



APSC Mains 2023 TS - 12 (GS Paper 2)

Duration – 3 Hrs

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(Please fill your details correctly)

Medium:

English ☒

Assamese ☐

INDEX NUMBER			INSTRUCTIONS
Q.NO.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained.	
1	10		Please read each of the following instruction carefully before attempting the questions: - There are TWENTY questions and printed in ENGLISH. - All questions are compulsory. - The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. - The answers must not exceed 150 words for 10 marks and 250 words for 15 marks. - Content is more important than the number of words. - Answers must be written in the medium authorised in the Admission Certificate which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorised one. - Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off
2	10		
3	10		
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14	15		Remarks: Signature of the Student: <i>Prashanti</i>
15	15		
16	15		
17	15		
18	15		
19	15		
TOTAL:	250		



SPM IAS ACADEMY
SHAPING BRILLIANCE

Brief report of Performance Evaluation of student in the paper

	Poor	Average	Good	Very good	Excellent
Understanding the context and demand of the questions					
Relevancy of the content					
Structure and flow of the answer					
(a) Introduction					
(b) Body					
(c) Conclusion					
Subject knowledge					
Language of the answer					
Presentation					
(a) Underline to the keywords					
(b) Use of flowcharts or diagrams					
(c) Paragraph limits and overall					
Understanding of directives					
Factual correctness					
Overall performance					

Detail Feedback

Q1. Do you see pressure groups as a genuine mechanism for ensuring broader and more participative democracy? Critically comment. (10 marks/150 words)

Ans:

Pressure group are association who come together to externally influence the government to bring changes in society legally.

They put demands of the mass.

~~and~~

PRESSURE GROUP - GENUINE MECHANISM
FOR PARTICIPATIVE DEMOCRACY

- (1) The Pressure groups are associations that ensures that their voices are heard. eg. Lok Pal Bill
- (2) Government cannot take reckless decisions because the pressure groups are constantly reviewing their actions.
- (3) The pressure groups has the capacity to ensure that people's rights and privileges are not denied

(4) Farmer's bills is an example where pressure group made their opinion change the decision.

PRESSURE GROUP - NOT GENUINE MECHANISM

1. Pressure group can make selfish vested interest.
2. The influence of pressure groups ~~is~~ varies regionally.
 ↳ The influence of a pressure group ~~at~~ Punjab is more than any Northeastern state.
3. They only represent a minority section therefore their influence cannot be said to be participative.

However, pressure groups are ensuring accountability in the government.

Q2. The main objective of Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 is to enable tribal society to assume control over their livelihoods and traditional rights. Critically examine the implementation of the Act. (10 marks/150 words)

Ans 2

Schedule 5 of the Indian Constitution incorporates the ~~rights~~ of the Schedule areas of the country.

Panchayats (Extension to Schedule Areas) Act, 1996 is brought to enable tribal society to assume control over their livelihood.

(i) It gives the tribals to use the minor forest products which are source of their livelihood.

(ii) The schedule area tribal group has the capacity for rights to ownership of lands.

↳ no outsider can purchase lands

(iii) For implementation of any projects the opn view of the villagers under PESA is mandatory.

ACT - NOT PROPERLY IMPLEMENTED

- (1) The rights of the people are not always respected. Encroachment in their territory is ~~seen~~ seen.
- (2) They are not duly represented in the state legislative assemblies.
- (3) Their upliftment is not significant enough.
- (4) They still faces isolation and deprivation on political, social and economic front.

PESA can bring due reform in the upliftment of the tribal society

Q3. Examine the challenges of fiscal federalism in India.

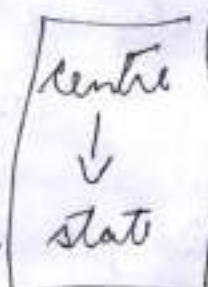
(10 marks/150 words)

Ans)

Fiscal federalism can be defined as distribution of the funds ~~vertically~~ vertically among states.

Article 279.

Challenges of fiscal federalism
in India are:-



- ① The grants are not equally distributed among the states
- ② The developed states are not provided grants in a big amount.
- ③ The special ^{category} states are given more financial support.
eg. North eastern states
- ④ The states like Bihar are demanding for special category status.

