



Fact Sheet Prep Series Part - 4

ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATION

POLITY

1 Ans. a

Explan - At present nearly all the villages come within the purview of the Community Development Programme. The aim of the Community Development Programme is to develop the villages which depends on three factors: (i) increase in the produce of the crop and other commodities produced in the area; (ii) total development of the rural people; and (iii) cooperation of the villagers in rural development. These three factors are emphasized in this programme. Agriculture has been given the highest priority. The Community Development Programme intends to develop the living standard of the villagers for which it has undertaken the following activities:

1. Providing better seeds, new implements of agriculture, cattle of good breed, good manures, etc.
2. Increasing irrigation facilities.
3. Utilizing fallow and waste land.
4. Increasing the output of fruit and vegetables and planting more trees to stop soil erosion and keeping the environment clean.
5. Providing education to boys and girls and adults.
6. Providing health care facilities.
7. Imparting knowledge about modern agricultural methods.
8. Implementing the 20-point Economic Programme related to the village development.

2. Ans. d

Extra Information - The Constitution of a country contains fundamental rules. The rules made by the government are based on the Constitution. The government functions in a state which is the highest political authority within a society. The government is one of the four elements of the state.

A State has its specific territory, the population which lives on it and the government which makes laws and enforces them. But besides all these a State essentially has an element called sovereignty which means unrestricted authority over its own affairs. We know that India is a State, but before independence we could not call it a State. During the pre-independence period it had a territory, a population and a government, but it lacked sovereignty. The way the country was run, the way the government ruled, was decided by the British government located in the United Kingdom.

3. Ans. c

Explan - The Zila Parishad elects a President and a Vice-President from among its members. They can be removed from office by a vote of no-confidence. Decisions are taken by a majority vote.

The main function of the Zila Parishad is to work for the village panchayats and Block Samitis. The Zila Parishad gives advice to the state government on the work of Panchayats and Samitis. The implementation of all programmes coming under the Five Year Plan is the responsibility of the Zila Parishad, It keeps a watch



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on agricultural production and the development programme of its district. The Zila Parishad prepares a plan for its district. This plan is based upon the developmental plans prepared by the Block Samitis.

Sources of Income: As in the case of the Block Samitis the, sources of income of the Zila Parishads are mainly the realization of taxes and the financial grants given by the state government. Besides, the Zila Parishad realizes rent from the houses and shops owned by it.

The composition of the Zila Parishad is similar to that of a Block Samiti. Persons elected as Block Pramukhs automatically become members of the Zila Parishad. The members of the State Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council as well as the Members of Parliament from a district are members of the Zila Parishad.

4. Ans. d

Extra Information - In a democratic country all citizens enjoy equal rights. They have the freedom to express themselves. India being a democratic country provides such rights to its citizens and allows them freedom of expression. These rights, which are called 'Fundamental Rights' form an important part of the Constitution of India.

These rights are fundamental in three different ways. Firstly, these are basic human rights. As human beings we have the right to enjoy these rights. Secondly, the Constitution gives us these rights and guarantees them because it believes that these rights are necessary if citizens are to act properly and live democratically. Thirdly, effective procedures for the enforcement of these Fundamental Rights have been guaranteed in the Constitution itself. A citizen has the right to go to the court of law if she/he is denied these rights. The Constitution is there to safeguard her/his rights.

5. Ans. c

Explain - So far as the money bills are concerned they first require the certificate of the Speaker of Lok Sabha as to whether it is a money bill or not. No money bill can be introduced in the Parliament without the consent of the President of India.

In case of money bills, there is an important difference in the powers of the two houses. A money bill can be introduced in the Lok Sabha only and not in the Rajya Sabha. However, when it is passed in the Lok Sabha it is sent to the Rajya Sabha. The Rajya Sabha cannot reject a money bill. It can suggest its recommendations within 14 days. In fact, the Rajya Sabha has to return the bill within a period of 14 days with or without its recommendations.

The Lok Sabha can reject all or any of its recommendations. The Lok Sabha thus, is the final

authority so far as the money bills are concerned. If the Rajya Sabha does not return the bill within 14 days, the bill is deemed to have been passed by both the houses. Thereafter, the bill is sent to the President for his assent. The President gives his assent and signs the bill.

6. Ans. d

Extra Information - The Village Level Worker or the Gram Sewak holds the key position in the village development programme. He tells the villagers how to improve agriculture, how to utilize manures properly, and how to identify improved seeds. He advises them on the methods of keeping their cattle healthy. He also advises them on questions related to their health.

Considerable progress has been achieved through the Community Development Programme. This programme is for villagers themselves and, therefore, its success depends upon the mutual cooperation of the village people. To seek the cooperation of the villagers the Panchayati Raj system has been established.

