5.4 US Federalism: The Changing Relationship Between Federal and State Government: Test Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Define the Tenth Amendment as it appears in the US Constitution and state its general implication for state powers in US federalism.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 Identify two types of powers in the US federal system and give a brief example of each, naming the power type and an example policy area.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 Explain briefly what is meant by dual federalism in the historical US context and name the era when it was dominant.

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

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4 State two features of cooperative federalism that emerged under the New Deal, with brief examples.

(Total for Question 4 is 3 marks)

5 Explain the difference between categorical grants and block grants in US federal fiscal policy and give one policy implication of each for state autonomy.

(Total for Question 5 is 6 marks)

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Mark scheme · 5.4 US Federalism: The Changing Relationship Between Federal and State Government: Test Pack

Question 1

a concise definition: 'The Tenth Amendment reserves to the states or the people powers not delegated to the federal government' cao	**B1**

Answer: The Tenth Amendment states that powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

Question 2

one power type with an accurate example, e.g. 'enumerated powers: coin money, regulate interstate commerce' cao	**B1**
second power type with an accurate example, e.g. 'reserved powers: education policy or local policing' cao	**B1**

Answer: Any two of: enumerated powers, e.g. regulating interstate commerce or coining money; reserved powers, e.g. education or criminal law enforcement left to the states; concurrent powers, e.g. taxation exercised by both levels.

Question 3

identifies dual federalism as separate spheres of federal and state responsibility	**B1**
gives the era, e.g. 19th century up to the New Deal/early 20th century	**B1**
brief development, e.g. limited federal powers and state autonomy in most policy areas	**B1**

Answer: Dual federalism describes a system in which federal and state governments occupy largely separate spheres of authority, with limited federal intervention; it was dominant in the 19th century and into the early 20th century until the New Deal era expanded federal roles.

Question 4

one accurate feature, e.g. federal grants-in-aid funding state programmes	**B1**
second accurate feature, e.g. regulatory standards set at federal level implemented by states	**B1**
brief example, e.g. Social Security funding, New Deal work programmes	**B1**

Answer: Features include federal grants-in-aid financing state programmes and federal standards or regulations that states implement locally; examples include New Deal work relief programmes funded federally and later federal social welfare programmes like Social Security.

Question 5

defines categorical grants as federal funds for specific purposes with conditions	**B1**
gives policy implication for categorical grants, e.g. reduced state autonomy because of federal strings	**B1**
defines block grants as lump-sum funds with greater state discretion	**B1**
gives policy implication for block grants, e.g. increased state policy variation and autonomy	**B1**
provides an example of each, e.g. Medicaid as conditional categorical funding versus TANF as a block grant	**B1**
brief comparative development, e.g. political trade-offs between federal control and state flexibility	**B1**

Answer: Categorical grants are federal funds earmarked for narrow purposes and come with conditions, which reduces state autonomy by constraining how money is used; Medicaid is a prominent categorical programme with federal rules. Block grants are lump-sum funds given for broader purposes with fewer strings, increasing state discretion and allowing policy variation, as with TANF after 1996. The trade-off is federal policy uniformity under categorical grants versus state flexibility under block grants.

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