

Chapter 2 Book Exercise- Federalism – Grade 10

1. Point out one feature of federalism practiced in India that is similar to and one feature that is different from that of Belgium.

- i. Like Belgium, India also has regional and cultural differences, and many languages are spoken. So one language is made the national language and equal importance is given to different cultures and languages.
- ii. Though in India there are Central and State Governments that share power, but the Centre is made stronger than the states. It has more powers. In Belgium, the state governments are not subordinate to the Central government.

2. What is the main difference between a Federal form of government and a Unitary one? Explain with an example.

In Federal form of government, the power is divided between the central authority and various constituent units of the country, whereas in the unitary system, there is only one level of government or if states or subdivisions are there, they are subordinate to the Central government.

Example: Federal – USA, Switzerland.

Unitary – India, Belgium

3. Mention two differences between the local governments before and after the Constitutional Amendment in 1992.

The following changes took place as a result of the amendment of 1992:

- i. It is mandatory now to hold regular elections after every 5 years to local government bodies.
- ii. 1/3rd of seats are reserved for women in the elected bodies and the executive heads of these institutions.

4. Fill in the blanks

Since the United States is a ‘ _____ ’ type of federation, all the constituent States have equal powers and states are _____ vis-à-vis the federal government. But India is a _____ type of federation and some states have more powers than others. In India, the _____ government has more powers.

Answer: **coming together**

strong

holding together

Union

6. The distinguishing feature of a federal government is: (Choose the correct one):

- i. National government gives some power to the provincial government.
- ii. Power is distributed among the legislature, executive and judiciary.
- iii. Elected officials exercise supreme power in the government.
- iv. Government power is divided between different levels of government.

Answer: **iv. Government power is divided between different levels of government.**

7. Consider the following statements.

- a. In a federation, the powers of the federal and provincial governments are clearly demarcated.
- b. India is a federation because the powers of the Union and State Governments are specified in the Constitution and they have exclusive jurisdiction on their respective subjects.
- c. Sri Lanka is federation because some powers of the states have been devolved to the local government bodies.
- d. India is no longer a federation because some powers of the states have been devolved to the local government bodies.

- i. a, b, and c
- ii. a, c, and d
- iii. a and b only
- iv. b and c only

Answer: **iii. a and b only**