7. Ans. b

Explain - The system of government we have in India is a parliamentary system. In this system, the executive is in constant touch with the legislature. In fact the Parliament, which is the representative body of the people controls the executive through various methods.

In some countries like Britain and India, there are, in fact two kinds of the executives — a nominal executive and the real executive. In India, the President is the Constitutional or the nominal head of the executive. Formally, all business of the government is carried on in the name of the President. All powers are also formally rested in him. However, the actual decisions are mostly taken by the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister.

The President thus, is the head of the State whereas the Prime Minister is the head of the government. The President has to use the powers the Constitution has given him, only on the advice of the Council of Ministers.

8. Ans. d

Explain - The Constitution guarantees to us six Fundamental Rights. Apart from these rights, the Constitution also provides the 'Directive Principles of State Policy', and a list of 'Fundamental Duties'.

To understand the Fundamental Rights it is necessary to know about the Directive Principles and the Fundamental Duties.

The six Fundamental Rights as mentioned in our Constitution are:

- (i) Right to Equality



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- (ii) Right to Freedom
- (iii) Right Against Exploitation
- (iv) Right to Freedom of Religion
- (v) Cultural and Educational Rights
- (vi) Right to Constitutional Remedies

9. Ans. b

Explan - Presidential candidates should not hold any office of profit under the government and should be qualified to become a Lok Sabha member. Any citizen with these qualifications can contest for the President's office.

The President's election follows somewhat different rules. He is elected indirectly by a body called an Electoral College. It consists of the elected members of the State Assemblies and the Parliament. Thus, the President is elected indirectly.

The procedure of election has been devised in such a way that no person can become the President unless he has secured a clear majority of total votes cast. All the members of the Electoral College are expected to indicate their preference by writing 1, 2 and 3 on the ballot paper against the names of presidential candidates according to their choice.

At the time of counting, the first preferences of all the candidates are counted. If any of the candidates secure more than 50 per cent of the total number of votes polled, he is declared elected. If none is able to secure a clear majority, the candidate with the least number of votes will be eliminated. His votes are transferred to those for whom the voters have indicated second preference. This procedure is continued till one of the candidates secures a clear majority.

10. Ans. d

Extra Information - India is a secular state. The government under the Indian Constitution has to be secular. This means that the government must not formulate policies which discriminate between various religious communities which live in India. All the citizens, irrespective of their religious beliefs are equal in the eyes of the law.

The Constitution established a system of universal adult franchise. Under this system, every Indian citizen who has completed the age of 18 years has the right to vote and participate in choosing the governments at different levels, i.e. the central, the state and the local levels.

11. Ans. d

Extra Information - For providing speedy and economical justice to the poor and the downtrodden,

some new programmes have been introduced in the country, like Legal Aid, Lok Adalats and Public Interest Litigation.

The basic idea behind the scheme of Lok Adalats is to eliminate delay in imparting justice. These Adalats speed up clearance of pending cases. These cases comprise of those which are pending in the court or which have not been filed. The first Lok Adalat which met in Delhi on 6 October 1985 had solved 150 cases of payment of compensation to the relatives of accident victims in a single day.

The Supreme Court has also opened a new chapter on Public Interest Litigation. Where merely on a post card or an application, the complaints are registered and necessary orders are passed. The grievances of weaker section, bonded labourers, women and children have been given due importance under this scheme.

12. Ans. d

Extra Information - India is one of the original members of the United Nations. She has expressed faith in the aims and objectives of the United Nations. One of the important principles of Indian foreign policy is to support United Nations in its efforts of peaceful settlement of international disputes and promotion of cooperation among different countries in the world.

Whenever the United Nations Force was set up for peace keeping, India offered her services. Indian armed forces helped in the maintenance of peace of Korea, Egypt and Congo. India has consistently supported UN efforts for ending colonialism and racial discrimination.

India has followed the foreign policy of non-alignment and has played an important part through the United Nations in reducing the tension between the two power blocks. India has been participating in the activities of the UN agencies like the ILO, the UNESCO and the UNCTAD. She has been receiving valuable assistance from UN bodies like the World Bank, UNICEF, Food and Agricultural Organisation, and the World Health Organisation.

13. Ans. c

Explan - The development work at the district level is undertaken by the Zila Parishad. A district is divided into many blocks. At each block level a Block Samiti functions. To assist this Samiti in all its work there is an officer who is called the Block Development Officer (BDO). The BDO knows all about the village development programme. There are many other officials to assist him in his task. These officials are experts in agriculture, cooperation, animal husbandry and



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education. The BDO supervises the work of these officials.

