



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: Yuvraj Gogoi.
15	15		
16	15		
17	15		
18	15		
19	15		
TOTAL:	250		


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 Groups are the groups or association of people who tries to put pressure on the Government or administration for fulfilment of their objective.

Pressure groups as a mechanism for broader and more participative democracy

① Pressure groups act as a safety valve for the people having resentment against any governmental work.

② Pressure groups act as a voice of marginalised and vulnerable sections of people in putting their demands

in front of a larger audience.

③ It strengthens the faith of people in democracy as it allows people to show their disenchantment.

④ For eg. Student unions, Farmers association, business associations (eg. FICCI, ASSOCHAM) have been instrumental in shaping and guiding Indian democracy.

Thus, peaceful coordination and non-violence way of demonstration is preferred to be an essential part of working of pressure groups.

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:—

Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 was enacted by Govt. of India (PESA) to extend the features of local-self government to the areas of scheduled and tribal areas.

PESA Act in ensuring livelihoods and traditional rights:

- ① The act extended the jurisdiction of the Act which was earlier limited to few areas in India.
- ② It empowered the ~~to~~ scheduled areas population to claim their right and

taking part in participative democracy,

- ③ It promoted the bottom-up approach of development.

challenges in PESA Act

- ① Although the ~~horizontal~~ vertical devolution was done; but the horizontal devolution is still at nascent stage.
- ② Issue of fund, function and functionaries.
- ③ The act has not been fully synchronised with acts like - Forest Rights Act (2006), Forest Conservation Act (1980) etc.

Thus, PESA Act has ~~been~~ successful in providing benefits to the tribal society but the improvements in the act is the need of the hour.

Q3. Examine the challenges of fiscal federalism in India.

(10 marks/150 words)

Ans:—

Fiscal federalism refers to the promotion of cooperation among the states and the Union in distribution of fiscal resources and financial devolution.

Challenges of Fiscal federalism in India

① Many states in India claims that vertical devolution is unjust. They advocate for more share in favour of states.

② Horizontal devolution:

- States of southern India receives less grant compared to the states in northern belt of India.

- ③ Many states demand for their inclusion in "Special category states" for fulfilling their financial needs.
- ④ After the introduction of GST, there is a debate ~~for~~ of top-down approach in financial devolution.

Positives of Fiscal federalism

- ① ~~14th~~ ^{14th} Finance Commission increased the financial share of states. (from 32% to 42%)
- ② Provisions like grants-in-aid and other assistances for states by the Centre.

~~The~~ Indian fiscal federalism is an evolving journey of cooperation and deliberation.

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

Ans:—

NGOs (Non-Governmental organization) are the organizations / association who ~~are~~ works for the cause of citizens and vulnerable sections, etc without governmental assistance.

Challenges faced by NGOs in India.

① Lack of funds: NGOs often face the issue of availability of funds.

② Increasing poverty is also a rising concern.

③ Governmental support and assistance for NGOs working in some sectors (eg, environment etc) are less.

- ④ People's participation in NGOs are also not satisfactory.

Issues in functioning of NGOs

① Skewed distribution :

- Many NGOs are concentrated only in the urban regions like Delhi, Mumbai.
- There is a need of more NGOs in rural areas.

② Development v/s environment issue :

- Many NGOs; sometimes took up the issue of environment which hinders development.

③ Foreign funding for halting national development. eg: Kudankulam Nuclear plant issue.

Thus, NGOs are integral part for raising the voice and working ~~on~~ on these issues.

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

Ans:—

e-governance refers to the electronic mode of the working of ~~the~~ governance. For faster service delivery and citizen's grievance redressal, there is a need of efficient and accountable e-governance mechanism.

e-governance initiatives in helping to increase farmers' income:

① Speedy disposal ~~are~~ of land-related issues will benefit the farmers.
eg: Sewa-Setu by Assam govt for land-related ~~case~~ e-governance.

