

PAPER-II
SECTION-B

Question no. 2:

Answer. Introduction: The United Kingdom is a unitary state with a complex local government system. The central government has power, while local authorities manage services at the regional level.

(i) Types of Local Government in UK: There are two types of local government in UK:

- (a) Two-tier local government,
 - (b) Single-tier local government,
- with unitary authorities, metropolitan boroughs, London Boroughs, and Scottish Councils being the latter.

Duty and Responsibility of Local Government in UK:

These entities provide essential services to meet local needs while following national policies and strategies. This includes cohesion with the overall national policies and strategies.

Definition of Unitary State System:

A unitary state system may be defined as a sovereign state governed as a single entity, with the central government as the supreme authority.

Unitary Government is Distinguished by Two Features: The unitary form of government is distinguished by two key features:

- (i) the central government's supremacy,
- (ii) the absence of subsidiary sovereign polities.

Unitary Government does not have Dual Polity; Due to the two key features given above, unitary government does not have a dual-polity or dual-judicial system.

Unitary State Systems are Numerous: Unitary state systems are numerous. Many countries like (i) the United Kingdom, (ii) Japan, and (iii) Saudi Arabia, have a unitary system and are therefore unitary state systems.

Division of UK's Local Government System:

UK functions as a Unitary State: The United Kingdom functions as a unitary state where all authority comes from the federal government. As a unitary state, UK's federal government is the ultimate source of law and order.

Legislative Changes Over Time:

As a result of legislative changes over time, the United Kingdom now has a system of local government, whose structure and responsibilities are determined at the national level.

Division of UK's Local Government System

Single Tier ↔ Two Tier

Unitary Authorities ↔ County Councils

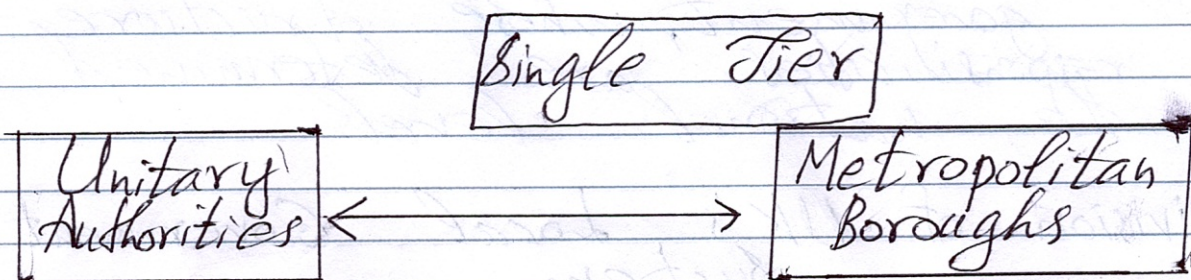
Metropolitan Boroughs ↔ District, Boroughs or City Councils

Division of Local Government in UK: Local government in UK is broadly divided into two types:

1. Single-tier, and
2. Two-tier.

1. Single Tier: In this system, there is only one level of local government, which is responsible for all local services.

Single Tier Government in UK:
These are several forms of single-tier local government in the UK.



Unitary Authorities:
Responsibility of Unitary Authority:
Unitary Authorities are in charge of all the local services offered within their jurisdiction. These include those that, under a two-tier system, would be provided by both the county and district council.

Number of Unitary Authorities in UK: There are 58 unitary authorities in UK.

Several counties function as Unitary Authorities: Several counties in England & Wales function as unitary authorities.

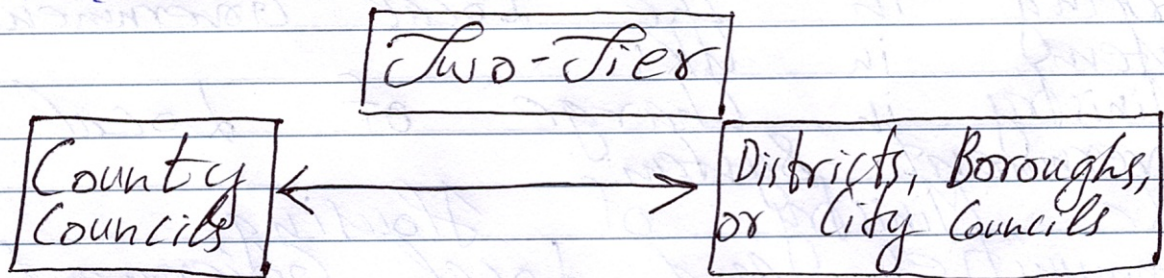
Metropolitan Boroughs: Metropolitan boroughs deliver all local services in their area.

Number of Metropolitan Boroughs: There are 32 London boroughs.

English Metropolitan Areas also have Single-Tier Local Governments:
English metropolitan areas like
(i) Great Manchester,
(ii) the West Midlands, and
(iii) Merseyside
all have single-tier local governments.

2. Two-Tier:
Two-Tier Local Government in UK: This method is predominantly utilized in England's non-metropolitan counties, also known as shire counties.

Levels of Local Government in Two-Tier System: There are two levels of local government in a two-tier system, which are as follows:



★ City Councils:
Provision of Large Scale Services:
City councils provide larger-scale services like education, social services, public transportation, and strategic planning, respectively.

Number of County Councils:
There are 24 county councils.

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* District, Boroughs or City Councils:
Provision of More Locally Focused Services: These organizations are in charge of more locally focused services, like housing, planning applications, waste collection, and recreational facilities.

Countries of UK served by Metropolitan District Councils:

The countries of
(i) Great Manchester,
(ii) Merseyside,
(iii) South Yorkshire,
(iv) Tyne and Wear,
(v) West Midlands, and
(vi) West Yorkshire
are served by 36 metropolitan district councils.

Working in the Local Government System in UK:

* Ministry in Charge of Local Government System:

The Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government is in charge of the local government system in UK.

Allocation of Funds:

This ministry also allocates funds to local governments and establishes policies.

Local Government in the UK:
Local government in UK is made up of a complex web of authorities and councils. These have their own duties and powers.

Most Common Forms of Local Government in UK:
County councils, district councils, and unitary authorities are the three most common forms of local government in UK.

Responsibility of District Councils:
District councils are in charge of housing, trash pickup, and local planning in their own areas.

Responsibility of County Councils:
County councils are in charge of services that affect a larger area, including
(i) education,
(ii) social services, and
(iii) transportation.

Combination of County and District Council:
Similarly, a unitary (council) authority combines a county council and a district council to serve a single geographical area.

Management of Smaller Communities:
Adding more to that, local councils, also known as parish or town councils, oversee the management of smaller communities.

These councils are restricted to managing public spaces like parks, walkways, and cemeteries within their jurisdiction.

Only Local Governments Do Not Have Authority: However, local governments are not the only ones with authority, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland each have their parliament or Assembly. These organizations have have/possess jurisdiction over healthcare, education, and transportation.

Conclusion:

Local Government is Essential Part of Unitary State: To sum up, local government in UK is a complicated but essential part of the unitary state. Local Governments Manage Services Specific for their Area:

Even though power is centralized, local governments can manage and run services that are specific to their areas in a good way.

Both the Two-Tier and One-Tier Systems are Flexible: Both the two-tier and one-tier systems are flexible enough to meet a wide range of regional requirements. This happens while remaining consistent with the overarching goals of the national government.

Local Government System in UK plays an important role: In UK, the local government system will continue to play an important role in bridging the gap between how basic services are run and how national policies are made.