14. Ans. c

Explan - Some of the other pioneers and great writers in some other Indian languages were Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyaya and Rabindranath Tagore in Bengali, Gurazada Appa Rao in Telugu, Hari Narayana Apte in Marathi, Kumaran Asan and Vallathol K. Narayan Menon in Malayalam, Fakirmohan Senapthi in Oriya, Subramania Bharati in Tamil, Hemchandra Barua in Assamese, K. Venkatappa Gowda Puttappa in Kannada and Mohammad Iqbal in Urdu.

A song which Rabindranath Tagore composed more than 80 years ago became the National Anthem of independent India. Two national songs of our country, Bande Mataram and Saare Jahan Se Acchcha were composed by Bankim Chandra and Iqbal respectively. In 1913, Tagore was given the Nobel Prize, the highest international prize, for literature.

In the 20th century, literature in all Indian languages was deeply influenced by the struggle for freedom. It played a very important role in arousing the patriotism of the people. It also aroused the people against injustices and oppression prevailing in Indian society.

15. Ans. b

Explan - Since the judiciary is supposed to perform a very important, impartial and significant role in India's federal democratic set up, it is necessary that the judges should not be under the executive's control. One way of ensuring this is to see that the judges of the Supreme Court cannot be easily removed. They can be removed only by a special procedure.

In case of a judge of the Supreme Court the procedure for removal is as follows: The two houses of Parliament have to pass a resolution, which is called an address in this case, asking for her/his removal on the grounds of proven misbehaviour or incapacity. It has to be passed by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, and this number, again, should not be less than a majority of the total membership of the house. If this address has been passed by the two houses, the President can by an order remove the judge. You can see that the Constitution has made an arrangement under which removal of a judge of the Supreme Court is really quite difficult.

16. Ans. a

Explan - The civil courts hear cases which are related to property and money disputes. The criminal courts hear cases regarding thefts, criminal assaults and murders.

The court of the District Judge is the highest court in the district, which supervises the functioning of the civil courts as well as criminal courts. The civil courts include the courts of the Civil Judge and the Munsif. The court of the Sessions Judge tries the criminal cases of serious nature like murders and dacoities.

Under the sessions court there are other courts headed by the Metropolitan Magistrates, first, second and third class magistrates. A first class magistrate can award punishment up to two years of imprisonment and a fine up to one thousand rupees. A second class magistrate can award imprisonment up to six months and a fine up to two hundred rupees. A third class magistrate can give imprisonment up to one month and impose a fine up to fifty rupees. Small cases at the village level are tried by the Nyaya Panchayats. All the courts in the district function under the over-all supervision of the High Court of the state.

17. Ans. a

Explan - As the President is elected by a special procedure, he can be removed only by a special procedure. This kind of removal of a President is known as impeachment. A President can be impeached for violation of the Constitution and for this any one house of Parliament has to start the process. The charges are contained in a notice which has to be signed by at least one fourth of the total members of that house. The notice is sent to the President and 14 days later it is taken up for consideration by the house concerned.

This resolution then has to be passed by a two-thirds majority of the total members of that house. The other house then investigates the charges that have been made. During this the President has the right to defend himself through an authorised counsel. If the second house approves the charges by a two-thirds majority again, the President is removed from office by impeachment. The procedure for the removal of the President has been made difficult because the President holds an important position under our Constitution.

18. Ans. d

Extra Information - Democratic government is a government in which people participate in its functioning. Firstly it means that public offices should be open to all. No one should be barred from contesting elections. All citizens must have equal rights.

This is called the principle of political equality. For, a democracy must treat all its citizens as equal. If for instance, the state says that any person or group of persons belonging to a particular community cannot participate in politics that would go against the principle of democracy.

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Secondly in a democratic country there is also the principle of freedom. People should be free to express their opinion about their government and to take important decisions of their lives on their own. Finally democracy in modern times is a government which is responsible to the people. It is a government in which the people must decide who would rule them. It follows that if the people do not like a government, they can change it through elections which are ensured in a democratic government.

19. Ans. d

Related Information - "We, the people of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic and to secure to all its citizens: Justice, social, economic and political; Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; Equality of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all Fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual and unity and integrity of the Nation; in our Constituent Assembly this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, do hereby adopt, enact and give to ourselves this Constitution."

The Preamble sets out what the objectives of our government are and the kind of system the Constitution wishes to set up in India. It declares India a Sovereign state. Sovereignty means absolute independence, a government which is not controlled by any other power.

The Preamble also states Secularism as an ideal. It means that there is no state religion of India. The State does not favour people of any particular religion. The citizens are free to follow and practise the religion of their own choice.

The Preamble also declares Socialism to be one of the objectives. The ideal of equality remains incomplete if it is restricted only to the political sphere. It must extend to social and economic life, too. The Preamble declares India to be a Republic. It means that the head of the State, i.e. the President is elected by the people, and he is not a hereditary ruler as in case of a monarchy.

