only II, III and IV are correct.
  - C Only I, III and IV are correct.
  - D All four are correct.

◆ Federalism

**Q13.** straightforward exam-ready**[1]**

If a subject does not fall under any of the three lists or arises after the Constitution was made, who has the power to legislate on it?

- ((A)) State Government
  - ((B)) Union Government
  - ((C)) Supreme Court
  - ((D)) Both Union and State Governments jointly
- A State Government
  - B Union Government
  - C Supreme Court
  - D Both Union and State Governments jointly

◆ Federalism

**Q14.** medium exam-ready**[1]**

Which of the following is NOT a feature of federalism?

- ((A)) Sources of revenue for each level of government are clearly specified.
  - ((B)) The central government can order the state government on all matters.
  - ((C)) Courts have the power to interpret the constitution and powers of different levels.
  - ((D)) The fundamental provisions of the constitution cannot be changed unilaterally by one level of government.
- A Sources of revenue for each level of government are clearly specified.
  - B The central government can order the state government on all matters.
  - C Courts have the power to interpret the constitution and powers of different levels.
  - D The fundamental provisions of the constitution cannot be changed unilaterally by one level of government.

◆ Federalism

**Q15.** straightforward exam-ready

[1]

At least what fraction of all positions in local government bodies are reserved for women after the 1992 constitutional amendment?

- ((A)) One-fourth
- ((B)) One-third
- ((C)) One-half
- ((D)) Two-thirds

- A One-fourth
- B One-third
- C One-half
- D Two-thirds

◆ Federalism

**Q16.** deep exam-ready

[1]

**\*\*Assertion (A):\*\*** The formation of linguistic States in India strengthened national unity rather than weakening it.

**\*\*Reason (R):\*\*** The demand for linguistic States was initially resisted by national leaders who feared it would lead to the country's disintegration.

- ((A)) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- ((B)) Both A and R are true, but R is NOT the correct explanation of A.
- ((C)) A is true but R is false.
- ((D)) A is false but R is true.

- A Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B Both A and R are true, but R is NOT the correct explanation of A.
- C A is true but R is false.
- D A is false but R is true.

◆ Federalism

**Q17.** deep exam-ready

[1]

**\*\*Assertion (A):\*\*** After 1990, the spirit of federalism became more effective in India than it was in the early years of the Constitution.

**\*\*Reason (R):\*\*** The rise of regional political parties and coalition governments at the Centre created a new culture of power sharing and greater respect for State autonomy.

- ((A)) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- ((B)) Both A and R are true, but R is NOT the correct explanation of A.
- ((C)) A is true but R is false.
- ((D)) A is false but R is true.

- A Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B Both A and R are true, but R is NOT the correct explanation of A.
- C A is true but R is false.
- D A is false but R is true.

◆ Federalism

**Q18.** medium exam-ready

[1]

**\*\*Assertion (A):\*\*** The Indian Constitution gives the status of 'national language' to Hindi.

**\*\*Reason (R):\*\*** Hindi is the mother tongue of only about 40 per cent of Indians, so safeguards were provided for other languages.

- ((A)) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.  
 ((B)) Both A and R are true, but R is NOT the correct explanation of A.  
 ((C)) A is false but R is true.  
 ((D)) Both A and R are false.

- A Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.  
 B Both A and R are true, but R is NOT the correct explanation of A.  
 C A is false but R is true.  
 D Both A and R are false.

◆ Federalism

**Q19.** medium exam-ready

[1]

**\*\*Assertion (A):\*\*** Local self-government in India still has a long way to go in realising its ideal.

**\*\*Reason (R):\*\*** Most State governments have not transferred significant powers or adequate resources to local government bodies, and Gram Sabhas are not held regularly.

- ((A)) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.  
 ((B)) Both A and R are true, but R is NOT the correct explanation of A.  
 ((C)) A is true but R is false.  
 ((D)) A is false but R is true.

- A Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.  
 B Both A and R are true, but R is NOT the correct explanation of A.  
 C A is true but R is false.  
 D A is false but R is true.

◆ Federalism

**Q20.** straightforward exam-ready

[2]

State two features that distinguish a federal government from a unitary government.

◆ Federalism

**Q21.** medium exam-ready

[2]

Distinguish between 'coming together' and 'holding together' federations in terms of the relative power enjoyed by the constituent units. Give one example of each type.

◆ Federalism

**Q22.** medium exam-ready

[2]

What are 'residuary powers' in the context of the Indian Constitution? Why do they exist?

◆ Federalism

**Q23.** straightforward exam-ready

[2]

Mention any two special powers that States like Nagaland and Mizoram enjoy under the Indian Constitution that other States do not.

◆ Federalism

**Q24.** straightforward exam-ready [2]

State two ways in which the 1992 constitutional amendment changed the position of local government bodies in India.