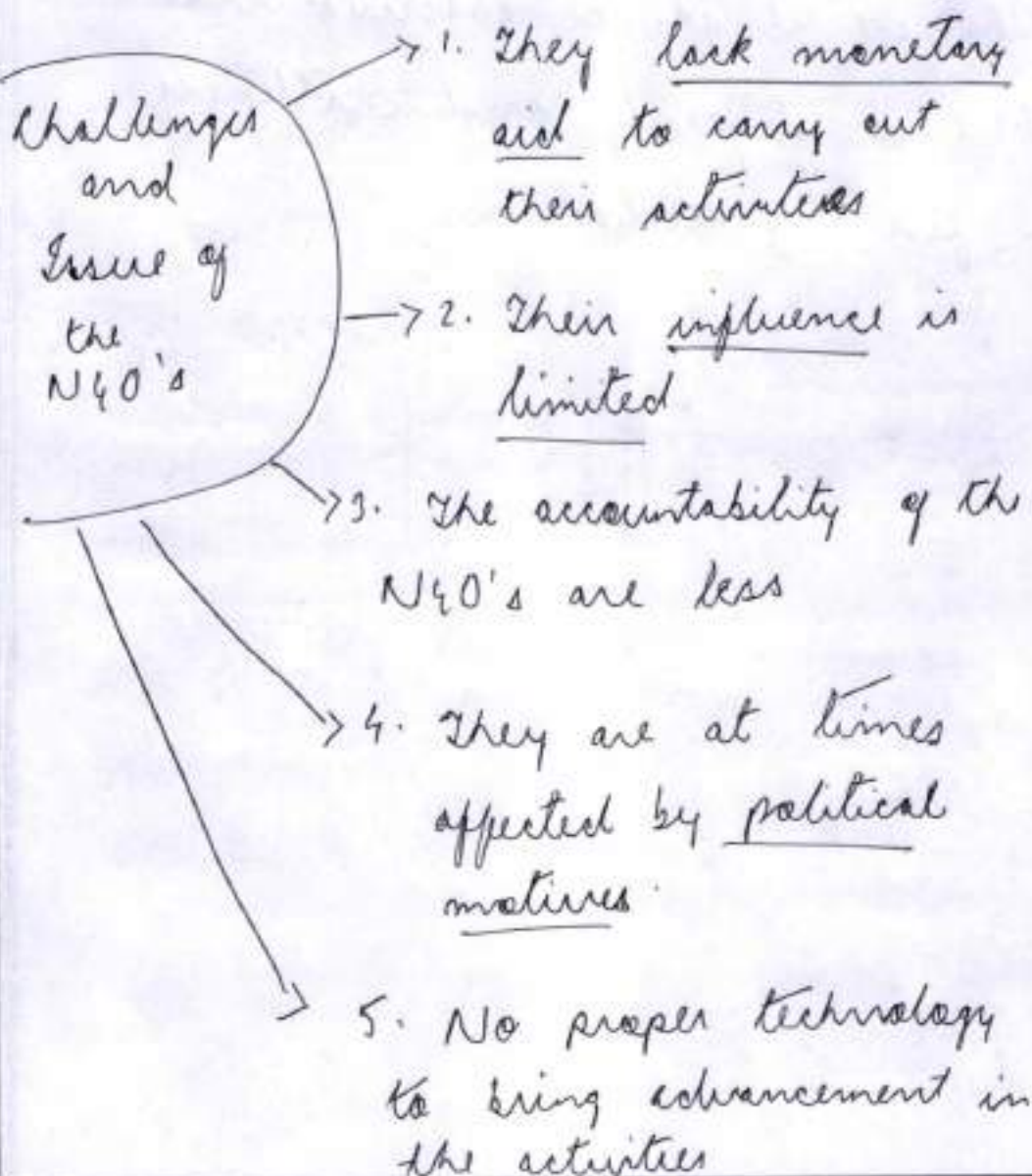
(15) The ratio of centre's contribution is not even
Eg. in Northeastern states centre: state ratio is 90:10, whereas in other states it is 60:40

Therefore, it can be observed that there is disparity and challenges in fiscal federalism.

Q4. What are the challenges and issues regarding the functioning of NGOs in India?
Analyse. (10 marks /150 words)

Ans 4

NGO's are non-government organisation which are working for the upliftment of the society exclusive of the government.



Other than the above reasons the NGO's are sometimes :-

- (i) Involved in Money Laundering.
- (ii) They become an agent to stall developmental activities.

eg. → Kumbhakaram project

- (iii) Their foreign contribution can be used to ~~bring~~ bring negative hamper the internal functioning of the country.

