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CLASS X · SOCIAL SCIENCE (087) · POLITICAL SCIENCE · CBSE BOARD EXAMINATION 2027

POLITICAL SCIENCE · CHAPTER 2

MODEL ANSWERS

Federalism

Board-Style Answer Booklet · Answers as CBSE expects them

CBSE marking-scheme pattern | Word count on every answer | 62 model answers | Most-probable 2027 answers marked

INSIDE THIS BOOKLET

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HOW TO USE IT

1. Write your own answer first, in the practice notebook.
2. Then open this booklet. Tick each numbered point you also wrote.
3. Give yourself 1 mark per matching point – that is how the examiner marks.
4. Copy any point you missed into My Mistakes (last page of the Chapter Booklet).
5. Rewrite the answer after 3 days, from memory.

USE WITH: **Chapter Booklet, Political Science Ch 2**

M

READ THIS FIRST · BASED ON THE CBSE SAMPLE PAPER AND MARKING SCHEME 2026–27

How CBSE Marks Political Science

Every answer in this booklet follows the official marking-scheme pattern: numbered value points, keyword first, inside the word limit. Under each answer you will see its word count and how the marks are split.

The Political Science section of the 2027 paper

Section C · 20 marks

Item	Type	Marks	Words	What earns the marks
Q20–Q23	MCQs: statements, picture / cartoon, odd one out, assertion–reason	1 each	–	Letter + answer
Q24–Q25	Very short answers	2 each	40	2 points × 1 mark
Q26	Short answer	3	60	3 points × 1 mark
Q27	Long answer, (A) **or** (B)	5	120	5 points × 1 mark
Q28	Source / case-based: 28.1, 28.2, 28.3	1+1+2	100 in all	From the passage + chapter facts

In 2026 (32/1/1) this chapter gave an MCQ on the **1992 amendment** and a 2-mark question on **features of federalism**; 2025 had a 4-mark source on **decentralisation**. Two clear points for 2 marks; name the provision in each point.

How the marking scheme gives marks

SEVEN RULES

- **Marks come from value points.** Each correct, relevant point earns 1 mark: 2 marks = 2 points, 3 marks = 3 points, 5 marks = 5 points. The scheme accepts “any other relevant point”, so a correct NCERT point that is not in our answer also scores.
- **Points are numbered and short.** Official answers have no introduction or conclusion. Our 5-mark answers sometimes add one opening and one closing line only so the answer reads well – skip them when short of time.
- **Keyword first.** Start each point with the key word and underline it – the examiner scans for it. Then give one fact: a name, a date, a number or an example.
- **MCQs:** write the letter and the answer text. Combination questions are answered like “(b) Only a, b and d”.
- **Case / source-based:** (i) and (ii) need one clear line each; the 2-mark part needs two separate points. Use the passage’s own clues, then add chapter facts.
- **Internal choice:** write “(A)” or “(B)” in the margin and attempt only one.
- **Do not repeat** one idea in two points – it earns one mark only.

Answer frames – copy this shape

2-mark answer ≤ 40 words

1. Keyword: one reason or fact.
2. Keyword: a second, different reason or fact.

Two lines, no introduction.

3-mark answer ≤ 60 words

1. Keyword: point + name / date / number.
2. Keyword: point + example.
3. Keyword: point + result.

One sentence per point.

5-mark answer ≤ 120 words

→ Optional opening line that answers the question in short.

1–5 Five numbered points, keyword first, a fact in each.

→ Optional closing line: "So / Hence …".

Order the points in time, or from cause to result.

Case-based 1 + 1 + 2 · ≤ 100 words

(i) One line, from the passage.

(ii) One line: passage clue + chapter fact.

(iii) Two separate points, one line each.

Never copy the whole passage.

Short of time? Learn these ten first

Most probable for 2027

C1	Explain any five key features of federalism.	[5]	C2	"India is a holding together federation." Justify.	[3]
C6	"The 1992 amendment was a major step towards …	[5]	C7	Why is decentralisation useful in a large country like India?	[3]
C3	How has federalism been made a success in India?	[5]	C5	How is power divided between the Union and the states in …	[3]
D1	Case: The Budget under the Banyan Tree	[4]	D2	Case: A City That Plans Together	[4]

A

ANSWERS · PART A

Textbook Check – Answers

Model answers to every Textbook Check question. Underlined words are the keywords the examiner looks for.