20. Ans. d

Extra Information - According to the Constitution the President enjoys various types of powers. Besides the executive powers the President also has powers in legislative, judicial, financial and emergency matters. Though these powers are, in reality, the powers of the central government, these are exercised in the name of the President.

The President occupies the country's highest executive office. All executive powers of the central government are, therefore, vested in him. The President appoints

the Prime Minister and on her/his advice appoints other members of the Council of Ministers. Actually the President has to call the leader of the party or the leader of the largest single party or a combination of parties which enjoy majority in the Lok Sabha, to form the Council of Ministers.

The President summons the sessions of Parliament and prorogues them. He can even dissolve the Lok Sabha for general elections. These powers are again formal. President, in using all his formal powers, must act according to the Prime Minister's advice.

He inaugurates the Parliament by addressing the Lok Sabha after a general election and also at the beginning of the first session every year. His address on these occasions is actually meant to outline the government's policy.

21. Ans. b

Explan - Cooperative societies advance loans to their members for industries like pottery, metal utensils and ceramics and for fishing farms. These industries are also provided with raw materials and implements. Market arrangements are made for the finished products.

You must have seen some houses and townships constructed by cooperative societies in the cities. These houses are allotted to the members. The cost of such houses is paid in instalments.

The cooperative societies are based on voluntary cooperation. The central and the state governments assist these bodies in various ways. They popularize the idea of cooperation among the people. They also advise the societies and provide them with necessary help.

22. Ans. a

Extra Information - The literal meaning of panchayat is a committee of five persons. In ancient times a committee of five elders or panchas used to resolve disputes in the village. This was how the panchayats came into being.

During The British administration these institutions gradually declined and their functions were taken over by the government officials. But the Constitution of India has given special emphasis to the establishment of village panchayats. This is the reason why after Independence the state governments revived the institution of panchayats. The main object of the village panchayat is to improve the conditions of the village.

23. Ans. a

Explan - It is the subordinate judiciary that comes into most immediate contact with the ordinary people in the judicial field. Therefore, it is particularly necessary that

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their independence is placed beyond question in order to create public confidence.

The judges of the District Courts are appointed by the Governor in consultation with the High Court. A person eligible for appointment as a district judge should be either an advocate or a pleader of seven year's standing or an officer in the judicial service of the union or the state.

Appointment of a person other than district judges is made by the Governor in accordance with rules made by her/him after consultation : with the High Court and the State Public Service Commission. The Public Service Commission conducts competitive examinations for the selection of candidates for appointment in the State Judicial Service.

Except for minor local variations the structure and function of the subordinate court are uniform throughout the country.

For the purpose of judicial administration each state is divided into a number of districts. Each district is under the jurisdiction of a district judge. Under the district judge there is a hierarchy of judicial officers exercising varying types of jurisdictions.

24. Ans. a

Explain - In a democratic society there must be two way traffic between the citizens and the government. All governments demand certain duties from its citizens and all citizens have to observe those duties. But in turn, the State must also admit some demands of its citizen on itself. These are called rights. A person who is ruled by laws but who has no political rights is not a citizen.

People who live in States which are not democratic often do not enjoy political rights. In such a State the government expects the subjects to perform their duties to pay taxes, to obey laws, do whatever else the government wants of them. But they cannot question their rules or ask them to explain their actions. Politics in these societies is like a one way traffic. The government tells the people what to do and what not to do but does not listen to them in return. Only the rulers have rights. The ruled have none and hence they are not citizens.

Historically; the term 'citizen' was linked with the rise of democracy.

25. Ans. d

Extra Information - Its exclusive original jurisdiction extends to any dispute between the Government of India and one or more States or between the Government of India and any State or States on one side and one or more States on the other or between two or more States, if and insofar as the dispute involves any question

(whether of law or of fact) on which the existence or extent of a legal right depends. In addition, Article 32 of the Constitution gives an extensive original jurisdiction to the Supreme Court in regard to enforcement of Fundamental Rights. It is empowered to issue directions, orders or writs, including writs in the nature of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, quo warranto and certiorari to enforce them. The Supreme Court has been conferred with power to direct transfer of any civil or criminal case from one State High Court to another State High Court or from a Court subordinate to another State High Court. The Supreme Court, if satisfied that cases involving the same or substantially the same questions of law are pending before it and one or more High Courts or before two or more High Courts and that such questions are substantial questions of general importance, may withdraw a case or cases pending before the High Court or High Courts and dispose of all such cases itself. Under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, International Commercial Arbitration can also be initiated in the Supreme Court.

26. Ans. b

Explain - Civic services: Services like health, education, water-supply, etc. rendered to the local residents by the local bodies such as municipalities, panchayats, etc. are known as civic services.

Civil cases: Civil cases are those cases which are concerned with disputes of property, money-lending and also dispute between house-owners and tenants.

