

4.7 Forms of Governance

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 10 marks

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **forms of governance** 治理形式—unitary and federal.

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

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ Unitary state

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

■ 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.

■ Choosing a structure

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

2 Practice

2.1 Define a unitary state.

[2]

2.2 State one advantage of a federal system for a diverse country. [2]

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

(a) Which governance form suits it better? [1]

(b) Explain why. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Power concentrated in a strong central government describes a [1]

- **A** federal state
 - **B** unitary state
 - **C** stateless nation
 - **D** supranational union
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3.2 A federal structure is most useful for a country that is [1]

- **A** small and culturally uniform
 - **B** large and culturally diverse
 - **C** an island with one city
 - **D** a stateless nation
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3.3 A unitary country struggles to meet very different regional needs.

(a) State one drawback of its unitary structure here. [1]

(b) State one reform that could help. [1]

4 Go further

- work through the **4.7 Forms of Governance** lesson on the **Learn** page;

- read the **Political Patterns and Processes** section of the AP Human Geography handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

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

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

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

3.1 B. centralized power = unitary state.

3.2 B. federalism suits large, diverse states.

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