Federalism and its features

A1. What is federalism? How is it different from a unitary system? [3]

1. **Federalism:** power divided between a central authority and constituent units.
2. **Unitary:** one level, or sub-units subordinate to the centre.
3. **Difference:** in a federation the centre cannot order a state; in a unitary system it can.

35 words · limit 60 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | MUST DO

A2. State any two features of federalism. [2]

1. **Tiers:** two or more levels govern the same citizens, each in its own jurisdiction.
2. **Constitution:** powers are guaranteed by the constitution and cannot be changed by one level alone.

29 words · limit 40 | Marking: 2 points × 1 = 2 | 2026 32/1/1 Q24. | MUST DO

A3. Explain the role of courts and revenue in a federation. [2]

1. **Courts:** interpret the constitution and act as umpire in disputes between levels.
2. **Revenue:** each level's sources of revenue are specified for financial autonomy.

23 words · limit 40 | Marking: 2 points × 1 = 2

A4. What are the dual objectives of a federal system? [2]

1. **Unity:** to safeguard and promote the unity of the country.
2. **Diversity:** to accommodate regional diversity.

15 words · limit 40 | Marking: 2 points × 1 = 2

A5. Distinguish between coming together and holding together federations. [3]

1. **Formation:** independent states join vs a large country divides its power.
2. **Powers:** units equal and strong vs centre stronger and units unequal.
3. **Examples:** USA, Switzerland, Australia vs India, Spain, Belgium.

30 words · limit 60 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | Match country with type: 2025 32/1/1 Q13. | MUST DO

India as a federation

A6. Describe the three-fold distribution of legislative powers in India. [3]

1. **Union List:** defence, foreign affairs, banking – only the Union makes laws.
2. **State List:** police, trade, agriculture, irrigation – only states make laws.
3. **Concurrent List:** education, forests, marriage – both; Union law prevails in conflict.

32 words · limit 60 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | MUST DO

A7. What are residuary subjects? Who makes laws on them? [2]

1. **Meaning:** subjects not in any of the three lists, e.g. computer software.
2. **Power:** the Union government makes laws on them.

20 words · limit 40 | Marking: 2 points × 1 = 2

A8. "All states in the Indian Union do not have equal powers." Explain. [3]

1. **Special provisions:** Assam, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram have special powers.
2. **Purpose:** to protect land rights, culture and job preference of indigenous peoples.
3. **Union Territories:** Chandigarh, Lakshadweep are run largely by the Centre.

33 words · limit 60 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3

A9. How is the federal arrangement protected in the Indian Constitution? [3]

1. **Amendment:** changes need two-thirds of both Houses and ratification by half the states.
2. **Judiciary:** High Courts and the Supreme Court settle disputes over powers.
3. **Taxes:** both Union and states can raise their own resources.

34 words · limit 60 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | MUST DO

Federalism in practice

A10. How has the creation of linguistic states strengthened Indian federalism? [3]

1. **Same language:** people speaking one language live in one state.
2. **Unity:** contrary to fears, it made the country more united.
3. **Administration:** it made administration easier.

25 words · limit 60 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | MUST DO

A11. Describe India's language policy. [3]

1. **No national language:** Hindi is an official language, spoken by about 40%.
2. **Scheduled languages:** 21 others are protected; exams can be written in any.
3. **No imposition:** English continued with Hindi after protests in Tamil Nadu.

35 words · limit 60 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | MUST DO

A12. How did Centre–State relations change after 1990? [3]

1. **Regional parties:** they rose in many states.
2. **Coalitions:** national parties had to ally with regional parties at the Centre.
3. **Court:** a Supreme Court judgment checked arbitrary dismissal of state governments.

30 words · limit 60 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | MUST DO

Decentralisation

A13. What is decentralisation? Why is it useful? [3]

1. **Meaning:** power taken from Centre and states and given to local government.
2. **Local knowledge:** people know local problems and where to spend money.
3. **Participation:** people take part directly, building democratic habits.

31 words · limit 60 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | MUST DO

A14. State the main provisions of the 1992 constitutional amendment on local government. [3]

1. **Elections:** regular elections compulsory, held by a State Election Commission.
2. **Reservation:** seats for SCs, STs, OBCs; one-third for women.
3. **Sharing:** states must share some powers and revenue with local bodies.

30 words · limit 60 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | MCQ on this: 2026 32/1/1 Q23. | MUST DO

A15. Distinguish between gram sabha and gram panchayat. [2]

1. **Gram sabha:** all voters of the village; approves budget and reviews work.
2. **Gram panchayat:** elected council of panch and sarpanch; makes village decisions.

