

CBSE CLASS X  
**Social Science (087)**

QUESTION PAPER  
*AI-generated question paper*

**Code: VSWR7G****Questions: 30****Maximum Marks: 84****Generated: 2026-06-26 09:32****SELECTIONS USED**

Subject	Social Science
Lessons	2 Federalism
Level of understanding	Thorough understanding
Question selection	Curated chapter coverage (~5 questions per section + 8 synthesis)
Model	claude-sonnet-4-6

Composition — Difficulty: 3 straightforward · 15 medium · 12 deep | Types: 19 Short · 4 MCQ · 4 Long · 3 Very short

**Q1.** medium thorough-understanding § Overview [3]

Belgium and Sri Lanka adopted very different approaches to managing diversity within their borders. Explain how the distribution of governmental power differs between a federal and a unitary system, and analyse why this difference is significant for regional or sub-national governments seeking autonomy.

◆ **Federalism**

**Q2.** deep thorough-understanding § Overview [3]

Federalism is described as having a 'dual objective'. Why are BOTH parts of this objective necessary, and what would go wrong in a country like India if only one part were achieved — say, unity was maintained but regional diversity was not accommodated?

◆ **Federalism**

**Q3.** medium thorough-understanding § What is federalism? [3]

In a federal system, why is it said that state governments are 'separately answerable to the people' rather than answerable to the central government?

◆ **Federalism**

**Q4.** medium thorough-understanding § What is federalism? [3]

Courts are described as playing the role of an 'umpire' in a federal system. What specific situations make this role necessary, and why can't the central government settle such disputes itself?

◆ **Federalism**

**Q5.** medium thorough-understanding § What is federalism? [1]

[mcq] Which of the following best explains why amending the fundamental power-sharing provisions of a federal constitution requires approval from both the central government and the state governments?

- (A) Because the central government is always more powerful and must seek the consent of weaker state governments before making any change.
- (B) Because each level of government has constitutionally guaranteed authority that neither level can unilaterally alter or take away.
- (C) Because in a federation the states created the constitution and therefore retain the sole power to amend it.
- (D) Because all constitutional amendments must first be approved by the Supreme Court before they can take effect.
- A Because the central government always has more power than the states and must protect them.
- B Because each level of government has constitutionally guaranteed authority that cannot be taken away by the other level alone.
- C Because the courts must approve all constitutional changes before they can take effect.
- D Because federations are formed only through voluntary coming-together of independent states.

◆ Federalism

**Q6.** deep thorough-understanding § What is federalism? [3]

Belgium shifted from a unitary to a federal system, while Sri Lanka has remained essentially unitary. Using the key difference between these two systems, explain why Tamil leaders in Sri Lanka demanded a federal arrangement rather than simply asking for more government spending in their regions.

◆ Federalism

**Q7.** deep thorough-understanding § What is federalism? [5]

Compare 'coming together' federations with 'holding together' federations on the following points: (i) how and why they were formed, (ii) the relative power of the central government versus constituent units, and (iii) whether constituent units tend to have equal or unequal powers among themselves. Give one example of each type.

◆ Federalism

**Q8.** straightforward thorough-understanding § What makes India a federal country? [1]

[very\_short\_answer] Education appears on a list that allows both the Union and State Governments to legislate on it. Name that list. If a State law on education conflicts with a Union law on the same subject, whose law prevails and why?

◆ Federalism

**Q9.** medium thorough-understanding § What makes India a federal country? [3]

[short\_answer] Rajasthan strongly opposes a decision taken by the Union Government on a matter that falls under the Union List. Explain why the State Government cannot prevent the Union Government from implementing that decision. How does the existence of the Union List reflect the principle that certain matters require a uniform national policy?

◆ Federalism

**Q10.** medium thorough-understanding § What makes India a federal country? [3]

Why do States such as Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh enjoy special constitutional powers that other Indian States do not? What does the existence of these special provisions suggest about the nature of Indian federalism compared to a 'coming together' federation like the USA?

◆ Federalism

**Q11.** deep thorough-understanding § What makes India a federal country? [3]

Amending the power-sharing arrangement in the Indian Constitution requires more than a simple parliamentary majority. Why is such a high threshold set, and how does this requirement itself reflect a key principle of federalism?

◆ Federalism

**Q12.** medium thorough-understanding § How is federalism practised? [1]

[mcq] Despite initial fears, the reorganisation of States on linguistic lines in India ultimately strengthened national unity. Which of the following best explains why?

- (A) It transferred more legislative powers from State Lists to the Union List.
- (B) It eliminated regional parties and reduced political fragmentation.
- (C) It made administration more effective and gave linguistic communities a sense of belonging within the Indian Union.
- (D) It resulted in Hindi becoming the sole medium of instruction in all States.

◆ Federalism

**Q13.** medium thorough-understanding § How is federalism practised? [3]

Hindi is spoken by only about 40 per cent of Indians, yet it was made the official language of the Union. Why did many non-Hindi-speaking States strongly oppose the discontinuation of English for official purposes in 1965, and how did the Central Government's response reflect the federal spirit?

