

ICSE Board Class 12 Political Science Question Paper 2026 with Solution

Time Allowed :3 Hours	Maximum Marks :80	Total Questions :34
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General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. The paper is divided into Section A and Section B.
2. Section A includes objective-type questions.
3. All questions in Section A are compulsory.
4. Section B includes short answer, and long answer type questions.
5. Answers must be written legibly within the word limit.
6. Use of unfair means or electronic devices is prohibited.
7. Follow the correct format and instructions for each section.

Section - A

1(i). Which of the following is a distinctive feature of a Federal State?

- (A) Concentration of powers in the central government
- (B) Devolution of powers to other levels of government
- (C) Delegation of powers to other levels of government
- (D) Constitutional division of powers between federal and state governments

Correct Answer: (D) Constitutional division of powers between federal and state governments

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Federalism is a system of government where power is structurally shared between different levels.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

In a federal state, the constitution acts as the supreme law of the land.

It explicitly divides powers and responsibilities between the central (national) government and regional (state or provincial) governments.

Unlike a unitary system, where regional powers are merely delegated and can be revoked by the center, a federal system guarantees state autonomy through the constitution.

Therefore, the constitutional division of powers is its most distinctive feature.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct option is (D).

 Quick Tip

Remember the difference: Delegation/Devolution implies power given by the center (Unitary), whereas Division implies power given by the Constitution (Federal).

1(ii). The Constitution of India is a long and comprehensive document drawn from many sources. It responds to rapid changes in society. In terms of constitutional design, the Constitution of India can BEST be described as:

- (A) Written and Rigid
- (B) Partly Rigid and Partly Flexible
- (C) Unwritten and Flexible
- (D) Enacted and Rigid

Correct Answer: (B) Partly Rigid and Partly Flexible

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

A constitution's flexibility or rigidity is determined by its amendment procedure.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The Constitution of India provides a unique blend of rigidity and flexibility under Article 368. Some provisions can be amended by a simple majority in Parliament, indicating flexibility. Other provisions require a special majority, and certain foundational aspects require both a special majority and ratification by at least half of the state legislatures, indicating rigidity. Thus, it is best described as partly rigid and partly flexible.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct option is (B).

 Quick Tip

The Indian Constitution avoids the extremes of the highly rigid US Constitution and the highly flexible UK Constitution, striking a balance to accommodate dynamic social changes.

1(iii). Given below are two statements marked Assertion and Reason. Read the statements carefully and choose the correct option.

Assertion: If the President of the United States vetoes legislation, it is extremely difficult for Congress to override the veto without the support of both the parties.

Reason: A veto can only be overridden by a two-thirds majority of both the houses.

- (A) Both Assertion and Reason are true and Reason is the correct explanation of Assertion.
- (B) Both Assertion and Reason are true but Reason is not the correct explanation for Assertion.

- (C) Assertion is true and Reason is false.
(D) Both Assertion and Reason are false.

Correct Answer: (A) Both Assertion and Reason are true and Reason is the correct explanation of Assertion.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The veto power is a key check the US President has over Congress, and overriding it requires a supermajority.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The Assertion is true because overriding a presidential veto requires significant political consensus, which is rarely achieved by a single party in a bi-party system.

The Reason is also true as Article I, Section 7 of the US Constitution explicitly mandates a two-thirds majority vote in both the House of Representatives and the Senate to override a veto.

Because securing a two-thirds majority mathematically necessitates bipartisan support, the Reason perfectly explains the Assertion.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct option is (A).

 Quick Tip

A two-thirds supermajority is deliberately designed to be difficult to achieve, ensuring that a veto override represents a broad, bipartisan national consensus.

1(iv). Given below are two statements marked Assertion and Reason. Read them carefully and choose the correct option.

Assertion: In a country with a bi-party system, political power tends to alternate between two political parties.

Reason: Only two political parties exist in such countries.

- (A) Both Assertion and Reason are true and Reason is the correct explanation of Assertion.
(B) Both Assertion and Reason are true but Reason is not the correct explanation for Assertion.
(C) Assertion is true and Reason is false.
(D) Both Assertion and Reason are false.

Correct Answer: (C) Assertion is true and Reason is false.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

A bi-party (or two-party) system is characterized by the electoral dominance of two major political groups.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The Assertion is true because in a bi-party system (like the USA or UK), government power primarily alternates between the two dominant parties.

The Reason is false because a bi-party system does not mean that strictly only two parties exist.

Numerous minor or regional parties can and do exist, but they generally lack the widespread electoral strength required to capture national executive power.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct option is (C).

💡 Quick Tip

Do not confuse "dominance" with "exclusivity"; minor parties like the Libertarian or Green Party exist in the US but rarely win major seats.

1(v). Observe the relation between the first two words/phrases and complete the analogy.

Declaration of War in India : President :: Declaration of War in the United States : ?

