

Ch: FEDERALISM

Question 3. Point out one feature in the practice of federalism in India that is similar to and one feature that is different from that of Belgium.

**Answer:** In India, just like in Belgium, the central government has to share its powers with the State governments. However, unlike Belgium, India does not have a communist government in addition to the central and the state government. India has rural local government popularly known as Panchayati Raj.

Question 4. What is the main difference between a federal form of government and a unitary one? Explain with an example.

**Answer:** In a federal form of government, the central government shares its powers with the various constituent units of the country. Both types of governments are separately answerable to the people. For example, in India, power is divided between the Central Government and the various State governments.

In a unitary form of government, all the power is exercised by only one government. In this, the Central government can pass orders to the provincial or the regional government. Under the unitary system, either there is only one level of government or sub-units are subordinate to the central government. For example, in Sri Lanka, the national government has all the powers.

Question 5. State any two differences between the local government before and after the Constitutional amendment in 1992.

**Answer:** A major step towards decentralization was taken in 1992. The Constitution was amended to make the third-tier of democracy more powerful and effective.

Local governments Before 1992	Local governments After 1992
Elections were controlled by the state and not held regularly. Seats were not	An independent State Election Commission is responsible to conduct

reserved in the elected bodies for women.	panchayat and municipal elections. At least one-third of all the positions are reserved for women.
Local governments did not have any powers or resources of their own. These were directly under the control of state governments.	The State governments are required to share some powers and revenue with local government bodies. The nature of sharing varies from state to state.

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