WAY FORWARDS

In order to curb such activities various acts have been brought

- ① Money Laundering Act
- ② Foreign ~~to~~ Exchange Regulation Act

Q5. How can e-governance initiatives help in increasing farmers' income? Illustrate.
(10 marks/150 words)

Ans 5

The e-governance initiatives has helped the farmers in the following way: -

- ① Help farmer choose the good quality seed
eg. UTTAM app
- ② The farmers can now dial a number provided by the government and ask the experts about their agricultural queries.
- ③ In the My Kisan app, the farmers can register their problems and get quick replies.
- ④ The farmers can now check

the prices of the crops in the digital platform thereby reducing the role of middleman

5. They can sell their products using e-governance
6. They can buy good quality fertilisers and products for their farming activities.

The digitisation of the farming sector will make the farmer aware of the new ways of farming techniques.

Q6. Discuss the need for codification of parliamentary privileges in India, in light of the uncertainty and ambiguity around them. (10 marks 150 words)

Ans 6

Parliamentary Privileges can be explained as those privilege which an Member of Parliament enjoys during the proceedings of the house.

NEED TO CODIFY PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGES

There is a need to codify Parliamentary Privileges because: -

- (1) There is no proper mechanism to ensure the MP's privilege of what he speaks during the Parliament.
- (2) The ambiguity of declaring an anti defection is not certain.

defined.

(3) The voting that take place needs to be more codified

(4) The number of cases referred to departmental committee has been reduces therefore it is essential to codify all such norms

Q7. Discuss the reforms that must be undertaken to strengthen the World Trade Organisation in order to address the vulnerabilities in the present global trading system. (10 Marks/150 words)

Ans 7

WTO organisation is a brain child of the USA led United Nation organisation.

World Trade Organisation ensures smooth trade ~~transfers~~ transaction among countries by reducing trade ~~barriers~~ barriers.

REFORMS - TO STRENGTHEN WTO

- (1) WTO is alleged for favouring the Western countries
 ↳ It needs to be more neutral
- (2) WTO is increasingly ~~bec~~ becoming political
 eg. as seen in COVID times
 ↳ WTO needs to be unbiased

- (3) It needs to have equal rights for all the nations thereby not favouring the US hegemony.
- (4) The arbitrary imposition of trade sanctions needs to be improvised.
- (5) The IPR regulations should be reviewed as during pandemic times US denied to share the COVID vaccination formula.
 ↳ thereby choosing self interest over common good.

WTO needs reform on a wider range to keep its functioning reliable.

Q8. Discuss how the integration of information and communications technology (ICT) in the dispute resolution processes will help in overcoming the challenges associated with the functioning of courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) forums. (10 Marks/150 words)

Ans 8

Information and Communication Technology is increasingly growing in every aspect of the society.

Its integration in the dispute resolution mechanism can help in functioning of courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution forums in the following ways: -

- (i) ICT is faster than manual work
- (ii) It will help in quick redressal of the grievances
- (iii) The records of the previous cases will be stored which will reduce the burden of manually

searching

- (iv) More number of cases can be taken up in a day thereby reducing the pendency of the cases
- (v) Use of ICT will make the courts more accountable and transparent
- (vi) It can easily communicate its laws and reforms to the people.

ICT is the new age solution to the fast world of the 21st century.

Q9. Despite various provisions concerning disqualification of legislators under The Representation of The People Act, 1951, the issue of criminalization of politics is still unresolved to a large extent in India. Discuss. (10 marks/150 words)

Q9

Representation of People Act, 1951
broadly discusses the behaviour and
conduct of the legislators.

PROVISIONS CONCERNING DISQUALIFICATION OF LEGISLATORS

RPA, 1951 ~~discuss~~ discusses about the
disqualification of the legislators in: -

- (i) Anti defection law has been brought
- (ii) Not providing the property details
before elections
- (iii) Not specifically defining the
criminal records of the legislator

ISSUE OF CRIMINALIZATION - NOT RESOLVED

- 1) There is no proper provision talking about the actions to be taken to address the issue of criminalization.
- 2) The use of muscle and money power not ~~is~~ treated as a crime.
- 3) The role of political parties to not allow the criminals in their party is not mentioned.

Q10. Bangladesh is critical not just for India's "Neighbourhood First" strategy, but also for the "Act East" policy. Discuss the efforts made by the two countries to develop their relationship in this setting. (10 marks/150 Words)

Ans 10

Bangladesh and India has maintained bilateral ties since 1971. The erstwhile East Pakistan came into existence due to India's efforts.