② ~~B~~ Integration of government schemes like PM-Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PM-KSY)

needs to be integrated with e-Governance.

- ③ "Doubling of Farmers Income Report"
suggests to implement faster delivery
of services to benefit the farmers.
- ④ For boost in agricultural production,
~~the~~ e-governance can be helpful in
awaiting Direct-Benefit Transfer (DBT)
etc.
- ⑤ Financial inclusion mechanism eg.
Kisan Credit Card (KCC) etc.

Thus, for greater inclusion and
empowerment of farmers, there is a
need to boost the e-governance initiatives

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:—

Parliamentary privileges are made available to the member of Parliament, MLA, MLC etc. for ensuring the interests of their basic rights & freedom.

Need for codification of parliamentary privileges

- ① For safeguarding the interests of opposition-parties legislature.
- ② For a greater inclusion of members from all the parties.
- ③ to reduce the discretionary powers of the presiding officer as he ~~is~~ may not

be free from political influence.

② for strengthening the parliamentary democracy.

④ For eg: ^{The matter of} Disqualification on the grounds of anti-defection is vested on the Presiding officer.

Parliamentary privileges that are codified in the Constitution of India

① Article 121 & 211: Legislators cannot discuss the conduct of Judges of Supreme Court & High Courts.

② Article 122 & 212: Courts cannot discuss the conduct of legislators inside the house.

Thus, for ~~a~~ strengthening democratic process, codification of parliamentary ~~for~~ privileges is must.

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:-

World Trade Organisation (WTO) is a pioneer global institution for regulation of global trade flow.

It determines and supervises the trading ~~to~~ among member countries and guides them regarding issues like dumping, excessive tariff, subsidized products etc.

Reforms to be undertaken to strengthen
WTO

- ① Strict set of rules should be published and strict implementation should be followed.

- ② Supervision of rising monopolies by the developed economies.
- ③ Regulation of Chinese aggression in trade & economic assistance for own benefit,
eg. Debt-trap policy.
- ④ Anti-dumping mechanism should be strengthened.
- ⑤ The developing and underdeveloped economies of the world should be promoted and uplifted.
WTO; as a leading trade institution needs to be strengthened for fair and rule-based global trade flow.

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~~

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) has many potential for tackling challenges in the fields of administration, Judiciary, service delivery etc.

ICT in dispute resolution process

① Indian judiciary is overburdened with more than 4.5 Crore pending cases.

Integration of ICT will ^{be} certainly helpful in dissolution of many cases.

② ICT can also increase productivity and efficiency of Indian courts.

③ As there are less manpower (eg. Judges, staffs etc) in courts of India, so ICT will be helpful.

ICT in overcoming challenges in ADR forums

① Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is a emerging dispute-solving idea. So, inclusion of ICT can be helpful in removing discrepancies.

New and emerging technologies like ICT should be integrated in Indian administration and judiciary for overcoming pendencies and citizens' grievances.

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)

Ans:—

The Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RPA) was enacted for formulating set of rules and guidelines of public representatives like MP, MLA, MLCs etc.

Provisions for disqualification under RPA

① Criminal grounds:

- Section 8(i) of RPA states:†
 - promoting enmity between religious groups.
 - undue influence.
 - rape or heinous crimes against women.

② On the grounds of corruption,

③ other grounds:

eg. being a member of unlawful organization
violation of NDPS Act, 1985 etc.

- ④ on ~~pro~~ contractual grounds.
- ⑤ Failure to provide expenses in election.

still, the issue of criminalization of politics is still unresolved; due to:

- ① slow judicial process.
- ② Political parties sometimes do not restrict the members of criminal ~~group~~ activities from contesting elections.

③ The role of Election Commission of India (ECI) in ^{matters of} disqualification is often debated.

Fast-track courts and speedy trial process for criminal legislators is the need of hour for a healthy electoral environment.

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

Bangladesh is India's
neighbouring ~~having~~ the
longest land-boundary
of 4096 km.