◆ Federalism

**Q14.** medium thorough-understanding § How is federalism practised? [3]

For several decades after Independence, the same party ruled both at the Centre and in most States. How did this situation undermine the federal principle, even though the constitutional provisions for federalism remained unchanged?

◆ Federalism

**Q15.** deep thorough-understanding § How is federalism practised? [3]

After 1990, the rise of regional political parties and the era of coalition governments at the Centre led to a significant change in Centre–State relations. Explain how the compulsion to form coalitions produced a more genuine practice of federalism than had existed before.

◆ Federalism

**Q16.** deep thorough-understanding § How is federalism practised? [5]

[long\_answer] 'The constitutional provisions alone are not sufficient to ensure the genuine practice of federalism — political will and the nature of the party system matter equally.' Analyse this statement in the context of Centre–State relations in India, with reference to the period before and after 1990.

◆ Federalism

**Q17.** straightforward thorough-understanding § How is federalism practised? [1]

[very\_short\_answer] The Supreme Court gave a landmark ruling that the Central Government cannot arbitrarily dismiss a State government. How does this ruling strengthen the federal structure of India, and why is it significant for elected State governments?

◆ Federalism

**Q18.** straightforward thorough-understanding § Decentralisation in India [1]

[very\_short\_answer] Why is decentralisation considered especially necessary in a large and diverse country like India? Give two reasons.

◆ Federalism

**Q19.** medium thorough-understanding § Decentralisation in India [3]

Before 1992, local government bodies like panchayats and municipalities existed in India, yet decentralisation was considered ineffective. Why?

◆ Federalism

**Q20.** medium thorough-understanding § Decentralisation in India [3]

The 1992 constitutional amendment on local government included a provision for State Election Commissions. Why was it important to create an independent body specifically for this purpose, rather than leaving elections to existing state authorities?

◆ Federalism

**Q21.** medium thorough-understanding § Decentralisation in India [3]

[short\_answer] In the three-tier rural local government structure in India, election methods differ across levels. Explain how members are chosen at each tier and what this variation reveals about the nature of democratic representation in the system.

◆ Federalism

**Q22.** deep thorough-understanding § Decentralisation in India [5]

Reserving at least one-third of all positions in local government bodies for women is described as a significant feature of the 1992 amendment. A student argues: 'This is unnecessary interference — if women are capable, they will win elections on their own.' Using what you know about the purpose of decentralisation and democratic participation, evaluate this argument.

◆ Federalism

**Q23.** deep thorough-understanding § Decentralisation in India [3]

Despite the constitutional mandate introduced in 1992, gram sabhas are not held regularly and most state governments have not transferred significant powers or resources to local bodies. How does this situation contradict the very logic that was used to justify decentralisation in the first place?

◆ Federalism

**Q24.** deep thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis) [5]

India is described as a 'holding together' federation, yet after 1990 the rise of regional parties and coalition governments actually strengthened federal practice. How do the political developments after 1990 complement the constitutional design of Indian federalism to make it more effective in reality?

◆ Federalism

**Q25.** deep thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis) [3]

Both the linguistic reorganisation of States and the language policy adopted by the Constitution were responses to India's diversity. In what way did each of these measures serve the same underlying goal, and where did their approaches differ?

◆ Federalism

**Q26.** deep thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis) [1]

Assertion (A): Even though education is a Concurrent List subject, a State government can introduce new school textbooks without seeking the Union Government's approval.

Reason (R): On Concurrent List subjects, State laws are valid unless they conflict with a Central law, and no Central law mandates approval of State textbooks.

Choose the correct option:

- (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.

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- D A is false but R is true.

◆ Federalism

**Q27.** medium thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis) [3]

What is the key structural difference between a unitary system and a 'holding together' federation? Using India as an example, explain why this structural difference is important for protecting the interests of regional or linguistic groups.

◆ Federalism

**Q28.** deep thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis) [3]

The Indian Constitution gives the Union Government exclusive power over 'residuary subjects' – topics not listed in any of the three lists. How is this feature consistent with India being a 'holding together' federation, and how does it differ from the balance of power typically found in a 'coming together' federation?

◆ Federalism

**Q29.** medium thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis) [1]

Which of the following best describes the combined effect of the 1992 Constitutional amendment on local government in India?

- (A) It created a new Union List subject called 'local government' and gave the Centre power to run panchayats.
- (B) It made local elections mandatory, reserved seats for marginalised groups and women, and established independent State Election Commissions, thereby deepening democratic participation below the State level.
- (C) It merged the State List and the Concurrent List so that States could more easily share resources with panchayats.
- (D) It transferred all powers of State governments over agriculture and police directly to gram panchayats.

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◆ Federalism

**Q30.** medium thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis) [3]

Identify ONE constitutional provision and ONE political development that have, together, helped protect the autonomy of State governments in India. Explain how each of these contributes to the same outcome.

◆ Federalism

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