Community development: It is a programme of rural development. It provides the village people with modern facilities, e.g. electricity, better means of transport, communication, and health care.

Criminal Cases: Criminal cases are those cases which are related to crimes like murder, robbery and theft.

27. Ans. b

Explain - The Constitution mentions that the state should strive to give the right to work, right to education, right to assistance from the government in case a citizen is unemployed, sick, retired or disabled. It should try to give free legal aid to poor people. So that poor people, who suffer greater injustices in society, can also go to courts and defend their rights.

All the Directive Principles, however, are not social and political rights. Some of them are instructions to the government in other matters. For instance, the Constitution says that the State should try to prevent concentration of wealth; it should ensure that workers in factories can have a share in decision making.

It also instructs the State to promote and develop institutions of Panchayati Raj. It also tells the State to

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promote and look after public health, animal husbandry, prevent slaughter of cows and other milk giving animals, and to ban drinking. The State is also asked to promote cottage industries. It is instructed to protect forests, the wild life of the country and ancient monuments. Finally, the Constitution also says that the State should always follow policies which would help maintain peace in the world.

28. Ans. c

Explan - The President has important judicial powers as well. He appoints the Chief Justice of India. Other judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by him in consultation with the Chief Justice. He also appoints the Chief Justices of state High Courts, and other judges. In this the President consults the Chief Justice of India, the Chief Justice of the High Court of the state concerned and its Governor. If the President considers that a question of law or a matter of public importance has arisen, he can ask the Supreme Court's advisory opinion about it which he may or not accept. The President has the power to grant pardon or reduce the sentence awarded to a criminal.

29. Ans. b

Explan - The Deputy Commissioner also looks after the planning work in the district. In each plan there would be some projects for the district, for instance, the digging of a canal, setting up of schools or hospitals, constructing roads. As the main officer of the district, the Deputy Commissioner has to see that these works are done. In some cases the Deputy Commissioner acts as a judge and decides cases.

The budget for the district is prepared and placed before the higher authorities in the State by the Deputy Commissioner. Every year the Deputy Commissioner also prepares an annual report of the district administration and submits the same to the state government. If an election is to be held, it is again the duty of the Deputy Commissioner to make arrangements for polling. Besides, all these functions the Deputy Commissioner has to perform various kinds of supervisory work.

Administratively, a district is divided into sub-divisions; and sub-divisions are divided into tehsils. Those who administer tehsils and sub-divisions work under the control and supervision of the Deputy Commissioner. In other words the Deputy Commissioner is in overall charge of the administration of the district.

30. Ans. b

Explan - All men and women in a village, whose age is 18 years and above, are members of the Gram Sabha. These members of Gram Sabha elect some representatives' from among themselves. The number of these representatives may differ from state to state.

The elected representatives constitute the Village Panchayat. It is necessary that the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, women belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and other backward classes have representatives in the village panchayats.

The village Panchayat has the responsibility of improving the conditions of its village. It performs various functions such as looking after health and sanitation, providing education, maintaining, buying and selling village property. The village panchayat maintains the accounts of its expenditure and income, and present these before the Gram Sabha. At least two meetings of the Gram Sabha in a year are compulsory.

31. Ans. d

Extra Information - The Municipal Corporation is like a small government. The most important body of the Municipal Corporation is its Council. The Council is the city's legislature. It consists of members who are called Municipal Councillors. They are elected on the basis of adult franchise. Their constituencies are the different wards into which the city is divided.

The Municipal Corporation has a Mayor who is the city's most important official. The duty of the mayor is to preside over the meetings of the Corporation and conduct its business.

Corporations are usually large bodies. In large bodies it takes a long time to take decisions. So the work of the corporation is divided between various committees and undertakings made up of its members. The Municipal Corporation also has an Executive Officer who is called the Municipal Commissioner. The law which sets up a Corporation usually specifies the powers of the Municipal Commissioner. She/he has to administer the policies laid down by the Corporation. The Municipal Commissioner is always a civil servant and is appointed by the state government.

32. Ans. a

Related Information - In democratic governments, there is another important principle. This principle is called the separation of the executive from the judiciary. This is done in order to ensure that the judiciary can function independently and impartially. What does this principle mean? How is it made effective? It means that if the courts are to perform their functions well, and they must do so because the success of democracy depends on them, the judiciary must not be biased in favour of the government.

The threat to the citizen's rights comes normally from the government, or to be more precise, the executive branch of government. It is the executive which actually governs the country and its citizens. In the parliamentary executive, the government is very powerful. If the judiciary i.e. the courts have to judge the disputes between the citizens and government, it must be



impartial. This is possible only when there is independence of the judiciary.

This is ensured in various ways. The most important way is to separate the judiciary from the executive. This means that as far as possible the same official should not have both executive as well as the judicial powers.