Bangladesh relations with India

① Neighbourhood First strategy:

- many assistance in terms of financial
geopolitical have been provided by
both countries to each other.

- eg. During Indo-Pak war of 1971,
India provided military ~~and~~ assistance
and shelter for Bangladesh.

② Act - East policy:

- For increase in trade and cooperation

many bilateral agreements have been signed.

Efforts made by India and Bangladesh in developing their relationship

- ① Land-border issue: Both countries have concluded several agreements for resolving border disputes.
- ② River sharing issue is also being tackled, eg. Teesta-river water sharing.
- ③ Increase in trade between India and Bangladesh.

India needs to strengthen and promote the relationship with Bangladesh fulfilling for the mutual interests.

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:—

Good governance refers to the progressive and citizen-centric approach for speedy service-delivery and quick grievance redressal.

Need for civil service reforms

① Civil service is the backbone of governance.

② ~~part~~ for a participative governance, civil service with emphatic character is needed.

③ 2nd ARC (Administrative reform Commission) also suggests for cooperation and

efficient service-delivery.

④ For upliftment and inclusion of vulnerable and marginalised sections of people, there is a need of reform in civil services.

⑤ To implement the new technologies like e-governance,

⑥ Citizen charter is also not dynamic and citizen-centric in India.

⑦ Only civil service reforms can promote participative-administration in India.

Challenges in implementation of civil service reforms

① Colonial hangover: Most civil servants

are not ~~emphas~~ following empathy in service delivery,

② Criminalisation of politics and politicization of bureaucracy acts as a big hurdle.

③ lack of inclusivity among public servants.

④ lack of modernization.

Thus, for making a change in governance, a holistic approach from all the stakeholders is required.

citizens participation as well as legislative reforms should be prioritized in the journey of attaining good-governance.

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:—

In the Indian government system, executive plays the leading role in implementation and execution of policies. The other arms like legislative, bureaucracy are equipped with lesser powers compared to the executive.

Biasness towards executive in Indian government system

① In public policy making, although legislators play a real role in legislative process, but it is the executive, who give it the final implementation.

② Delegated legislation:

- It refers to the making a law in skeleton form in the legislative process; and it is finalized by the executive members.
- it also signifies the ~~an~~ upper-hand of executives.

③ Bureaucracy; which acts as a permanent executive has ~~also~~ also given many discretionary powers in service-delivery and administration.

④ In local-self government; the role of elected representatives of panchayat doesnot have much autonomy

and has to rely on administrative
officers like BDO, DM etc.

- ⑤ ~~the~~ Acts like Disaster management Act,
2005 also formulates top-down approach
giving less scope for elected representative
in decision-making.

The role of other arms ~~than~~ besides
executive

- ① In many instances, the legislators are
also given privileges.

- ② Provisions like MPLAD, MLA-LAD
(Local Area development) Fund also
provides autonomy to legislators.

Thus, Indian government system
is equipped with checks and balances to
tackle overriding functions of any of the arms.

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:—

The Preamble is an integral part of Indian constitution with guiding values like sovereignty, liberty, fraternity etc.

The Preamble as a solemn resolution

- ① The founding fathers of Indian constitution visualised ~~the~~ it as a resolution that to be undertaken.
- ② Summarization of all the principles in the articles of the constitution are summarized in the preamble.

③ It acts as the guiding light of the Constitution.

④ It has the values from historic global events like French revolution (ideas of liberty, fraternity) etc.

Preamble as a majestic expression of philosophy, principles & purpose of the constitution:

① philosophy: Preamble is enshrined with values like sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic, republic → ^{they} ~~which~~ are the basic values of Indian constitution.

② Principles: Justice, Liberty, Equality,

Fraternity → as the essence of Indian constitution.

③ Purpose:

- provision of social, political and economic justice.
- liberty of faith, belief etc.
- equality of ~~the~~ status and opportunity etc.

Thus, the preamble is the precise version of Indian constitution that encompasses all the essential values of the largest democracy of the world.