23 words · limit 40 | Marking: 2 points × 1 = 2 | MUST DO

A16. Describe the structure of Panchayati Raj above the village level. [3]

1. **Panchayat samiti:** a group of gram panchayats; members elected by panchayat members.
2. **Zilla parishad:** all samitis of a district, plus MPs and MLAs.
3. **Head:** the zilla parishad chairperson is its political head.

32 words · limit 60 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3

A17. Name the urban local bodies and their political heads. [2]

1. **Towns:** municipality – municipal chairperson.
2. **Big cities:** municipal corporation – mayor.

9 words · limit 40 | Marking: 2 points × 1 = 2

A18. State three difficulties faced by local governments in India. [3]

1. **Gram sabhas:** not held regularly.
2. **Powers:** most states have not transferred significant powers.
3. **Money:** they lack adequate resources.

18 words · limit 60 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3

B

ANSWER KEY · PART B

Objective – Answer Key

All 20 MCQ and assertion–reason answers, each with a one-line reason so you learn the fact, not only the letter.

Write the option letter **and** the answer, as the marking scheme does – e.g. "(b) ..." followed by the answer text.

Q	Answer	Why (one line)
B1	**(a) a-i, b-ii, c-i, d-ii**	Type of 2025 32/1/1 Q13.
B2	**(b) Education**	Also forests, marriage, adoption.
B3	**(c) residuary subject**	Union makes laws.
B4	**(d) Sri Lanka**	Belgium became federal in 1993.
B5	**(a) Only I is correct**	II wrong – the State Election Commission. Type of 2026 32/1/1 Q23.
B6	**(b) half of all states**	Ratification.
B7	**(c) State governments**	Police, agriculture.
B8	**(d) 22**	Hindi + 21 others.
B9	**(a) Gram sabha**	All voters of the village.
B10	**(b) mayor**	Municipality – chairperson.
B11	**(c) Jharkhand**	Also Nagaland, Uttarakhand.
B12	**(d) Lakshadweep**	Run by the Centre.
B13	**(a) the courts**	Umpire.
B14	**(b) Rise of regional parties and coalition governments**	New culture of power sharing.
B15	**(c) gram sabha**	Approves the budget.
B16	**(d) Australia**	Also USA, Switzerland.
B17	**(a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.**	R explains A.
B18	**(b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.**	Both true; R does not explain A.
B19	**(d) A is false, but R is true.**	A false – most states have not transferred them; R true.
B20	**(d) A is false, but R is true.**	A false – no national language, no imposition; R true.

C

ANSWERS · PART C

Board Pattern – Answers

Model answers in the marking-scheme pattern. Orange tags show where a similar question came in a board or sample paper.

Features of federalism

★★★ both papers · 1–2 marks

C1. Explain any five key features of federalism. [5]

1. **Tiers:** two or more levels of government.
2. **Jurisdiction:** each tier has its own powers over the same citizens.
3. **Guarantee:** powers are in the constitution; change needs both levels.
4. **Courts:** they interpret the constitution and settle disputes.
5. **Revenue:** each level has its own sources for financial autonomy.

46 words · limit 120 | Marking: 5 points × 1 = 5 | 2026 32/1/1 Q24 (two features). | MUST DO

C2. "India is a holding together federation." Justify. [3]

1. **Formation:** a large country divided power between Union and states.
2. **Centre:** the Union is more powerful – Union List, residuary subjects.
3. **Unequal units:** some states have special provisions; UTs are run by the Centre.

33 words · limit 60 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | MUST DO

Federalism in practice

★★☆ NCERT core · 3–5 marks

C3. How has federalism been made a success in India? Explain with five points. [5]

1. **Linguistic states:** made the country more united and administration easier.
2. **Language policy:** no national language; 22 scheduled languages.
3. **No imposition:** English continued with Hindi after Tamil Nadu's protest.
4. **Coalitions:** after 1990, regional parties shared power at the Centre.
5. **Courts:** the Supreme Court checked arbitrary dismissal of state governments.

48 words · limit 120 | Marking: 5 points × 1 = 5 | MUST DO

C4. Compare India's language policy with Sri Lanka's. [3]

1. **India:** no national language; many languages protected.
2. **Sri Lanka:** Sinhala was made the only official language.
3. **Result:** India's flexibility kept unity; Sri Lanka faced civil war.

