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 <b>PUNJAB COLLEGES</b>	PUNJAB COLLEGES																								
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	Subject: _____ Date: _____																								
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<p>(To be filled by the Examiner)</p> <h3 style="margin: 0;">AWARD LIST</h3> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 10%;">Q. No.</th> <th style="width: 5%;">01 (MCQs)</th> <th style="width: 5%;">02</th> <th style="width: 5%;">03</th> <th style="width: 5%;">04</th> <th style="width: 5%;">05</th> <th style="width: 5%;">06</th> <th style="width: 5%;">07</th> <th style="width: 5%;">08</th> <th style="width: 5%;">09</th> <th style="width: 5%;">10</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Total Marks</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">Marks Obtained</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Q. No.	01 (MCQs)	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	Total Marks	Marks Obtained											
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### Question:

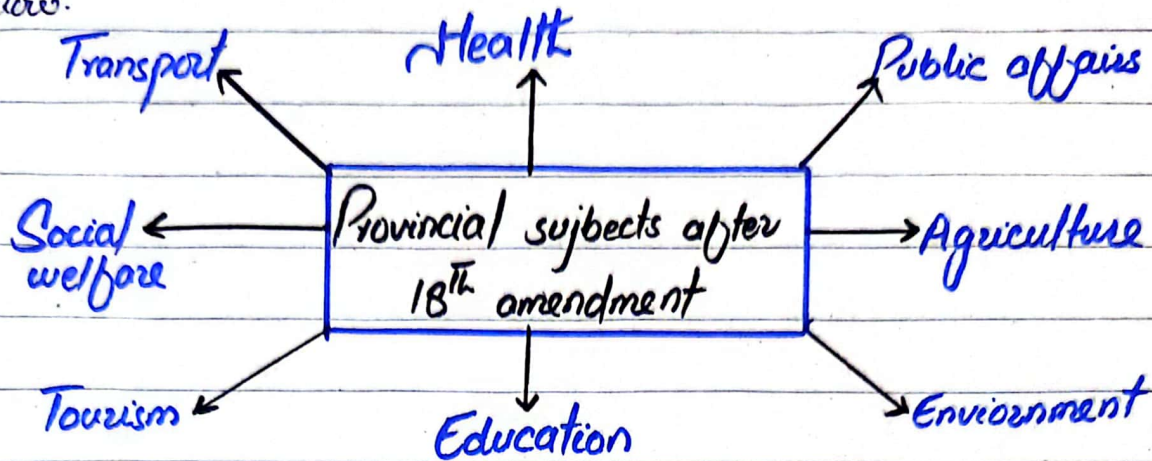
There is an opinion that some of subjects handed over to the provinces in 18<sup>th</sup> amendment should be handed over back to center. Do you agree: if yes then what subject and why? if not, then why?

### Subjects handed over to provinces:

18<sup>th</sup> amendment passed in April 2010 is arguably most important amendment in constitutional history of Pakistan. It restored the parliamentary character of the constitution and devolved several important functions to provincial governments. This decentralization and autonomy provided the context to which various institutional actors negotiated their roles in a contested space during the amendment after years. However implementation has been quite challenging. Constitution of Pakistan transferred 47 different subjects from concurrent legislature list to provinces. This significant devolution aimed to enhance provincial autonomy by granting them more control



over these areas that were previously under joint federal and provincial jurisdiction. Some of these important subjects are as below.



Above are some of the subjects whose authority and control rested in provincial government after 18<sup>th</sup> amendment. Now why debate is should these subjects handed over back to center or not. What are the factors which are leading to its reversal and what in support.

### Supporting arguments favouring reversal:

Reversing the devolution of provincial subjects after 18<sup>th</sup> amendment is a contentious issue. Here are some arguments in favor of reversing this devolution.

#### Inefficiency and lack of Capacity:

"Provincial governments lack the administrative capacity and resources to effectively manage the subjects devolved to them. This inefficiency can lead to poor services and ineffective delivery of services and governance.

Former Governor of SBP Dr. Ishrat Hussain expressed the concerns about provincial administration and management capacity of the subjects devolved to them in his book



"Governing the ungovernable" He argued that centralization could lead to more effective services delivery.

Centralized governance ensures better coordination and efficiency in policy implementation, especially in health and education sectors.

### Economic Stability:

The uneven distribution of resources among provinces can exacerbate economic disparities. Wealthier provinces might fare better while poor provinces might struggle without adequate federal support.

"Need of more centralized approach to manage economic policies, provincial disparities can lead to imbalanced growth and economic inefficiencies. (Former FM Mirza Ismail)"

Centralization can help in economic stability and uniform development across all the regions and reduce disparity among provinces.

### National Security:

National security and law enforcement could be compromised if provinces handle these aspects without adequate coordination and central control. Center control can ensure more effective and uniform security measures. Headed by a single department could be more effective and can reduce social evils under one law enforcement agency. Gen. (R) Pervez Musharraf former president of Pakistan has argued that national security and law enforcement are best managed centrally to ensure a cohesive strategy against terrorism and internal security.