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)

Ans:—

Representation of People's Act (RPA), 1951 was enacted for providing set of guidelines to be followed by the elected representatives (eg MP, MLA, MLC etc) for a transparent, fair & participative democracy.

Significance of RPA, 1951 in maintaining the sanctity of electoral politics

① RPA, 1951 restricts the legislators from contesting elections who are convicted

on criminal grounds [section 8(D)] and other offences.

② It also ~~terminates the~~ disqualifies MP/MLA/MLC if he/she is found guilty of offense.

③ In Lily Thomas case, 2013; Supreme Court of India held that imprisonment of 2^{years} or more would lead to immediate disqualification from the house.

Demands of Election Commission of India for reforms in RPA, 1951 & MCA.

① Many cases in IPC leads ~~to~~ to excessive punishment ~~of~~ which can lead to disqualification of MP/MLA etc.

eg. Contempt of Court as a criminal offence.

② Model Code of Conduct (MCC) also needs a statutory backing as there is a need of proper formulation of the guidelines to be followed.

③ Reforms in MCC would result in better understanding and following the rules.

Elections are the bed-rock of an electoral democracy. So proper formulation and timely reforms are required for a progressive democracy like India.

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 1-

In the complex web of global trade and cooperation; agreements among countries take place in many ways. While Bi/pluri/mini-laterals refers to interactions among few/a few countries; multi-laterals represents ^{coordination among} a larger group of countries.

Reasons behind gaining prominence of
Bi/pluri/mini-laterals

① It provides more scope to fulfil regional aspirations.

For eg: India did not join RCEP (Regional

Comprehensive Economic Framework) for 15 countries.

② For developing countries, multilateralism does more harm than good due to features like:

- dumping by high-income countries.
- no anti-trigger mechanism, etc.

③ Bi or mini-laterals ~~are~~ ^{specific} agreements are more accountable for the needs of each economies.

④ They provide less shock during global events like — financial crisis, war etc.

⑤ multi-laterals may harm the small-sector businesses like MSMEs in developing countries.

eg. ~~India~~ ^{India} if ^{India} join ASEAN, then local industries may get harmed.

Challenges associated with it

- ① Developed economies often lures or threatens the under-developed economies to join multi-lateral cooperation.
- ② Many less-developed economies sometimes have no-option; leading to join multi-lateral agreements.

Thus, with rising global competition, multi-lateralism is becoming a tool for many economies. But, benefits provided by multi-lateral organisations like UN, IMF should also be undertaken.

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)

Ans

Judiciary in India is of 3-tier and integrated. Higher judiciary refers to the Supreme Court and High Courts in India.

Need for transparency and accountability in higher judiciary in India:

① Collegium process:

- the appointment of judges in higher judiciary is done through a process called collegium process, ~~where the~~
- many suggests for reforms in the collegium system to become more

transparent.

② Greater gender parity:

- The participation of women judges in India very low compared ~~the~~ to judiciaries of other countries.

③ AIJS (All India Judicial Service):

- For appointment of judges, there is a scope of appointment through creation of AIJS ~~to~~ in Rajya Sabha.

④ Uncle-judges syndrome:

- to minimize favouritism and nepotism.

ways to implement transparency & accountability in higher Judiciary

- ① Larger stakeholders should be taken into account for decision-making.
- ② promoting women ^{participation} in judiciary.
- ③ alternatives to the process of collegium system can be formulated; as the founder of collegium system has addressed it as a failure.

~~Thus, As the~~

As one of the most important organ of democracy; judiciary needs to be strengthened through becoming more transparent & accountable.

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:—

India and USA are the leading examples of evolving democracy.

Many features are common between both the countries but there are a few differences as well.

Some tenants of Indian & US democracy

① Presidential vs parliamentary govt.:

- USA has presidential govt whereas India has parliamentary govt.
- India choosed this ~~type~~ set of govt as it was familiar from the colonial period.

