

Chapter 11: Grassroots Democracy – Part 2 (Local Government in Rural Areas)

Practice Worksheet — Set A

Name: _____ Class/Section: _____ Date: _____

Section A: Multiple Choice Questions (1 mark each)

- What is the local self-government at the village level called?
(a) Municipality (b) Panchayat (c) Parliament (d) Assembly
- Who elects the members of the Gram Panchayat?
(a) The State Government (b) The Gram Sabha (c) The District Collector (d) The Prime Minister
- What is the head of the Gram Panchayat called?
(a) Mayor (b) MLA (c) Sarpanch or Pradhan (d) Governor
- The Panchayati Raj system works at how many levels?
(a) Two (b) Three (c) Four (d) Five
- Which institution is at the block level of the Panchayati Raj system?
(a) Gram Panchayat (b) Zila Parishad (c) Panchayat Samiti (d) Gram Sabha
- Which institution is at the district level of the Panchayati Raj system?
(a) Panchayat Samiti (b) Zila Parishad (c) Gram Sabha (d) Gram Panchayat
- Who assists the Gram Panchayat with administrative functions such as calling meetings and maintaining records?
(a) Patwari (b) Panchayat Secretary (c) Sarpanch (d) MLA
- Who maintains the villagers' land records?
(a) Panchayat Secretary (b) Sarpanch (c) Patwari (d) Zila Parishad
- What fraction of seats is reserved for women in Panchayati Raj institutions?
(a) One-fourth (b) Half (c) One-third (d) Two-thirds
- Popatrao Baguji Pawar, the Sarpanch who transformed Hiware Bazar, was awarded which honour in 2020?
(a) Bharat Ratna (b) Padma Shri (c) Ashoka Chakra (d) Arjuna Award

Section B: Fill in the Blanks (1 mark each)

- The _____ is a group of adults from a village who are enrolled as voters and discuss local matters.

2. Panchayati Raj is also known as a form of _____ -government.
3. The Panchayat Samiti is the link between the Gram Panchayat and the _____ at the district level.
4. The _____ scheme promotes the construction of all-weather roads in rural areas.
5. Dnyaneshwar Kamble, a transgender person, was elected Sarpanch of _____ village in Solapur district, Maharashtra.
6. Vandana Bahadur Maida belongs to the _____ community and became the first female Sarpanch of her village.
7. The _____ Initiative gives children opportunities to express their ideas through Bal Sabhas and Bal Panchayats.
8. The 'Children's Parliament' in Rajasthan is an offshoot of Bunker Roy's _____ initiative.
9. The Arthashastra was written by _____, also known as Chanakya.
10. According to the Arthashastra, a _____ (sub-district headquarters) was established for every 10 villages.

Section C: True or False (1 mark each)

1. The Gram Panchayat is the institution farthest from the people in rural areas. (True / False)
2. The Sarpanch is the elected head of the Gram Panchayat. (True / False)
3. The Panchayati Raj system works at three levels: village, block and district. (True / False)
4. The Patwari maintains the administrative records of Panchayat meetings. (True / False)
5. One-third of the seats in Panchayati Raj institutions are reserved for women. (True / False)
6. The Panchayat Samiti has no connection with the Zila Parishad. (True / False)
7. Popatrao Baguji Pawar transformed Hiware Bazar using rainwater harvesting and tree planting. (True / False)
8. The Children's Parliament in Rajasthan involves children aged 8 to 14 years. (True / False)
9. The Arthashastra was written about 2,300 years ago. (True / False)
10. Sangkhu Radhu Khandu Gram Panchayat in Sikkim was declared a child-friendly Gram Panchayat. (True / False)

Section D: Answer in About Two Lines (2 marks each)

1. What is a Panchayat?

2. Who is a Sarpanch?

3. What is the Gram Sabha?

4. Name the three tiers of the Panchayati Raj system.

5. What role does the Panchayat Secretary play?

6. What does a Patwari do?

7. What is the Child-Friendly Panchayat Initiative?

8. Mention one achievement of the Children's Parliament in Rajasthan.

9. What does the Panchayat Samiti do for development plans?

10. Why is one-third reservation for women important in Panchayati Raj institutions?

Section E: Write Short Notes (5–8 lines) (4 marks each)