Correct Answer: Congress

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

This analogy compares the authorities legally empowered to declare war in India and the United States.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

In India, the President serves as the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces and holds the formal executive authority to declare war.

In the United States, although the President is the Commander-in-Chief, the US Constitution explicitly delegates the power to declare war exclusively to the legislative branch.

This legislative branch is the US Congress.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The missing word is Congress.

💡 Quick Tip

The US Constitution deliberately balances military power: while the President commands the military forces, only the Congress holds the legal authority to initiate a war.

1(vi). A constitution that can be amended through a process that is identical or similar to the process of enacting laws is?

Correct Answer: Flexible Constitution

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Constitutions are classified on the basis of the difficulty of their amendment procedures.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

When the procedure for making ordinary laws and the procedure for amending the constitution are identical, the constitution is highly adaptable.

Because no special supermajority or complex ratification is required, such a constitution is termed a Flexible Constitution.

The Constitution of the United Kingdom is a classic global example of this model.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Flexible Constitution.

 Quick Tip

Remember the fundamental rule: if Ordinary Law equals Constitutional Law in terms of the amendment process, the constitution is highly flexible.

1(vii). Under Article 356 of the Constitution of India, if there is a breakdown of constitutional machinery in a state, President's Rule can be imposed.

Correct Answer: True

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Article 356 of the Indian Constitution details the emergency provisions concerning state governments.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

According to Article 356, if the President of India receives a report from the Governor or is otherwise satisfied that a state's government cannot function in accordance with constitutional provisions, emergency powers can be invoked.

This intervention dismisses the state government and places the state under the direct administrative control of the Union.

This mechanism is formally known as imposing President's Rule or State Emergency.

Therefore, the given statement is factually correct.

Step 3: Final Answer:

True.

 Quick Tip

Article 356 is often termed 'State Emergency' or 'Constitutional Emergency', fundamentally shifting state powers temporarily to the Union government.

1(viii)(A). State whether the following are True or False:
Local self-government is enshrined in the Constitution of India.

Correct Answer: True

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Local self-government refers to the decentralization of power to rural and urban administrative bodies.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Originally, local self-government was only mentioned as a Directive Principle.

However, the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts of 1992 added Parts IX and IXA to the Constitution.

These amendments constitutionally enshrined Panchayats and Municipalities as the third tier of government.

Step 3: Final Answer:

True.

 Quick Tip

The 73rd and 74th Amendments are crucial landmarks that officially established the Panchayati Raj and Municipalities, giving them concrete constitutional status.

1(viii)(B). State whether the following are True or False:
All provisions given in the Constitution of India can be amended by the same procedure.

Correct Answer: False

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The Indian Constitution provides a mix of rigidity and flexibility for amending its clauses.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Article 368 details different types of amendment procedures.

Some provisions can be amended by a simple legislative majority, similar to ordinary laws.

Others require a special majority of Parliament.

Furthermore, amending vital federal structures requires a special majority alongside ratification by at least half of the state legislatures.

Therefore, not all provisions use the same uniform procedure.

Step 3: Final Answer:

False.

 Quick Tip

Recall Article 368; the Indian Constitution is termed a 'living document' precisely because of its varied, multi-tiered amendment procedures.

1(viii)(C). State whether the following are True or False:

The Constitution of the United States gives equal representation to all fifty states in the Senate.

Correct Answer: True

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The US Congress is a bicameral legislature consisting of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

To balance the interests of large and small states, the US Constitution created a dual system of representation.

While the House of Representatives is based on state population, the Senate ensures absolute equality among states.

Every single state, regardless of its geographic size or population density, is equally represented by exactly two senators.

Step 3: Final Answer:

True.

 Quick Tip

In the US Congress, the House represents the population demographically, while the Senate ensures absolute state equality to maintain federal balance.

1(viii)(D). State whether the following are True or False:

The Right to Education (Article 21A) is an example of a Directive Principle that was given the justiciable status of a Fundamental Right through an amendment to the Constitution of India.

Correct Answer: True

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The evolution of the Right to Education from a non-justiciable goal to a legally enforceable right.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Originally, free and compulsory education for children up to 14 years of age was listed as a Directive Principle of State Policy under Article 45.

Directive Principles are fundamental in state governance but are not enforceable by courts.

The 86th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2002 elevated this objective to a fundamental, justiciable right by inserting Article 21A.

Step 3: Final Answer:

True.

 Quick Tip

Article 21A was a massive historical step in fulfilling constitutional promises, transforming a welfare directive into an enforceable Fundamental Right.

1(ix). Answer the following questions in one word/phrase.

Correct Answer:

Solution:

(A) In this voting system, the candidate with the maximum votes in a constituency is declared elected, even if they win less than 50% of the total votes cast.

Answer: First-Past-The-Post System

(B) The period of time that the Rajya Sabha can delay a money bill under the Constitution of India.

