

4.7 Forms of Governance

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 10 marks**

KEY WORDS unitary state 单一制国家 • federal state 联邦制国家
• forms of governance 治理形式 • state 国家 • autonomy 自治

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

3.2 A federal structure is most useful for a country that is [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A small and culturally uniform
B large and culturally diverse
C an island with one city
D a stateless nation

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]
