

## 11. A Unitary form of Government. (LSS-2020 & 2021)

### 1) Introduction:

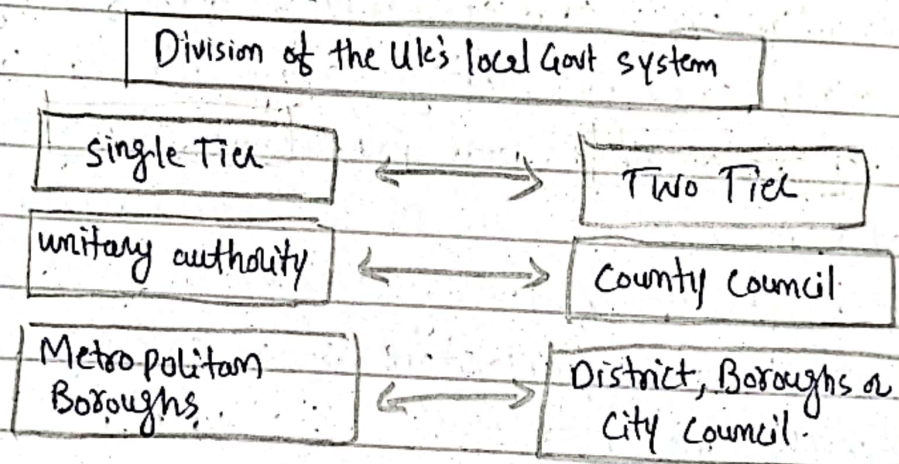
The UK is a unitary system / state with a complex local government system. The central government has power, while local authorities manage services at the regional level. UK local governments are either two-tier or single tier, with unitary authorities, metropolitan boroughs, London boroughs, and Scottish Councils being the latter. These entities provide essential services to meet local needs while following national policies and strategies along with cohesion with the overall national policies and strategies.

### 2) Definition of Unitary system.

A unitary state is a sovereign state governed as a single entity, with the central government as the supreme authority. The unitary form of government is distinguished by two key features: The central govt's supremacy and the absence of subsidiary sovereign politics. As a result, unlike the federal form of govt, it does not have a dual-polity or dual-judicial system. The UK, Japan, and Saudi Arabia are the countries that have a unitary system.

### 3) Division of the UK's local government system

The UK functions as a unitary state where all authority comes from the federal government. As a unitary state, the UK's federal government is the ultimate source of law and order. As a result of legislative changes over time, the UK now has a system of local government whose structure and responsibilities are determined at the national level.



Divided into two types

#### 3.1 ✓ Single tier

In this system, there's only one level of local government, which is responsible for all local services. There are several forms of single tier local governments in the

United Kingdom.

### Unitary Authorities:

There are 58 unitary authorities. These are in charge of all of the local services offered within jurisdiction, including those that under a two tier system, would be provided by both the county and district council. Several counties in England and Wales function as unitary authorities.

### Metropolitan Boroughs:

There are 32 London boroughs. English metropolitan areas like Greater Manchester, the West Midlands, and Merseyside all have single-tier local governments. Metropolitan boroughs deliver all local services in their area.

### 3.2 ✓ Two-tier:

This method is predominantly utilized in England's non-metropolitan counties also known as shire counties. There are two levels of local government in a two-tier system which are as follows:

#### County Councils:

There are 24 county councils;

divided into two levels. These organizations provide large-scale services such as education, social service, public transportation and strategic planning respectively.

### District, borough, or city councils:

The counties of Greater Manchester, Merseyside, South Yorkshire, Tyne and Wear, West Midlands, and West Yorkshire are served by 36 metropolitan district councils. These organizations are in charge of more locally-focused services like housing, planning applications, waste collection, and recreational facilities.

### 4) Working in the local government system in the UK:

The Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government is in charge of the government system in the UK. This ministry also allocates funds to local governments and establishes policies. Local government in the UK is made up of a complex web of authorities and councils, each of which has its own duties and powers. County councils, district councils and unitary authorities are in charge of housing. Three most common form of local government

in the UK. District councils are in charge of housing, trash pickup, and local planning in their own areas. County councils, on the other hand, are in charge of services that affect a larger area like education, social services, and transportation.

Similarly, a unitary authority combines a county council and a district council to serve a single geographical area. 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 jurisdictions. However, local governments are not the ones with authority; Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland each have their parliament or assembly with jurisdiction over healthcare, education, and transportation.

### 5) Conclusion:

To sum up, local government in the UK is a complicated but essential part of the unitary state. 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- and one-tier systems are flexible enough to

meet a wide range of regional requirements while remaining consistent with the overarching goals of the national government. In the 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.