② In USA, Judiciary is supreme, but

in India, there is a ~~str~~ separation of power between the organs of democracy.

③ Tenure of president in USA = 4 years and he/she cannot contest more than 2 times.

On the other hand, Indian president has tenure of 5 years and there is no limit on ~~contest~~ contesting.

④ In USA, judiciary is not integrated unlike India.

⑤ In USA, upper house ~~is not~~ (Senate) is more powerful. But, in India, Lok Sabha (lower house) is more powerful in many instances like, passage of money bill; council of

Ministers being accountable only
to Lok Sabha (Article-75) etc.



Thus, there are both similarities
and dissimilarities in the functioning
of both the democracies but they
share many common values.

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:—

In Indian parliamentary system, portfolios are distributed among the prime minister and other ministers.

After the 91st Constitutional Amendment Act (2003), 15% cap was set and thus the no. of ministries should not exceed more than 15% of total strength of Lok Sabha (or state legislature in case of any state).

Positives in having a large no. of ministries:

① Decentralization in decision and policy making.

- ② Large stakeholders can be addressed.
- ③ Reduces the work-load of ministers.
- ④ As ministers also represents ~~at~~ their own constituencies, so they can utilise their time for addressing the grievances of local people.

Negatives in having large no. of ministries

- ① Huge expenses may be occurring.
- ② Less accountability.
- ③ Division of portfolios just for the sake of ~~being~~ holding the ~~position~~ of ministry.

Thus, having a large no. of ministries also possess benefits and disadvantages.



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

Ans:—

The legislative Councils are created in accordance with the Article - 169.
Currently, only 6 states in India have legislative councils (eg. Bihar, UP, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Tamil Nadu).

However, the position of Legislative Councils are much weaker than Rajya Sabha; due to following reasons

① No power in passage of bills:

- there is a 14 days period in hands of legislative Councils during the passage of a bill from state assembly.

- But, Legislative Council can't reject the bill, only it can provide recommendations.

② No accountability of Council-of-ministers in front of Legislative councils.

③ Representation in Legislative Council is very limited. (eg. from ~~the~~ Graduates, local-govts etc).

④ Legislative Councils can be organized and abrogated with passage of bills from the parliament.

- Thus their life remains in the hand of parliament.

⑤ No demands for grants can be made in leg- councils unlike in Rajya Sabha.

⑥ Rajya Sabha has unique features in matters like -
 (a) Creation of All-India Services (A-312)
 (b) making changes in state list (A-249).

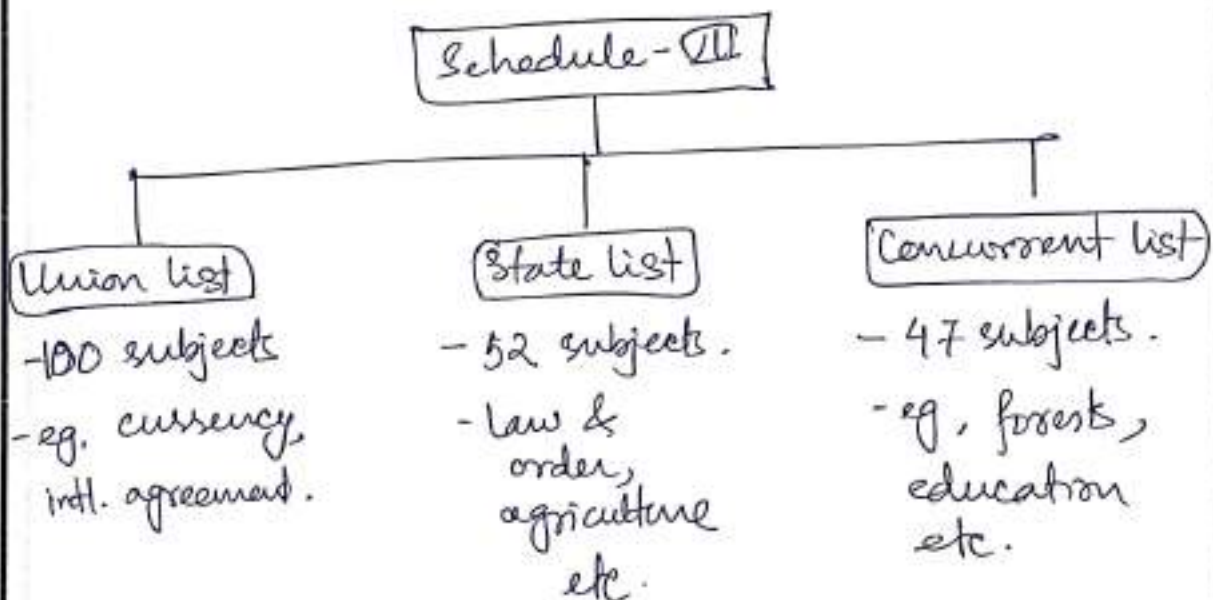
But, legislative council does not have such mechanism in case of state legislature.

