

Federalism

Case Study Based Questions

Source 1

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

The federal system thus has dual objectives: to safeguard and promote unity of the country, while at the same time accommodate regional diversity. Therefore, two aspects are crucial for the institutions and practice of federalism. Governments at different levels should agree to some rules of power-sharing. They should also trust that each would abide by its part of the agreement. An ideal federal system has both aspects: mutual trust and agreement to live together. The exact balance of power between the Central and the State Government varies from one federation to another. This balance depends mainly on the historical context in which the federation was formed. There are two kinds of routes through which federations have been formed. The first route involves independent states coming together on their own to form a bigger unit, so that by pooling sovereignty and retaining identity they can increase their security. This type of 'coming together' federations include the USA, Switzerland and Australia. The second route is where a large country decides to divide its power between the constituent states and the National Government. India, Spain and Belgium are examples of this kind of 'holding together' federations. In this second category, the Central Government tends to be more powerful vis-a-vis the states. Very often different constituent units of the federation have unequal powers. Some units are granted special powers.

Q1. What is/are main objective(s) of the federal system?

- a. To safeguard the country.
- b. To promote the unity of the country.
- c. To accommodate the regional diversity of the country.
- d. All of the above

Q2. Ideal federal system must have two aspects- mutual trust and.....

- a. power distribution
- b. proper Constitution



- c. agreement to live together
- d. All of the above

Q3. The exact balance of power between the Central and State Government depends mainly on

- a. historical context
- b. the Constitution
- c. political set-up of the country
- d. None of the above

Q4. In....., a large country divides its power between the different States and the National Government and very often there are unequal distribution of powers.

- a. coming together federation
- b. holding together federation
- c. federalism
- d. ideal federation

Q5. Choose the incorrect statement.

- a. Belgium shifted from a unitary of a federal form in 1993.
- b. Belgium shifted from a federal form to unitary form of government in 1993.
- c. Sri Lanka continues to be a unitary system.
- d. Tamil leaders want Sri Lanka to become a federal system.

Q6. 'Holding together' federations are not found in.

- a. India
- b. Spain
- c. Belgium
- d. Australia

Answers

- 1. (d)
- 2. (c)
- 3. (a)
- 4. (b)
- 5. (b)



6. (d)

Source 2

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

Restructuring the Centre-State relations is one more way in which federalism has been strengthened in practice. How the constitutional arrangements for sharing power work in reality depends to a large extent on how the ruling parties and leaders follow these arrangements. For a long time, the same party ruled both at the Centre and in most of the States. This meant that the State Governments did not exercise their rights as autonomous federal units. As and when the ruling party at the State level was different, the parties that ruled at the Centre tried to undermine the power of the States. In those days, the Central Government would often misuse the Constitution to dismiss the State Governments that were controlled by rival parties. This undermined the spirit of federalism.

Q1. The Centre-State relations undermined the spirit of federalism in the following way:

- a. The formation of states led to the disintegration of the country.
- b. The formation of linguistic states made the country united.
- c. The State Governments could not exercise their rights as autonomous federal units due to same ruling party at both centre and states.
- d. State Government misused the Constitution to dismiss the rival parties.

Q 2. Constitutional arrangements for sharing power work depends on:

- a. same party rule at both centre and states.
- b. how ruling parties follow them.
- c. strength of federalism.
- d. rights of state as autonomous federal units.

Q 3. The basic objective of a federal system is to:

- a. accommodate regional diversity.
- b. share powers among different communities.
- c. Both a, and b.
- d. ensure financial autonomy.



Q4. The parties that ruled at the centre undermined the power of states because:

- a. there was no power-sharing.
- b. there was no right to State Governments.
- c. ruling party at the state level was different.
- d. State Governments were ruled and controlled by rival parties.

Q5. In a federal system, the Central Government:

- a. can order the State Government to take relevant action.
- b. cannot order the State Government to take relevant action.
- c. can order the state to take relevant action on certain occasions.
- d. None of the above

Q6. Two statements are marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

Assertion (A): The centre-state relations in India have been changed from time-to-time since independence.

Reason (R): The State Government exercised their rights as autonomous federal units.

- a. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- b. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- c. Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
- d. Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Answers

- 1. (c)
- 2. (b)
- 3. (a)
- 4. (c)
- 5. (b)
- 6. (c)

Source 3

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow:



Federalism is a system of government in which the power is divided between a central authority and various constituent units of the country. Usually, a federation has two levels of government. One is the government for the entire country that is usually responsible for a few subjects of common national interest. The others are governments at the levels of provinces or states that look after much of the day-to-day administering of their state. Both these levels of governments enjoy their power independent of the other. In this sense, federations are contrasted with a unitary system, either there is only one level of government or the sub-units are subordinate to the Central Government. The exact balance of power between the Central and the State Government varies from one federation to another.

Q1. What is the distinguishing feature of a federal government?

Ans. The distinguishing feature of a federal government is that the governmental power is divided between different levels of government.

Q2. There was a key change that took place in 1993 in Belgium, making it a federal form of government. What was that change?

Ans. The changes were as follows:

- (i) The regional governments were given constitutional powers.
- (ii) The regional governments were no longer dependent on the Central Government.

Q3. What is the main feature of a unitary form of government?

Ans. Under unitary form of government, there is only one level of government or the sub-units are subordinate to the Central Government.

Source 4

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow:

Language Diversity of India How many languages do we have in India? The answer depends on how one counts it. The latest information that we have is from the Census of India held in 2011. This census recorded more than 1300 distinct languages which people mentioned as their mother tongues. These languages were grouped together under some major languages. For example, languages like Bhojpuri, Magadhi, Bundelkhandi, Chhattisgarhi, Rajasthani and many others were grouped together under 'Hindi'. Even after this grouping, the Census found 121 major languages. Of these 22 languages are now included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution and are



therefore called 'Scheduled Languages'. Others are called 'Non-Scheduled Languages'. In terms of languages, India is perhaps the most diverse country in the world. (CBSE 2023)

Q1. Explain the importance of language diversity in India.

Ans. Language diversity in India has helped in preserving the unique identities and cultures of different communities. It has also contributed to the development of various art forms, literature and music.

Q 2. Differentiate between Scheduled and Non- scheduled Languages.

Ans. Scheduled languages have been accorded official status but non-scheduled languages not accorded official status and are not used for official administrative purposes.

Q3. "The fusion of languages has united the country into one cultural entity." Explain the statement with an example.

Ans. The statement. "The fusion of languages has united the country into one cultural entity" means that the diverse languages and cultures of India have blended whether to create a shared sense of national identity. One example of this fusion has be seen in Bollywood films.