BANGLADESH - CRITICAL FOR INDIA'S NEIGHBOURHOOD FIRST STRATEGY

(1) GEOGRAPHY

India shares a total of 3200 km boundary with Bangladesh.

→ share a close tie geographically



(2) Economic :- India and Bangladesh has a trade of \$9.2 billion. Bangladesh mostly exports textile to India.

(3) Political : India and Bangladesh too shares common political history or colonialism.

(4) Strategic : India maintains a good

tie with Bangladesh because China's influence is growing on Bangladesh

ACT EAST POLICY

According to India's Act East Policy Bangladesh is important because:-

- (1) India is trying to project the South Asian as future superpower
- (2) It is a strong defence partner of Bangladesh.
- (3) It has provided a \$746 million line of credit to Bangladesh
- (4) To become a superpower it is essential to maintain a cordial relation with its neighbours
- (5) Cultural ties like India inaugurated Sangabandhu - Ropu exhibition in New Delhi and it will also show it in UN.

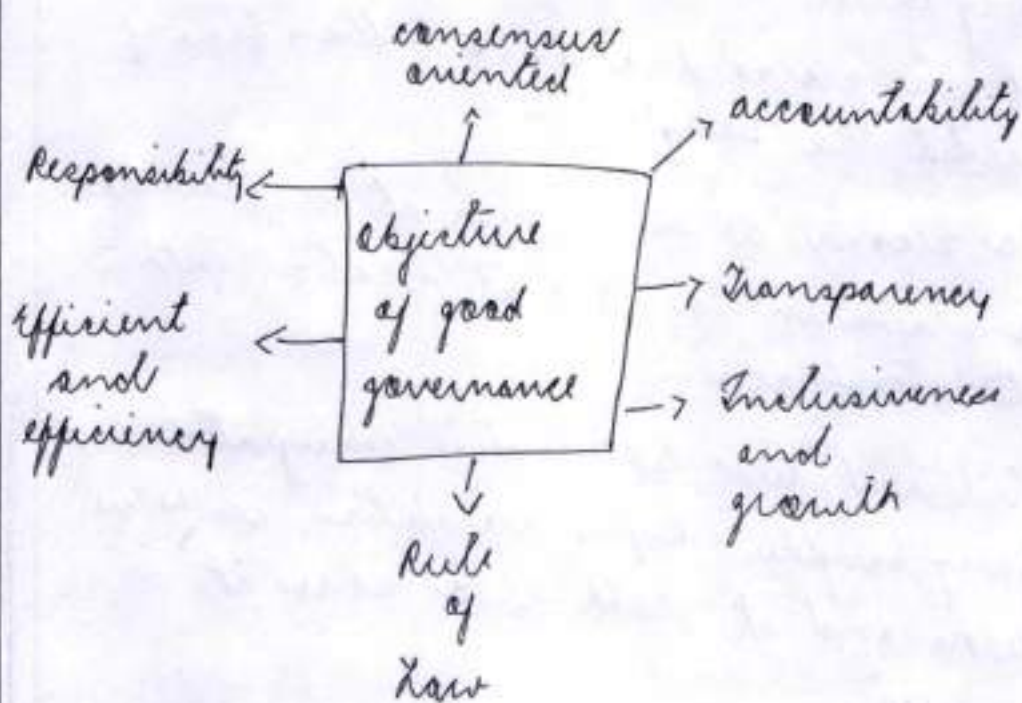
India and Bangladesh are strong strategic partners.

Q11. Good governance needs good institutions, but it is the people manning the institution which impart it its true character. In this perspective, discuss the need for civil services reforms and challenges in implementation. (15 marks/250 words)

Ans 11

According to UNDP 1997, governance is "the action of the government for its citizens which are affected by its various policies."

The objective of good governance lies in its people.



- If the people are equipped equipped with the right tool ~~leg.~~ then to question the action of the government then it can be considered as good governance
- eg. My gov, RTI

NEED OF CIVIL SERVICE REFORM

- (1) To ensure accountability
eg. RTI
- (2) Changing society demands change in old way of working
- (3) To cater to the needs of the marginalised and weaker section
- (4) To curb corruption and ensure transparency
eg. ~~My~~ m-Vahan app, Parivahan app
- (5) To uphold the constitutional value

(iii) To ensure substantive democracy

CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTATION

(1) Political interference

↳ Political interference is much evident in bureaucratic reforms

(2) Consensus

↳ Lack of consensus among the one implementing is another constraint

(3) Lack of adaptability among people to the new technological changes leading to the continuation of manual work.

