



# PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY

BENGALURU

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## Mid - Term Examinations – October 2025

Date: 09-10-2025

Time: 11.45am to 01.15pm

<b>School:</b> SOL	<b>Program:</b> BA/ BBA/ BCom LLB (Hons.)	
<b>Course Code:</b> LAW4009	<b>Course Name:</b> Local Self Government and Panchayat Administration	
<b>Semester:</b> VII	<b>Max Marks:</b> 50	<b>Weightage:</b> 25%

CO - Levels	CO1	CO2	CO3	CO4	CO5
<b>Marks</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>24</b>			

### Instructions:

- Read all questions carefully and answer accordingly.
- Do not write anything on the question paper other than roll number.

### Part A

Answer ALL the Questions. Each question carries 2marks.

5Q x 2M=10M

1	Define local self-government.	2 Marks	L1	CO1
2	State what de Tocqueville mean when he said, " <i>Town meetings are to liberty what primary schools are to science</i> "?	2 Marks	L2	CO1
3	Define a <i>Sthaneeya</i> in ancient Indian administration.	2 Marks	L1	CO1
4	Explain why is Lord Ripon's Resolution (1882) often termed the <i>Magna Carta of local democracy</i> ?	2 Marks	L2	CO2
5	Define zamindars and what role did they play in weakening local autonomy?	2 Marks	L2	CO2

### Part B

Answer the Questions.

Total Marks 40M

6.	Examine the significance of local self-government in political education and grassroots democracy.	10 Marks	L2	CO1
<b>Or</b>				
7.	Analyze the role of Panchayats and <i>gana</i> systems in ancient India as	10 Marks	L4	CO1

	foundations of democracy.			
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8.	During the Mughal period, a Zamindar named Rashid Khan established his authority over fifteen villages in present-day Uttar Pradesh, bypassing the traditional Panchayat system. The villagers complained that their customary rights to self-governance through village assemblies were being systematically undermined by the new feudal structure. Local revenue officials supported the Zamindar, arguing that direct administration was more efficient for tax collection. Examine how this scenario reflects the broader decline of the Panchayat system during the medieval period.	7+3 Marks	L5	CO1
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**Or**

9.	The village of Krishnapura in ancient India operated under the traditional Grama system as described in ancient texts like the Mahabharata. However, conflicts arose when the village headman began making unilateral decisions about water distribution and land allocation without consulting the village assembly. The affected families approached the regional administrative unit (Sangrahan) claiming violation of ancient democratic principles. Evaluate whether the headman's actions contradict the foundational principles of ancient village self-governance	7+3 Marks	L4	CO1
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10.	Following Lord Mayo's Resolution of 1870, a District Collector in Bengal decided to establish a local board with limited powers for road maintenance and education in a cluster of villages. However, the local population demanded genuine self-governing powers similar to their traditional Panchayat system, while the colonial administration insisted on maintaining supervisory control. The Collector argued that the primary purpose was financial efficiency and administrative convenience, not democratic empowerment. Evaluate whether the Collector's approach aligns with the stated objectives of Lord Mayo's Resolution.	10 Marks	L5	CO2
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**Or**

11.	In 1885, three years after Lord Ripon's Resolution, the Municipal Committee of a town in present-day Maharashtra faced a crisis when the District Magistrate continuously interfered in their decisions regarding local taxation and public works. The elected non-official members complained that despite Ripon's emphasis on local self-government, they possessed no real authority and were merely executing orders from colonial administrators. The District Magistrate justified his interference citing the need for administrative efficiency and proper financial management. Assess whether the District Magistrate's actions contradict the spirit of Lord Ripon's	10 Marks	L4	CO2
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	Resolution of 1882.			
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12.	Based on the Royal Commission on Decentralization (1909) findings, a Local District Board in Punjab struggled with the issue that large landowners and socially prominent persons refused to participate in elections, claiming they would not submit to the vote of ordinary territorial constituencies. Simultaneously, minorities complained of inadequate representation, while the existing board lacked genuine powers to implement meaningful development programs. Examine how this scenario validates the Royal Commission's identified defects in the local board system.	10 Marks	L2	CO2
<b>Or</b>				
13.	Following the Government of India Act of 1919, a newly constituted Panchayat in present-day Rajasthan was granted powers to impose taxes, sanction works, and control budgets. However, when the Panchayat decided to allocate significant funds for a school construction project over road repairs, the local Sub-Divisional Officer intervened, arguing that road infrastructure was a higher priority for the colonial administration. The elected Panchayat members asserted their autonomy citing the 1919 resolution's emphasis on learning through mistakes. Analyze whether the Sub-Divisional Officer's intervention violates the principles established in the 1919 Government of India resolution.	10 Marks	L4	CO2