Thus, legislative council does not have as such financial or legislative power compared to Rajya Sabha.

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:—

As per the Schedule-VII of Indian Constitution, 3 lists have been formulated for distribution of powers.



Prevailing nature of Union list over other lists

① More subjects: Union list contains 100 subjects which is way more than

the subjects contained in state and
concurrent list.

② Gradual shifting of subjects :

- i.e. ~~the~~ subjects are being shifted from
State list → Concurrent list → Union
list.
- reduces the autonomy of states in
legislative aspect.

③ Union list overrides over other 2 lists.

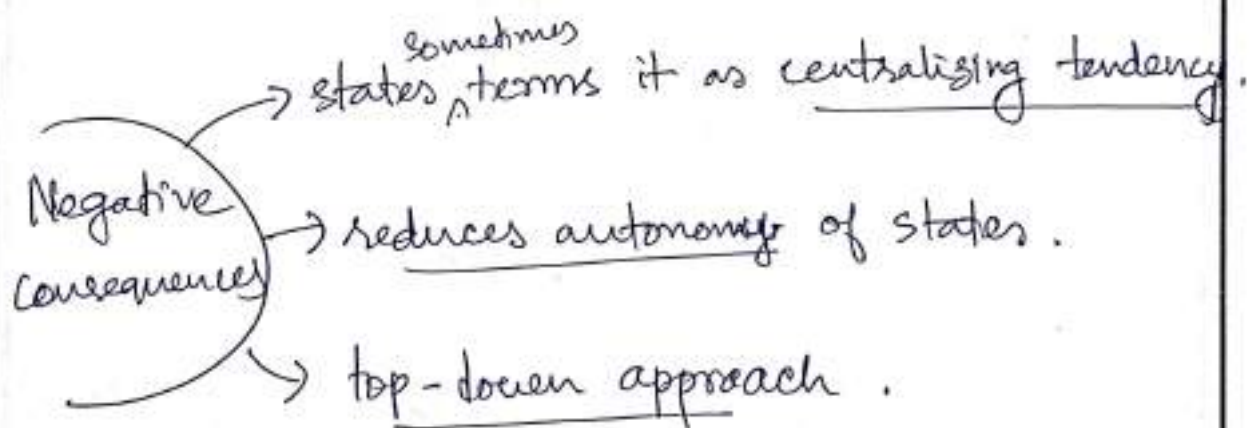
④ For subjects in the concurrent list,
both union and states have

legislative power.

- But in case of conflicting legislation,
union law prevails.

Reasons behind prevailing nature of Union list

- ① for unity & integrity of the nation.
- ② to bring uniformity in legislative process.
- ③ to protect India from the internal destructive elements like separatism, etc.



Thus, as seen above; Union list clearly overpowers the state and concurrent list. ~~A~~ Reforms in VIIth schedule is required for greater & holistic distribution of power.