Civil Service reform is integral in order to cater to the needs of the changing society

Q12. How far do you agree that the Indian government system has a structural bias towards the executive while the role of other arms of the state is limited? Discuss.
(15 marks/250 words)

Ans 12

The Indian government has ~~two~~ ^{three} ~~three~~ organs namely judiciary, executive and legislative.

In the recent past the Indian government has shown a structural bias towards the ~~ex~~ executive :-

- (1) The ordinance issuing capacity of the governor is one of the examples.
- (2) The arbitrary use of power by the executive.
- (3) The growing influence of the

cabinet committee

(4) In the absence of a strong opposition
the role of the executive rises.

Q13. The preamble is not a mere solemn resolution; but majestic expression of philosophy, principles and purpose of the constitution. Elaborate.

(15 marks/250 words)

Ans 13

The Preamble of the Indian Constitution was adopted on 26th of November, 1949 by the Constituent Assembly.

PREAMBLE NOT MERE SOLEMN RESOLUTION

→ The Preamble contains the conception, composition and charter of the Indian government, executive and judiciary.

→ **PHILOSOPHY OF THE CONSTITUTION**

→ India constitutes India itself as a sovereign, socialist, democratic, republic, secular.

SOVEREIGN :- India is not under any other rule. It is independent to make its own decisions.

[SOCIALIST] : India has decided to incorporate itself as a blend of mixed economy having the blends of socialism and capitalism

[DEMOCRATIC] :- The people of India elects its representative who rules on behalf of them.
 eg. Art 326 → Universal Adult Franchise
 Art 330 says there shall be an election commission who will conduct election

[SECTULAR] : India believes in the concept of Sarva Dharma Samava meaning it treats all religion on equal footing
 eg. Art 25-28, Art 29-30

[REPUBLIC] : Head of the state is elected
 eg. President

PRINCIPLES : India give its citizens equality, liberty, justice, fraternity

① **EQUALITY** : - equality of status and opportunity

Arts 14, 15, 16

② **Liberty** : - Liberty of thought, expression, faith as reflected in

Article 19

③ **Justice** : - economic (DPSP Article 39A), political (Arts 14), social

④ **Fraternity** : - sense of brotherhood
→ Fundamental Duties

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Constitution is that the people of India has given to itself the rights, privileges and opportunity which are to be taken

~~care~~ of by the government
It can be reflected in the words
"We the people of India".

Q14. Examine the significance of Representation of People's Act, 1951 in maintaining the sanctity of electoral politics in India. In light of recent events, evaluate the demands of Election Commission of India for reforms in RPA 1951 and Model Code of Conduct. (15 marks/250 words)

SPM IAS ACADEMY
SHAPING BRILLIANCE(Don't write
anything beyond
this margin)

Q15. The arrangements like 'Bi-laterals', 'pluri-laterals' and 'Mini-laterals' are gaining more traction over 'Multilaterals' in contemporary international relations. Give a reasoned account for such rise citing suitable examples and the challenges that come along with it. (15 marks/250 words)

Ans 15

The World has been divided into two blocs the US and the USSR bloc in the cold war era.

- With the disintegration of USSR the world witnessed a ~~new~~ the hegemony of US thus making the world a uni polar country.

- Although the Cold War ended but there remained a constant battle ~~bet~~ between the ~~two~~ erstwhile two superpower.

- The two superpowers have been involved in Proxy wars since the Post Cold War period

- In order to impose its hegemony the US and USSR are trying to form groupings.
- However, China is the rising power and India is itself trying to create a world of multipolar.
- However, after the Russia-Ukraine war the world seems to be getting inclined towards bilateral mechanism.
- The 12U2 is an example of plurilateral world to arrest the rise of China in West Asia.
- To prevent the rise of US and to break its hegemony in IMF, WTO, China and India are building ties in SCO, BRICS etc.

- The China's BRI or the String of Pearl strategy is counter addressed by India, US, Japan and Russia by the QUAD. Thus suggesting ~~multilateral~~ plurilateral relations.
- The SAARC can be seen as a 'Mini lateral' ties

Thus, it can be seen the multilateral ties are ~~well~~ getting less traction in the recent past.

Q16. Do you agree with the assertion that the higher judiciary in India needs to be more transparent and accountable? Share your views. (15 marks/250 words)

The Indian judiciary system is a source of resource and responsibility.

