

Part-II ①Paper-II

How does Local Government work in UK under the unitary state system?

1. Introduction:

The United Kingdom is a unitary state with a complex local government system. The central government has a power, whereas 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,

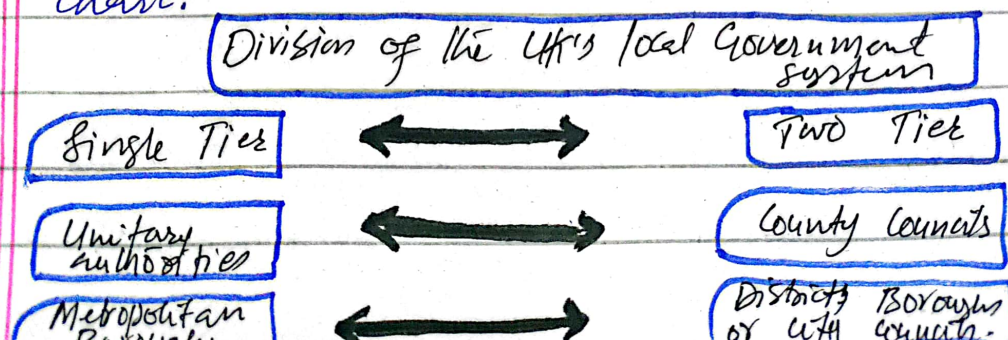
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with the central government as the supreme authority. The unitary form of government is distinguished by two key features: the supremacy of the central government and the absence of subsidiary politics. It is not like the federal form of government, and 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 United Kingdom functions as a unitary state where all authority comes from the federal government.

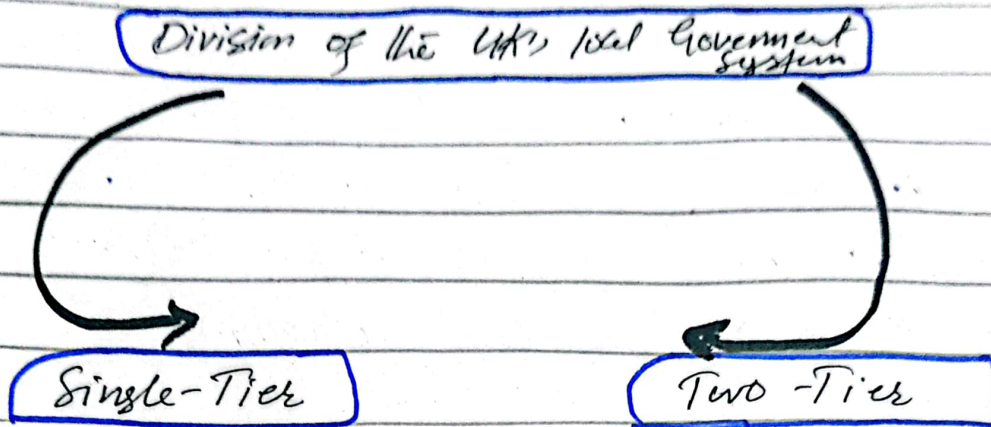
The division of the UK's local government system is drawn through the following chart:



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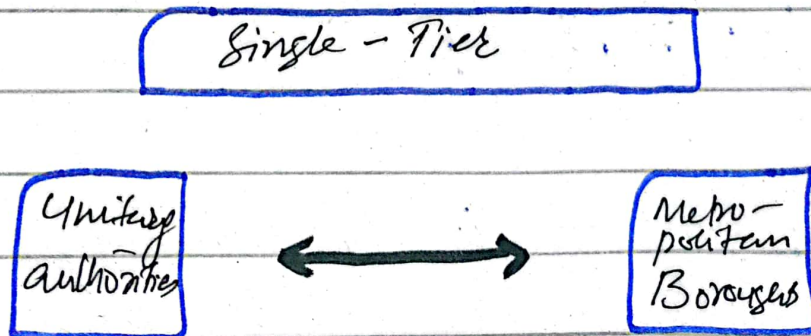
Local government in the UK is broadly divided into two types:

1. Single-tier
2. Two-tier



1. Single-tier

In this system, there is only one level of local government that is responsible for all local services. Besides, there are other forms of single-tier local governments in the UK.



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• Unitary Authorities:

There are 58 unitary authorities.

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

• Metropolitan boroughs:

There are 32 London boroughs.

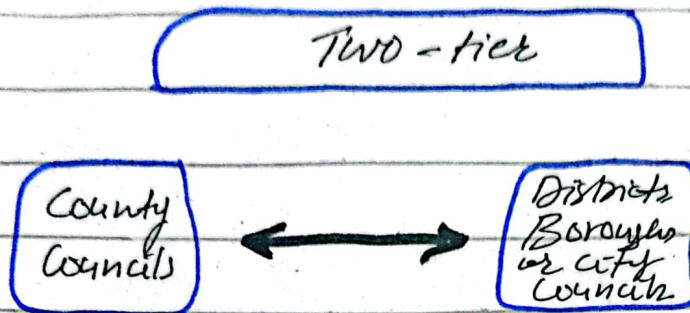
English metropolitan areas like Greater Manchester, the West Midlands, and Merseyside all have single-tier local governments. Metropolitan boroughs deliver all local services in their area.

2. Two-Tier:

This method is predominantly utilized in England's non-metropolitan counties, also known as shire counties.

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There are two levels of local government in a two-tier system which are as follows:



• County Councils:

There are 24 County Councils, which are divided into two levels. These organizations provide larger-scale services such as education, social services, public transportation, and strategic planning, respectively.

• District, Borough, or City Councils:

These counties of Greater Manchester, Merseyside, South Yorkshire, Tyne and Wear, West Midlands, and West Yorkshire are served by 36.

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Metropolitan District Councils

These organisations 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 local government system in the United Kingdom. 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 the three most common forms of local government in the United Kingdom. District councils are in

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charge of housing, trash pick up, and local planning in their own areas. County Councils, on the 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. Additionally, they (local councils) oversee the management of smaller communities. Also, they manage public spaces like parks, walkways, and cemeteries within jurisdictions. However, local governments are not only the ones with authority; Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland each have their parliament or assembly with jurisdiction over healthcare, education, and transportation.

Conclusion:

To conclude, local government in

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in the United Kingdom is a complicated but essential part of the unitary state. Even though power is centralized, local government can manage and run services that are specific to their areas in an apt manner. 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.