26 words · limit 60 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3

C5. How is power divided between the Union and the states in India? [3]

1. **Lists:** Union, State and Concurrent Lists.
2. **Conflict:** Union law prevails on Concurrent subjects.
3. **Residuary:** subjects in no list go to the Union.

22 words · limit 60 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | MUST DO

Decentralisation and local government

★★★ both papers · 1–4 marks

C6. "The 1992 amendment was a major step towards decentralisation." Explain. [5]

1. **Elections:** regular elections to local bodies are compulsory.
2. **Reservation:** seats for SCs, STs and OBCs.
3. **Women:** at least one-third of positions for women.
4. **SEC:** a State Election Commission conducts local elections.
5. **Sharing:** states must share powers and revenue with local bodies.

41 words · limit 120 | Marking: 5 points × 1 = 5 | 2026 32/1/1 Q23 (MCQ). | MUST DO

C7. Why is decentralisation useful in a large country like India? [3]

1. **Local problems:** many problems are best solved locally.
2. **Knowledge:** people know what their area needs and where to spend.
3. **Participation:** direct participation deepens democracy.

24 words · limit 60 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | Source on decentralisation: 2025 32/1/1 Q35. | MUST DO

C8. Assess the working of local government in India. [3]

1. **Achievement:** the largest experiment in democracy; women's voice increased.
2. **Gram sabhas:** not held regularly.
3. **Powers:** states have not given enough powers and money.

23 words · limit 60 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3

C9. What lessons does Porto Alegre in Brazil offer to India's local government? [2]

1. **Participation:** residents in ward councils decide how the city budget is spent.
2. **Lesson:** gram sabhas should meet regularly and have real power over money.

24 words · limit 40 | Marking: 2 points × 1 = 2 | 2025 32/1/1 Q35.

D

ANSWERS · PART D

Case-Based – Answers

One line each for the 1-mark parts; separate points for the 2-mark parts. The whole answer stays within the word limit.

D1. Case-Based · The Budget under the Banyan Tree (printed in the booklet) [4]

(i) Name the body of all voters that meets here. [1]

Gram sabha.

(ii) What is the main function of this body? [1]

It approves the gram panchayat's budget and reviews its work.

(iii) Name two provisions of the 1992 amendment seen or implied here. [2]

(i) One-third seats reserved for women.
(ii) Regular elections to the panchayat (by the State Election Commission).

29 words in all · limit 100 | Marking: 1 + 1 + 2 = 4 | Same theme as 2026 32/1/1 Q23.

D2. Case-Based · A City That Plans Together (printed in the booklet) [4]

(i) Name the idea of governance shown here. [1]

Decentralisation with people's participation (participatory democracy).

(ii) Which body in Indian villages is similar to these councils? [1]

Gram sabha.

(iii) Give two benefits of such participation. [2]

(i) Money is spent on what people really need.
(ii) It builds the habit of democratic participation.

25 words in all · limit 100 | Marking: 1 + 1 + 2 = 4 | Same topic as 2025 32/1/1 Q35.

D3. Case-Based · Who Makes the Law? (printed in the booklet) [4]

(i) Which list has irrigation? [1]

State List.

(ii) What is the forest subject an example of? [1]

Concurrent List.

(iii) What are subjects like mobile apps called, and who makes laws on them? Why? [2]

(i) Residuary subjects.
(ii) The Union government, as the Constitution gives it residuary powers.

18 words in all · limit 100 | Marking: 1 + 1 + 2 = 4

D4. Case-Based · The Language Debate (printed in the booklet) [4]

(i) Name the state where the protest turned violent. [1]

Tamil Nadu.

(ii) Which two languages were to be used for official purposes? [1]

Hindi and English.

(iii) How did this decision strengthen federalism? Two points. [2]

(i) It respected non-Hindi states and avoided imposing a language.
(ii) This flexibility avoided a Sri Lanka-like conflict.

23 words in all · limit 100 | Marking: 1 + 1 + 2 = 4

D5. Case-Based · Two Countries, Two Roads (printed in the booklet) [4]

(i) What type of federation is P? [1]

Coming together federation (e.g. USA).

(ii) What type of federation is Q? [1]

Holding together federation (e.g. India).

(iii) State two differences between them. [2]

(i) P – units equal and strong; Q – centre stronger.
(ii) Q's units may have unequal powers.

26 words in all · limit 100 | Marking: 1 + 1 + 2 = 4