Answer: 14 days

(C) A state that is free to run its own internal affairs and is independent of external control.

Answer: Sovereign State

(D) The constitutional doctrine, which holds that the actions of the executive and legislative branches of government are subject to scrutiny and possible invalidation by the judiciary.

Answer: Judicial Review

 Quick Tip

In an actual board examination, if you encounter a misprinted, incomplete, or missing question, immediately bring it to the invigilator's attention. Boards typically award grace marks for such printing errors.

Section - B

2. Explain two differences between Parliamentary and Presidential forms of government.

Correct Answer:

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Parliamentary and Presidential systems are two distinct models of democratic governance based on how the executive branch relates to the legislative branch.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

1. Separation of Powers:

In a Presidential system, there is a strict constitutional separation of powers.

The executive branch operates independently of the legislature, and the President cannot concurrently serve as a member of the legislative body.

Conversely, in a Parliamentary system, there is a continuous fusion of powers.

The executive (comprising the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers) is drawn directly from the legislature and remains legally accountable to it.

2. Head of State vs. Head of Government:

In a Presidential framework, a single individual (the President) assumes the combined roles of both the ceremonial Head of State and the active Head of Government.

In a Parliamentary framework, these roles are distinctively split.

A Monarch or a ceremonial President serves as the Head of State, while the real executive power lies with the Prime Minister, who acts as the Head of Government.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The two principal differences revolve around the separation of powers and the duality of executive leadership roles.

 Quick Tip

Use the core concept of 'fusion vs. strict separation of powers' as your foundational argument when comparing these two governmental systems.

3. Explain two key features of a Totalitarian State.

Correct Answer:

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Totalitarianism is an extreme authoritarian political regime that recognizes no boundaries to its authority and strives to strictly regulate every dimension of public and private life.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

1. Single Official Ideology:

A totalitarian state is fundamentally characterized by a comprehensive state ideology that dictates national goals, cultural values, and individual behaviors.

This rigid ideology is enforced across all levels of society, and absolutely no dissenting or alternative perspectives are tolerated.

2. One-Party System led by a Dictator:

Political power within a totalitarian state is entirely monopolized by a single mass political party, which is usually led by a charismatic or ruthless dictator.

This ruling entity aggressively controls all government institutions, the military, mass media, and the economy, systematically eliminating any possibility of political opposition.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The key features are the imposition of a singular official ideology and absolute centralized control by a single political party under dictatorial leadership.

Quick Tip

A highly effective mnemonic to remember totalitarian features is "One Party, One Ideology, One Leader" controlling every facet of civic life.

4(i). Compare the mode of election or appointment of the Prime Minister of India and the President of the United States.

Correct Answer:

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The Prime Minister of India leads a parliamentary democracy, whereas the President of the US leads a presidential republic, necessitating entirely different methods of assuming office.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Appointment of the Prime Minister of India:

The Prime Minister is not directly elected to the specific executive office by the general electorate.

Instead, they are formally appointed by the President of India.

Following general elections, constitutional convention mandates the President to invite the leader of the majority party (or a coalition commanding a majority) in the Lok Sabha to form the central government.

The appointed individual must be or become a Member of Parliament within a specified time-frame.

Election of the President of the United States:

The US President is elected indirectly by the citizens through the established mechanism of the Electoral College.

During elections, voters in each state cast their ballots for a slate of electors who are pledged to a specific presidential candidate.

The candidate who manages to secure an absolute majority of these electoral votes (at least 270 out of 538) is officially elected to serve as the President.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Indian PM is appointed based on legislative majority, whereas the US President is indirectly elected via an Electoral College system.

Quick Tip

Highlight the stark difference between direct/indirect elections and executive appointment to structure a high-scoring comparative answer.

4(ii). What is meant by a multi-party system? Explain one merit of a multi-party system in a large and diverse country like India.

Correct Answer:

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

A multi-party system is a competitive political setup where multiple parties actively operate and vie for state power, ensuring broad democratic choices.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Meaning of a Multi-Party System:

It is defined as a political system wherein more than two major political parties possess a realistic capacity to gain control of government offices.

These parties may choose to govern independently if they secure an absolute electoral majority, or they may form collaborative coalition governments.

Merit in a Diverse Country like India:

The foremost merit of this system is the **broad representation of diverse societal interests**.

India is uniquely characterized by immense linguistic, religious, ethnic, cultural, and regional diversity.

A multi-party system effectively ensures that these varied social groups and minority voices are provided with a dedicated platform for political representation.

It actively prevents the monopolization of power by a single demographic group and fosters inclusive, democratic governance through consensus-building and alliances.

Step 3: Final Answer:

A multi-party system facilitates multiple competitive parties, and its main merit in India is guaranteeing political representation for a highly diverse population.

 Quick Tip

Link the functional mechanics of a multi-party system directly to India's vast social heterogeneity to provide a strong, context-specific justification.