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## Political Science

Question no 1:- Under the unitary state system, how does the local government system work in UK?

Answer:-

\* Introduction:- UK is supreme example of unitary form of government in which power of the government is vested in the center by the constitution, while local government exercises the power given by federal government. The relationship between federal and local government is of subordination. In UK, it is central government which decides the territorial boundaries functional and ~~territ~~ departmental structure of local government and decides how much financial allocation to be made for them.

\* Types of the local government in <sup>UK</sup>  
There are several types of local governments in UK.

### 1 County Councils

These are established in rural areas and are responsible for housing, education and provision of social services. For example, Kent county council in UK.

### 2 District Councils

These are established in smaller areas and



are responsible for housing and elderly services provisions. For example Camden council.

### 3 Unitary authority

In some places or areas, single unitary authority is established. Combination of the roles of county council and district council are performed by this single unit.  
e.g. Bristol city council.

### 4 Metropolitan boroughs

These local units are similar to the unitary authorities. These are established in big cities. Manchester city council is one of its example.

### 5 Town council

In some areas town councils are established which are responsible for managing local parks and events in their respective areas. These are usually funded by local tax called "precept".

## \* Relationship between Local and Federal Government

### 1 Delegation of Power:

Parliament is most powerful organ of UK's government. It is considered mother of all parliaments in the world.



It is a decision making body with absolute authority. ~~The~~ Parliament is led by prime Minister, it ~~is~~ makes it also an executive body. It gives certain authority to local government to exercise. Parliament has given certain authority to Scotland, Wales and Ireland which can make decisions regarding health, education and housing. But, these decisions are ~~not~~ to be take within the guides and limitations of parliament. These authorities are given according to ~~the~~ some acts such as Scotland act, Wales act etc.

## 2 Financial dependency:

Local government depends on the federal govt for funding. It also makes fund through direct local taxation.

Federal government can anytime cut the ~~fi~~ assigned budget of local government.

In this ~~can~~ case, local government raises the local taxes to meet its expenditures.

## 3 Central control:

Federal Government keeps insight over the functioning of local states. It checks if these units are functioning properly or not. In case of inappropriate functioning



The federal government may step in and take control.

#### 4 Unconstitutional division of Power:-

Power division among the local units is not ~~accordi~~ mentioned in constitution of UK. So, federal government do it on its own. It can give more power and authority to one unit and less to another.

#### 5: Accountability

Federal government sets boundaries for these local unit to exercise power.

These units are accountable to the federal government for all their actions and decisions. This demonstrates the powerful central authority and make the government system more efficient.

#### Conclusion:-

In UK, the local government exercises the power delegated by central government. Local govt can not take any decision without the consent of parliament. It just exercises the power given by federal government.