## Policy Uniformity:


Prevention of policy fragmentation ensuring the national standards and regulations are uniformly applied across the country. Foreign policy is the subject of center. It is best and in favor of provinces atleast they can enjoy equal benefits from foreign investment and aid. On contrary provinces pursue divergent policies might not align with national interests, particularly in critical sectors like education and health.

Sartaj Aziz, Former NSA and Foreign minister stated in one of his interviews the importance of policy uniformity, especially in education and health sectors could avoid disparities and can promise nationwide development.

## Resources Allocation:

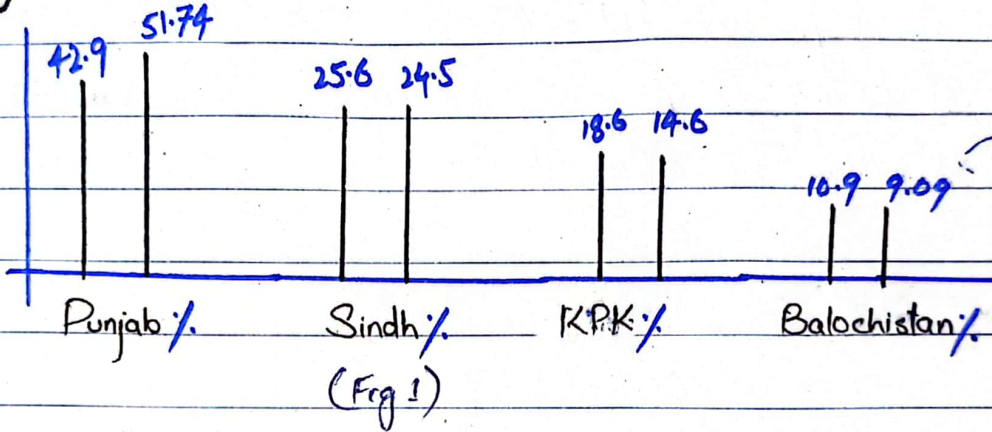
Difference between the economic condition of provinces can be a major issue for a state. **NFC** witnessed it that how the allocation of resources should be. Center can distribute resources keeping an eye on different factors like, revenue generation, population, territory etc. According to **ICG Report** "International Crisis Group" Every province have its own ability like Punjab in Agriculture, KPK in tourism, Sindh in Business and Balochistan in natural resources. Punjab is considered to be developed other then all. If it is left over provinces then every province will do everything for their own betterment and development. In that case those province who couldn't generate enough revenue could lag behind and would create an imbalance.



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Poverty and 7<sup>th</sup> NFC Share trends



Above graph shows two types of trends across the four provinces Poverty and 7<sup>th</sup> NFC share to the economy. This shows a great difference among the provinces in case of resources distribution.

**Arguments in favor of provinces**

Like the arguments supporting the reversal of subjects we have also different arguments and opinion in favor of provinces. Here are some arguments against the reversal of provincial subjects.



## Provincial empowerment and autonomy:

Keeping in mind the event of East Pakistan (1971) one of the major objectives of 18<sup>th</sup> amendment was provincial autonomy. Empowering the provinces and increasing the autonomy was a unique approach to address different provincial issues. It allows a very localized policy formulation keeping in view the local climate.

Different strategies at center level are more difficult to implement at national level due to diversity and regional disparities. President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari a key architect of 18<sup>th</sup> amendment: argues that devolution strengthens democracy and ensure governance is more attuned to regional needs.

## Federalism and Democracy:

18<sup>th</sup> amendment reinforces the federal structure of Pakistan, promoting democratic principles by decentralizing power and avoiding an overly centralized government. "Decentralization and local governance in developing countries" written by Purnob Bhandra and Dilip argues that this decentralization leads more efficient and responsive local government and governance which is crucial for development and strengthen democratic process of the country.

## Economic development and resource management:

Provinces have better understanding of their local economics and can manage resources more efficiently,



which promotes regional balance and development.

In (Fig 1) we can see different percenters of poverty and share of provinces in 7<sup>th</sup> NFC which is creating a large imbalance among them. Regional development is only possible when province have their hold over their natural resource and with a proper management over it. *The Future of Federalism in Pakistan* by Iftikhar H.

Malik emphasized that devolution allows provinces to tailor economic policies to their specific needs, leading to their specific needs, sustainable and balanced development.

### Reduction of Centralization and Bureaucracy:

Decentralization reduces excessive centralization and bureaucratic delays allowing for quicker decision-making and implementation at the provincial level. Elinor Ostrom in his book state that local governance structures are more effective in managing resources and delivering services due to reduction in bureaucratic layers.

### Critical Analysis:

The decision to hand certain subjects handed back to center or not must be carefully consider balancing the need for uniform policy implementation and national coherence with the principles of autonomy and local governance. While there are compelling arguments for critical over to control by center like education, health, energy and water resources



the potential risks and benefits must be weighted. Strengthening provincial capacities and fostering inter-provincial cooperation might be more sustainable and practically and politically more viable alternatives to recentralization.

### Conclusion:

While central control might enhance uniformity and efficiency in critical areas like education, energy, water and law enforcement, these potentials can balance a state but keeping an angle to historical political tension. Increasing inter-provincial cooperation could be more sustainable alternatives to both the ideas.