◆ Federalism

**Q25.** medium exam-ready [2]

Why did the Central Government agree to continue the use of English for official purposes even after 1965, when the Constitution had originally set a deadline to stop its use?

◆ Federalism

**Q26.** medium exam-ready [3]

Explain how the judiciary safeguards the federal system in India. In what situations does it play the role of an 'umpire'?

◆ Federalism

**Q27.** medium exam-ready [3]

Describe the structure of rural local government in India, starting from the Gram Panchayat level up to the district level.

◆ Federalism

**Q28.** medium exam-ready [3]

How did the era of coalition governments after 1990 change the practice of federalism in India? Explain with two points.

◆ Federalism

**Q29.** medium exam-ready [3]

What is decentralisation? State three reasons why decentralisation is important for a large and diverse country like India.

◆ Federalism

**Q30.** deep exam-ready [3]

If a law made by a State Government on a Concurrent List subject conflicts with a law made by the Union Government on the same subject, which law prevails? Explain the significance of this provision for Indian federalism.

◆ Federalism

**Q31.** deep exam-ready [3]

Explain how India's language policy reflects the spirit of federalism. Why was this policy considered important for national unity?

◆ Federalism

**Q32.** deep exam-ready [5]

Describe the dual objectives of a federal system. How do the features of federalism — particularly financial autonomy and constitutional guarantees — help in achieving these objectives? Explain with examples from India.

◆ Federalism

**Q33.** deep exam-ready [5]

Explain how the three-list system distributes legislative powers between the Union and the States in India. Why is the Union Government given power over the Concurrent List? What happens when there is a conflict between Union and State laws on Concurrent List subjects? Support your answer with examples from each list.

◆ Federalism

**Q34.** deep exam-ready**[5]**

What was the state of local government in India before the constitutional amendment of 1992? What major changes did the amendment bring about? Despite these changes, why is it said that India is still far from realising the ideal of self-government at the local level?

◆ Federalism

**Q35.** deep exam-ready**[4]**

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

In the early decades after Independence, the same party ruled both at the Centre and in most of the States. State Governments did not exercise their rights as autonomous federal units. When the ruling party at the State level was different, the Centre often misused the Constitution to dismiss State Governments controlled by rival parties. All this changed significantly after 1990. Regional political parties rose in many States. Since no single party got a clear majority in the Lok Sabha, major national parties had to enter into alliances with regional parties to form a government at the Centre. A major judgement of the Supreme Court also made it difficult for the Central Government to dismiss State Governments in an arbitrary manner.

- (i) How did single-party dominance affect federal relations in the early decades after Independence? (1 mark)
- (ii) What role did regional parties play in strengthening federalism after 1990? (1 mark)
- (iii) What does the Supreme Court judgement mentioned above indicate about the role of the judiciary in a federal system? (2 marks)

◆ Federalism

**Q36.** medium exam-ready**[4]**

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

When power is taken away from Central and State governments and given to local government, it is called decentralisation. The basic idea behind decentralisation is that a large number of problems and issues are best settled at the local level. People have better knowledge of problems in their localities. They also have better ideas on where to spend money and how to manage things more efficiently. At the local level, it is possible for the people to directly participate in decision making. This helps to inculcate a habit of democratic participation. Some cities across the world have carried out extraordinary experiments in combining decentralisation with participative democracy, where thousands of ordinary citizens participate in budget-making exercises every year. This method has helped ensure that public money is spent equitably across different sections of society.

- (i) Define decentralisation in your own words. (1 mark)
- (ii) State any two advantages of decision-making at the local level as described above. (1 mark)
- (iii) How does participatory budget-making reflect the principle of local self-government? What outcome does it achieve in terms of equity? (2 marks)

◆ Federalism

Q37. deep exam-ready

[4]

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

The Indian Union is based on the principles of federalism even though the Constitution declared India a 'Union of States' and did not use the word 'federation'. The Constitution provided for a three-fold distribution of legislative powers: the Union List, the State List and the Concurrent List. The Parliament cannot on its own change this arrangement. Any change to it has to be first passed by both Houses of Parliament with at least two-thirds majority and then ratified by the legislatures of at least half of the total States. India, Spain and Belgium are examples of 'holding together' federations. In this type, the Central Government tends to be more powerful vis-à-vis the States, and different constituent units may have unequal powers.

- (i) Why did the Indian Constitution use the term 'Union of States' instead of 'Federation'? What does this suggest about the nature of Indian federalism? (1 mark)
- (ii) What does the special amendment procedure for power-sharing arrangements tell us about the nature of the Indian federal system? (1 mark)
- (iii) India is described as a 'holding together' federation. What are two implications of this for the balance of power between the Centre and the States? (2 marks)

◆ Federalism

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