

Exercise walk-through

Forms of Governance ■ 4.7

eXercise

You must be able to

- define a **unitary state** 单一制国家 and a **federal state** 联邦制国家
- state one advantage and disadvantage of each
- match a country situation to the better structure
- link governance form to managing diversity

Method — Unitary state

A **unitary state** concentrates power in a central government; local units carry out its decisions. It suits smaller or culturally uniform countries.

Method — Federal state

A **federal state** shares power between the centre and strong regional units. It suits large or diverse countries where regions want a real say.

Method — Choosing a structure

A diverse, large country often chooses **federalism** to give groups autonomy; a small, uniform country often stays **unitary** for efficiency.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

Define a unitary state.

Solution 2.1

Worked steps

a state where power is concentrated in the central government **B1**; local units mainly carry out central decisions **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State one advantage of a federal system for a diverse country.

Solution 2.2

Worked steps

regions gain autonomy over local matters **B1**; this accommodates diversity and reduces tension **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

A large country has many distinct regional cultures wanting local control.

- (a) Which governance form suits it better?
- (b) Explain why.

Solution 2.3

Method: Federal state

Worked steps

(a) federal **B1**. (b) it gives regions real power, satisfying demands for autonomy and holding the state together **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Power concentrated in a strong central government describes a

- A** federal state
- B** unitary state
- C** stateless nation
- D** supranational union

Solution 3.1

Method: Unitary state

A federal state

B unitary state



C stateless nation

D supranational union

Worked steps

B. centralized power = unitary state.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

A federal structure is most useful for a country that is

A small and culturally uniform

B large and culturally diverse

C an island with one city

D a stateless nation

Solution 3.2

Method: Choosing a structure

A small and culturally uniform

B large and culturally diverse 

C an island with one city

D a stateless nation

Worked steps

B. federalism suits large, diverse states.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A unitary country struggles to meet very different regional needs.

- (a) State one drawback of its unitary structure here.
- (b) State one reform that could help.

Solution 3.3

Method: Choosing a structure

Worked steps

(a) distant central government may ignore local needs **B1**. (b) devolve power to regions / move toward federalism **B1**.