It is regarded as the supreme interpreter of the constitution

JUDICIARY - MORE TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE

① FAVOURATISM : - The Indian judiciary is often said to be promoting the ~~own~~'s favourite in the judiciary

② ~~lack~~ Contempt of Court : - The judiciary has the power to impose contempt of court.

↳ However, the grounds of it are not clearly defined

② Basic structure doctrine

↳ The ~~court~~ judiciary has not explicitly mentioned what constitutes basic structure

(4) Checks and Balance :- The concept of checks and balance is not duly applicable on judiciary

↳ judiciary ~~has~~ scrapped National judicial appointment commission stating it ~~was~~ violates article 50.

(5) PENURGY OF CASES

About 4.7 crore cases are pending in the courts meaning judiciary is not functioning as it should be

↳ In recent times the concept of justice clock has been brought in Delhi to show the cases going on.

However, the role of judiciary is to ensure social engineering. It cannot specifically determine its role since it needs to keep evolving with time.

Therefore, it is essential to bring reforms that can ensure its accountability and transparency.

Q17. India and USA are two large democracies. Examine the basic tenants on which the two political systems are based. (15 marks/250 words)

Ans 17

India and USA are two large democracies.

The basic tenants of two political system are :-

INDIA

- ① India has a written constitution.
↳ It incorporates all the provision of the working of the government
- ② The political system of the India is multi party system
eg. Congress, BJP, AAP etc.
- ③ The head of the state is the de jure head

- ④ The people choose the party which will rule not the Prime Minister
- ⑤ The executive and legislature is not separated.
- ⑥ The removal of PM collapses the government

USA

- ① The President is the de facto head of the state
- ② The party system of USA is bi-party system
eg. Congress and Republican
- ③ The executive and legislature are elected differently
- ④ The impeachment of President do not necessary collapses.

the government

The USA and India are big
democracies with varied political
system.

Q18. It is argued that having a large number of ministries good impedes governance. But it can also be argued that it brings in efficiency by decentralising decisions and accountability? What do you think? Share your views and arguments. (15 marks/250 words)

Ans 19

The ministries under a government are made to look after every aspect of the society

MINISTRIES - IMPEDES GOVERNANCE

- (1) The coordination between the ministry lessens.
- (2) The effectiveness in the working hampers since no coordination
- (3) The duty of two ministries can overlap
- (4) The fund released for both almost similar ministry leads

No wastage of resources

(#)

BRINGS EFFICIENCY - BY DECENTRALIZING
THE DECISIONS

- ① Every ministry will look after every aspect of a society
- ② All issues can be resolved very diligently
- ③ The burden under one ministry can be avoided
- ④ The particular ministry will be more responsible towards his work

⑤ The phenomena of corruption
can be curbed.

⑥ People to government contact
can be ensured

~~Although~~ Although decentralizing
ministry would ensure accountability
but the similar ministry should
be clubbed together to maintain
efficiency

Q19. The position of legislative councils in state legislatures is much weaker than the Rajya Sabha in Parliament Analyse. (15 marks/250 words)

Ans 19

The Indian Parliament is bicameral in nature. It has an upper and lower house. The Rajya Sabha constitutes the upper house.

POSITION OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WEAKER

1# The state legislature has two houses namely state legislative assembly and state legislative council

2# However state legislative council is weaker because

(i) The establishment of state legislative council is not mandatory

- (ii) It can be established only on demand of the ~~state~~ Rajya Sabha.
- (iii) The concept of ~~common~~ nominated members in Legislative Council is absent
- (iv) The house don't possess any powers like the Rajya Sabha
↳ eg. Forming any civil services
or etc.
- (v) The members are not directly elected
- (vi) The members don't have the power to discuss budget.
- (vii) They are more like pressure groups elected from different

remains to exert pressure.

The Rajya Sabha are representatives
of a states. as they possess substantial
power in the Parliament

Q20. The Union list prevails the other lists in terms of distribution of legislative powers in the Indian Constitution. Discuss. (15 marks/250 words)

Ans 20

The 7th schedule of the Indian constitution has three list namely the Union, state and concurrent list.

The union list has the powers which entails to the law and order of the nation, international relations, minerals, ~~atomic~~ atomic plants etc.

UNION LIST- LAST PREVAILS OTHER LIST
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In distribution of legislative power the Union List prevails because :-

- (1) The Union list can legislate on matters related to allocation of minerals and ~~res~~ resources
- (2) The formation of All India services is with the Union
- (3) In ~~concurrent list~~ the distribution of Centre duties to the state government the Union doesn't need state approval

