

# ICSE Board Class 12 2026 Political Science Question Paper with Solutions

Time Allowed :3 Hours	Maximum Marks :70	Total Questions :36
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## General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

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

## Section - A

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

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

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

### Solution:

In a Federal State, there is a **constitutional division of powers** between the central (federal) government and the state governments. This division ensures that both levels of government have specific areas of jurisdiction and autonomy.

### Step 1: Analyze other options.

- (A) This suggests a centralized system of governance, which is contrary to a federal system.
- (B) and (C) refer to delegation or devolution of powers, but the federal system is primarily characterized by a **constitutional division** of powers, which cannot be changed by just delegating or devolving power.

**Final Answer:** Constitutional division of powers between federal and state governments.

### Quick Tip

In a federal system, the division of powers between federal and state governments is constitutionally defined and cannot be easily altered by one party.

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

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

**Correct Answer:** (B) Partly Rigid and Partly Flexible

### Solution:

The Constitution of India is **partly rigid and partly flexible**. It contains provisions that are difficult to amend (rigid), such as the provisions for the amendment process itself, while other provisions are more flexible and can be modified by simple legislation. The Constitution allows for flexibility to meet the changing needs of society.

### Step 1: Analyze other options.

- (A) Incorrect. It is written but not rigid in all aspects. - (C) Incorrect. The Constitution is written, not unwritten. - (D) Incorrect. The Constitution is enacted but not entirely rigid.

**Final Answer:** Partly Rigid and Partly Flexible.

### Quick Tip

The Indian Constitution is a mix of rigidity and flexibility, allowing for changes while maintaining the core structure.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Solution:**

The **Assertion** is correct because if the President vetoes a bill, it is indeed difficult for Congress to override it unless there is a two-thirds majority in both houses.

The **Reason** is also correct because a two-thirds majority in both the House of Representatives and the Senate is required to override the President's veto.

Thus, both the assertion and reason are correct, and the reason explains the assertion.

**Step 1: Conclusion.**

Hence, the correct answer is option (A).

**Final Answer:** Both Assertion and Reason are true and Reason is the correct explanation of Assertion.

**Quick Tip**

In the U.S., the President's veto can only be overridden with a two-thirds majority in both houses of Congress.

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

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

**Reason:** Only two political parties exist in such countries.

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

**Correct Answer:** (B) Both Assertion and Reason are true but Reason is not the correct explanation for Assertion.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Analyze the Assertion.**

In a bi-party system, political power does indeed tend to alternate between two main political parties. This is the nature of the system, where the major political parties dominate the political scene, and one party's term in power is often followed by the other.

**Step 2: Analyze the Reason.**

The reason provided, stating that only two political parties exist in such countries, is incorrect. While a bi-party system typically involves two major parties, it does not necessarily mean that only two parties exist. Other minor parties may exist, but the political power alternates primarily between the two dominant parties.

**Step 3: Conclusion.**

Thus, while both statements are true, the Reason does not adequately explain the Assertion. Therefore, option (B) is correct.

**Final Answer:** (B) Both Assertion and Reason are true but Reason is not the correct explanation for Assertion.

**Quick Tip**

In a bi-party system, the power typically alternates between two dominant parties, though other minor parties can still exist and contribute to the political landscape.

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

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

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the analogy.**

The first part of the analogy suggests that the declaration of war in India is the responsibility of the President. Similarly, in the United States, the declaration of war is the responsibility of the President.

**Step 2: Completing the analogy.**

Thus, the correct answer is **President**. The analogy is: Declaration of War in India : President :: Declaration of War in the United States : **President**.

### Quick Tip

Both in India and the United States, the President plays a key role in the declaration of war.

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

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Definition of Flexible Constitution.**

A Flexible Constitution is one that can be amended by a simple process, similar to the process of enacting ordinary laws.

**Step 2: Explanation.**

This means that amendments can be made with the same procedure that applies to normal legislation, without needing any special procedure or supermajority.

**Step 3: Conclusion.**

Thus, the correct term for such a constitution is **Flexible Constitution**.

### Quick Tip

Flexible Constitutions allow amendments by the same process as ordinary laws, unlike rigid constitutions.

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

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding Article 356.**

Article 356 of the Indian Constitution empowers the President to assume control over a state if the state's governance has broken down, leading to a failure of constitutional machinery.

**Step 2: What is President's Rule?**

President's Rule refers to the imposition of direct governance by the central government in the state. The state legislature is dissolved, and the President administers the state through appointed representatives.

**Step 3: Conclusion.**

Thus, under Article 356, if there is a breakdown in state governance, President's Rule is imposed to restore normalcy.

**Quick Tip**

Article 356 allows the President to impose President's Rule in case of failure of constitutional machinery in a state.