33. Ans. d

Explan - Like local self-institutions at various levels in the rural areas under the Panchayati Raj system, we have Municipalities at different levels in the urban areas. The Seventy Fourth Amendment Act provides the formation of a Municipal Corporation for a larger urban area, a Municipal Council for a smaller urban area and a Nagar Panchayat for a transitional area which is smaller than a city but bigger than a village. The Act also provides that election to these local self-governments in cities will be held every five years. The minimum age for a candidate to contest election will be 21 years.

Local self-government bodies in big cities are called Corporations. Corporations of big cities are set up by laws of their respective state legislature. The legislature specifies the powers of these bodies. They also allocate to them some sources of revenue, by which they can carry on their work. But most Municipal Corporations also have to take money from their state governments.

34. Ans. b

Extra Information - India has a unified judicial system. What does this mean? As you have already studied India has parallel legislative branches-one at the centre and the others in the states. Similarly there is the union executive and the state executive. However under no circumstances can we refer the judiciary as union judiciary and state judiciary.

India has a single unified judicial system for the entire country. The Supreme Court is situated at the top of this unified judicial system and is also known as the apex court. Below the Supreme Court there are the state High Courts and further below are the subordinate courts.

The Supreme Court has the power to supervise and control the entire judicial system in India. Hence, you may say that the Indian judicial system stands like a pyramid. The subordinate courts at the district level form the base of the pyramid. Then there, are the High Courts at the state level and the Supreme Court of India is at the top.

The judiciary or our courts play a very important role within the federal set up of India. Ordinarily, there are no chances of a dispute between the two sets of governments because their powers are very clearly laid down in the Constitution. Still disputes arise.

35. Ans. d

Extra Information - The village panchayat also elects the Up-Pradhan, and various committees and their chairmen. In the absence of Pradhan his/her duties and functions are performed by the Up-Pradhan. If the work

of the Pradhan, Up-Pradhan, and the other elected office-bearers is found unsatisfactory, the village panchayat has the power to remove them by passing a vote of no confidence. A sarpanch is an elected head of a village-level statutory institution of local self-government called the panchayat (village government) in India (gram panchayat), Pakistan and Bangladesh. The sarpanch, together with other elected panchas (members), constitute the gram panchayat. The sarpanch is the focal point of contact between government officers and the village community. Recently, there have been proposals to give sarpanches small judicial powers under panchayati raj. In some states of India like Bihar, Sarpanch has been empowered to look into various civil and criminal cases, and given judicial power to punish and impose fine on those violating rules.

36. Ans. d

Explan - The members of the Lok Sabha are directly elected by the people. All the citizens of the age of 18 and above have the right to vote, and elect the members of the Lok Sabha. In order to be a member of the Lok Sabha a person must be an Indian citizen of at least 25 years of age. Each state or union territory is divided into various constituencies. Each constituency elects one representative. The candidate who gets the highest number of votes in a constituency is declared elected.

The Lok Sabha cannot have more than 550 elected members of these, 530 members are elected from different states and the remaining 20 members are from the union territories. The President can nominate two members belonging to Anglo Indian community in case it does not have adequate representation.

The term of the Lok Sabha is five years. Only, during emergency, this term can be extended by one year at a time by the Parliament itself. The Lok Sabha can be dissolved even before its full term of five years.

37. Ans. a

Explan - Our Constitution gives every-one the right to practice one's religion. Every citizen should practice religion in her/his own way; but in doing so one must respect the right of other citizens to practice their religion in the way they like. The qualities of good citizens must, therefore, include a consciousness of their own rights, tolerance for others and respect for laws. The right to freedom of religion is a fundamental right guaranteed under Article 25 of the Constitution of India. Article 25 reads as follows:-

- (1) Subject to public order, morality and health and to the other provisions of this Part, all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practise and propagate religion.
- (2) Nothing in this article shall affect the operation of any existing law or prevent the State from making any law-

- (a) Regulating or restricting any economic, financial, political or other secular activity which may be associated with religious practice;
- (b) Providing for social welfare and reform or the throwing open of Hindu religious institutions of a public character to all classes and sections of Hindus.

38. Ans. c

Explan - Since India has adopted a federal form of government is important that the states should also participate in the legislative activity at the centre. This is done through the Rajya Sabha. The qualifications of Rajya Sabha member are similar to those of the members of the Lok Sabha; except that the minimum age here is 30 years.

It has 250 members. Of these, 238 are representatives of the states and the union territories, and the other 12 are called nominated members as they do not come through elections. They are nominated by the President and are people who are eminent in the fields of literature, science, art or social service. Its elected members are elected by the members of the Legislative Assembly of that state. This is why this election is called indirect election.

Unlike the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha is not dissolved. It is a permanent house. But after every two years, one-third of its members retire. An individual member of the Rajya Sabha has tenure of 6 years at time.