1. Describe the three-tier structure of the Panchayati Raj system.

2. Write a short note on the Gram Panchayat and how it functions.

3. Describe any two examples of exemplary Sarpanchs mentioned in the chapter.

4. Explain the Child-Friendly Panchayat Initiative with examples.

5. What functions does the Panchayat Samiti perform at the block level?

ANSWER KEY — Set A

Section A: Multiple Choice Questions

1. Panchayat
2. The Gram Sabha
3. Sarpanch or Pradhan
4. Three
5. Panchayat Samiti
6. Zila Parishad
7. Panchayat Secretary
8. Patwari
9. One-third
10. Padma Shri

Section B: Fill in the Blanks

1. Gram Sabha
2. self
3. Zila Parishad
4. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana
5. Tarangfal
6. Bhil
7. Child-Friendly Panchayat
8. Barefoot College
9. Kautilya
10. sangrahana

Section C: True or False

1. False
2. True
3. True
4. False
5. True
6. False
7. True
8. True
9. True
10. True

Section D: Answer in About Two Lines

1. A Panchayat is a village council, a system of local self-government in rural India that brings governance closer to the people.
2. The Sarpanch, also called Pradhan, is the elected head of the Gram Panchayat, chosen by the members of the Gram Panchayat.
3. The Gram Sabha is a group of adults from a village (or a group of neighbouring villages) who are enrolled as voters and discuss local matters.
4. The three tiers are the Gram Panchayat (village level), Panchayat Samiti (block level) and Zila Parishad (district level).
5. The Panchayat Secretary performs administrative functions for the Gram Panchayat, such as calling meetings and maintaining records.
6. A Patwari maintains the land records of villagers and, in some areas, keeps maps that are generations old.
7. It is an initiative that creates opportunities for children to express their ideas and opinions on matters concerning their wellbeing through Bal Sabhas and Bal Panchayats.
8. It received the World's Children's Honorary Award in 2001 for empowering underprivileged children through education and democratic participation.
9. It coordinates matters across Gram Panchayats by collecting their development plans and presenting them at the District or State level.
10. It ensures that women get a fair opportunity to participate in local governance and represent the needs of their communities.

Section E: Short Notes (Model Answers)

1. The Panchayati Raj system works at three levels, organised from the bottom up. At the village level is the Gram Panchayat (also called Village Parishad), which is closest to the people and elected directly by the Gram Sabha. At the block level is the Panchayat Samiti (also called Block Panchayat or Mandal Parishad), which links the Gram Panchayat to institutions above it. At the district level is the Zila Parishad (also

called District Panchayat). Together, these three institutions cover almost all aspects of life in the district, from agriculture and roads to education, healthcare and social welfare.

2. The Gram Panchayat is the local government body closest to the people in rural areas. Its members are elected directly by the Gram Sabha, a group of adult voters from the village or a group of neighbouring villages. In the Gram Sabha, women and men discuss matters related to their area and take decisions together. Each Gram Panchayat elects a head called the Sarpanch or Pradhan. The Gram Panchayat is assisted by a Panchayat Secretary for administrative work and, in many areas, by a Patwari who maintains land records.

3. Dnyaneshwar Kamble, a transgender person, was elected Sarpanch of Tarangfal village in Solapur district, Maharashtra, in 2017, defeating six other candidates, with the motto 'service to the village is service to the public.' Popatrao Baguji Pawar, Sarpanch of Hiware Bazar in Ahmednagar district, Maharashtra, applied Anna Hazare's model of rainwater harvesting, watershed conservation and large-scale tree planting, transforming a drought-prone village into a green and prosperous one, for which he was awarded the Padma Shri in 2020.

4. The Child-Friendly Panchayat Initiative allows children to voice their ideas and concerns through Bal Sabhas and Bal Panchayats, while village elders work to address them. In Maharashtra, some Bal Panchayats have worked to eliminate child labour and child marriage and bring children back to school. Sangkhu Radhu Khandu Gram Panchayat in West Sikkim was declared child-friendly for building safer school compound walls and constructing kitchens for hygienic midday meals. In Rajasthan, the Children's Parliament engaged children aged 8 to 14 in democratic participation through night schools and parliament-like elections.

5. The Panchayat Samiti works at the block level and links the Gram Panchayat with the Zila Parishad at the district level. Its members are elected by local people, along with other members such as Sarpanchs of villages in the area and local MLAs. It coordinates matters across Gram Panchayats by collecting their development plans

and presenting them at the District or State level. This helps in the allotment of funds for development projects and government schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, which builds all-weather roads in rural areas.