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

- (A) Local self-government is enshrined in the Constitution of India.
- (B) All provisions given in the Constitution of India can be amended by the same procedure.
- (C) The Constitution of the United States gives equal representation to all fifty states in the Senate.
- (D) The Right to Education (Article 21A) is an example of a Directive Principle that was given the justiciable status of a Fundamental Right through an amendment to the Constitution of India.

**Solution:**

**(A) Local self-government is enshrined in the Constitution of India.**

This statement is **True**. Local self-government, in the form of Panchayats and Municipalities, is enshrined under **Part IX** and **Part IX-A** of the Constitution of India, which grants them a constitutional status.

**(B) All provisions given in the Constitution of India can be amended by the same procedure.**

This statement is **False**. The Constitution of India provides for two types of amendments: those that can be made by a **simple majority** of Parliament, and those that require a more complex procedure, including the approval of state legislatures. The amendment process is outlined in **Article 368**.

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

This statement is **True**. The United States Senate gives equal representation to all states, with each state having **two senators** regardless of population size. This is in line with the **Great Compromise** of 1787.

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

This statement is **True**. **Article 21A**, which guarantees the right to free and compulsory education for children between the ages of 6 and 14, was inserted into the Constitution through

the **86th Amendment Act of 2002** and made a justiciable Fundamental Right.

#### Quick Tip

Remember: True/False questions often test knowledge of constitutional facts and their interpretation.

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

**Solution:**

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

**Answer: First-Past-The-Post System**

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

**Answer: 14 days**

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

**Answer: Sovereign State**

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

**Answer: Judicial Review**

#### Quick Tip

Remember: These terms are crucial for understanding constitutional mechanisms, governance structures, and electoral systems.

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### Section - B

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

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Definition of Parliamentary form.**

In a Parliamentary system, the executive is directly responsible to the legislature, and the head

of the government (Prime Minister) is elected from the legislature.

**Step 2: Definition of Presidential form.**

In a Presidential system, the executive (President) is elected separately and is independent of the legislature. The President does not need to be a member of the legislature.

**Step 3: Key difference 1.**

In the Parliamentary system, the executive is a collective body (Prime Minister and Cabinet), while in the Presidential system, the President is the sole head of the executive.

**Step 4: Key difference 2.**

In the Parliamentary system, the legislature can dissolve the government and call for new elections, whereas in the Presidential system, the President cannot be dismissed by the legislature during their term.

**Step 5: Conclusion.**

Thus, the key differences lie in the relationship between the executive and the legislature and the method of selecting the head of the government.

Quick Tip

In the Parliamentary system, the executive is accountable to the legislature, while in the Presidential system, they are separate.

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**3. Explain two key features of a Totalitarian State.**

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Centralized control.**

A totalitarian state is characterized by **centralized control**, where the government exercises absolute power over all aspects of life, including the economy, society, and individual freedoms.

**Step 2: Suppression of opposition.**

In a totalitarian state, political opposition is severely suppressed. The government uses propaganda, censorship, and sometimes violence to maintain control and prevent dissent.

**Step 3: Conclusion.**

Thus, key features of a totalitarian state are centralized authority and the suppression of political opposition, which undermine individual freedoms.

### Quick Tip

A totalitarian state centralizes power and suppresses opposition to maintain control over society.

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

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Prime Minister of India.**

In India, the Prime Minister is elected indirectly by the members of the Lok Sabha (lower house of Parliament). The President of India appoints the Prime Minister, who is usually the leader of the majority party in the Parliament.

**Step 2: President of the United States.**

In the United States, the President is elected directly by the citizens through an electoral system, known as the Electoral College, where each state casts votes based on the population. The candidate with the majority of electoral votes becomes the President.

**Step 3: Key differences.**

- The Indian Prime Minister is chosen indirectly by the Parliament, while the U.S. President is directly elected by the public.
- In India, the Prime Minister is appointed by the President, while in the U.S., the President is directly elected through a nationwide election process.

**Step 4: Conclusion.**

Thus, while both countries have different methods for selecting their leaders, the key distinction lies in the direct vs. indirect nature of the election process.

### Quick Tip

In India, the Prime Minister is appointed by the President based on Parliamentary support; in the U.S., the President is directly elected by the people.

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

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Definition of a multi-party system.**

A multi-party system is a political system in which multiple political parties compete for power,

and no single party typically gains an absolute majority in the legislature.

**Step 2: Merit of a multi-party system.**

One merit of a multi-party system in a diverse country like India is that it provides representation to different social, cultural, and regional groups. This ensures that the views and interests of various sections of society are heard and considered in governance.

**Step 3: Conclusion.**

Thus, a multi-party system helps maintain a democratic environment by accommodating diverse opinions and fostering inclusiveness.

Quick Tip

A multi-party system ensures that various groups in a diverse society have a voice in governance.

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