Legislative Council or Vidhan Parishad is the upper house in bicameral legislatures in some states of India. The legislative council is permanent body but 1/3rd of its member retire every 2 years.

39. Ans. a

Explan - The Pradhan, the Up-Pradhan and other members of Panchayats are honorary, which means that they do not accept any salary for their services. There is a salaried person to maintain the accounts of the panchayat who is generally known as the Panchayat Secretary. The duty of this officer is to prepare the report of the work done by the panchayat and to maintain the relevant records and registers. The Panchayat Secretary is a permanent employee. The Secretary of the panchayat is a non-elected representative, appointed by the state government, to oversee panchayat activities.

40. Ans. c

Explan - Most of us do not have to try to become citizens of India. We are citizens simply because our parents, either both or at least one of them, are Indian citizens. This kind of citizen is called a natural born citizen. Some countries have another rule for being a natural born citizen. Anyone born in the territory of that country, even if her or his parents are not citizens of that country, is automatically given citizenship. But the Indian Constitution does not follow that rule.

There is a second form of citizenship which is called acquired or naturalized citizenship. A person who is not a citizen of India can apply for Indian citizenship; and when this is granted the person is called a naturalized citizen. The procedure for acquiring citizenship is determined by a law made by the Parliament. To acquire citizenship a person has to fulfil some conditions, like living in the country for a fixed length of time or by marriage. A person can also lose her/his citizenship in certain cases. For some types of legal offence, the government can take away a person's citizenship. Besides a person accepting the citizenship of another country loses the citizenship of her or his own country.

41. Ans. d

Related Information - A modern state is not a minimal state, i.e. a state which restricts itself to only a small number of functions. It also has a large sum of money in its hands. That is why it is so important to try to understand how the government works and to see that it runs in a proper way. The state with so much power in the government can do enormous amount of good to the society, but also if it acts wrongly an equal amount of harm can also be caused.

42. Ans. c

Extra Information - The functions of the panchayats are many. The panchayat makes arrangements for water, health, sanitation, upkeep of the roads, lighting arrangements and planting of trees. The panchayat has to keep the village clean. For this the panchayat employs labourers. If the drain or the toilet of any house spreads filth in the village, the panchayat has the power to serve a notice to the owner of that house and force the person to repair them.

The maintenance and repair of public wells, tanks and pits are also the functions of the panchayats. If there are any complaints against the Patwari, Lekhpal, police constable, chaukidar or vaccinator, the panchayat can report the matter to the higher authorities. Besides these compulsory duties the village panchayats can also undertake some work voluntarily.

43. Ans. d

Extra Information - The President has certain emergency powers to meet any kind of extraordinary or abnormal situations in the country. There can be times of difficulty in the life of the country. These can be because of war; or because there is serious disturbance in the country, or for other reasons as well. In these situations the government can assume more powers than it ordinarily enjoys. Formally, these emergency powers are with the President. But in this again, the President has to act on the advice of the Council of Ministers.

If the President thinks that the security of India or of any part of the territory thereof is threatened by a war or external aggression or armed rebellion he can declare a state of emergency for the whole of India. He can

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declare such an emergency only on the basis of a written request to the Council of Ministers. Such a declaration must be approved by the Parliament within one month.

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44. Ans. a

Explan - Apart from the President, we also have an office of a Vice-President. His election is different from that of the President's. He is elected by an 'Electoral College'. It is made up of the members of both houses of Parliament.

The Vice-President must be a citizen of India. He must be 35 years of age and eligible to be a member of the Rajya Sabha. He is elected for a period of five years. The Vice-President is ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

During the absence, or illness of the President, the Vice-President performs the President's functions. If the President resigns or dies, the Vice-President officiates till a new President is elected, which must be done within six months.

45. Ans. b

Explan - The government in which all powers are vested in one single, central government is called unitary form of government. In this case, powers of government are not distributed between the central government and the state governments. There are often smaller units in such countries too, with their own administration. But these administrative units are created simply for convenience. The powers that these administrative units enjoy are simply delegated or given to them by the central authority; and these powers can be changed, reduced or simply withdrawn by the central government. These units are therefore, mere agents of the central government in a unitary form.

Unitary State is that state in which all the powers are vested with one central government and the local governments exist and operate only in a way as is desired by the central government. It involves the creation of a single integrated system of government vested with all the powers which it can exercise by itself or through the delegation of some of these powers to the local governments.

The local governments work as administrative units of the central government. Their powers and role depend upon the wishes of the central government. The Centre Government has the power to change, territorial or other features of the system of local governments.

Britain, France, Japan, Italy, China and several other countries are unitary states. Since a unitary state is characterised by a single central government, it is

popularly conceptualized as a unitary government. On the basis of these definitions, we can define a Unitary state as the one in which all powers are possessed by a single central government which creates and delegates some of its powers to the local governments working in local areas or provinces of the state.

46. Ans. d

Extra Information - The committee that works at the block level has different names in different states. In some states it is called Khand Samiti, while in others it is called either Pradesh Samiti or Panchayat Samiti. The Block Samiti is an important link between the village panchayat and the Zila Parishad.

The people elect the members of their village panchayat but the members of the Block Samiti are not elected directly by the people. All the Pradhans and Panchas of the village panchayats in a block elect their representatives to the Block Samiti.

Every Block Samiti must have two female representatives, representatives from the scheduled castes, the scheduled tribes, backward classes, women belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. If by chance such members are not there in the Samiti, the members of the Samiti can make them members.

All the members of the Block Samiti elect a chairperson and a vice chairperson. The chairperson looks after the day-to-day work of the Block Samiti. If the members are not satisfied with the work of the chairperson, they have the power to pass a vote of no-confidence against the chairperson. In the absence of the chairperson, the vice-chairperson performs the duties. All decisions in the Samiti are taken by a majority vote.

The Block Samitis are elected every five years, so the term of their members is five years.

47. Ans. b

Explan - There is a procedure laid down in the Constitution for the, creation or abolition of the Legislative Council. First, the Legislative Assembly has to pass resolution for its abolition or creation by two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. But this number must not be less than a majority of the total membership of the house. Once this is done the Parliament may pass a law to put this resolution into effect.

The strength of the Legislative Assembly varies from state to state depending on the size and population of the concerned state. The Constitution makes the provision that it cannot have more than 500 members, and its members are elected directly by the people on the basis of adult suffrage. The term of the Legislative Assembly is five years.

Like the Lok Sabha, the Legislative Assembly is more powerful than the Legislative Council in the states. The Legislative Council cannot be larger in size than one-third of the Legislative Assembly of that particular state and its composition is also quite different. One-third of

its members are elected, by electorate formed out of local self governing bodies. Another one-third is elected by members of the respective Legislative Assembly. One-twelfth are elected by a constituency of graduates, another one-twelfth are elected by teachers of secondary schools, colleges and universities. The rest (one-sixth) members are nominated by the state Governor from among persons who are experts in the held of literature, art, science, cooperative movement or social service. One-third of the members of the Legislative Council retire after every two years. The term of members is, therefore, six-years. To be a member of the state legislature a citizen must be 25 years of age for the membership of the Assembly and 30 years of age for the Council.

48. Ans. b

Explan - The executive of the state consists of the Governor and the Council of Ministers with the Chief Minister at its head. Its functions are very much similar to the union executive except on certain points. In states also, there is a difference between the nominal head and the real head of the executive. The Governor is the nominal head of the state government; the real head is the Chief Minister.

The Governor is appointed by the President and holds office during the pleasure of the President. Her/his term is for five years. To be a Governor, a person has to be a citizen of India and 35 years of age. The President can appoint the same person as Governor of one or more than one state. Normally, the Governor should not belong to the state to which she/he has been appointed the Governor.

All executive powers of the state government are normally given to the Governor. The Governor has to use these powers on the advice of the Council of Ministers of the state. The Governor appoints the Council of Ministers in the state, which aids and advises her/him.

49. Ans. b

Explan - A federal form of government is organised very differently. The state governments in a federation are not mere agents of the central government. They are created not by the central government, but by the constitution. In a federal government the constitution has to divide the powers and areas of the two levels of governments clearly. This is called a constitutional division of powers. This ensures that the two levels of

governments do not interfere with each other. Usually this constitutional division of powers cannot be changed easily. It can be done only through a formal change or amendment to the constitution. And the procedure for amendment is such that in some cases it even requires the approval of some states.

Although the constitutions of federal states try to divide the powers carefully and clearly, disputes occasionally arise between the two levels of governments. Such disputes are usually brought to the judiciary which settles them according to the constitution, and which keeps the two levels of government within their own spheres.

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50. Ans. c

Explan - Nyaya Panchayats have been established for providing speedy justice and for re-solving minor disputes of the villagers. There is one Nyaya Panchayat for a number of village panchayats. Each village panchayat elects some members to the Nyaya Panchayat. No person can be a member of a village panchayat and a Nyaya Panchayat at the same time.

The Nyaya Panchayat deals only with civil and criminal cases. It has a right to impose a fine but does not have the right to send a person to jail. There is no need for pleaders and lawyers in the Nyaya Panchayats. Not much money is involved in the preparation of applications and petitions. The cases tried by the Nyaya Panchayats are decided quickly and are inexpensive. If any person is dissatisfied with judgement of the Nyaya Panchayat, he/she can appeal to the higher courts.

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