

# Power Sharing

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## Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

1. Which of the following term refers to the belief in and advocacy for the social, political and economic equality of women? (2024)

- (a) Patriarchy
- (b) Matriarchy
- (c) Socialist
- (d) Feminists

**Answer.** (d) Feminists

2. Why is power sharing desirable? Explain. (2024)

**Answer.** Why is power sharing desirable? Explain. i. Power sharing helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups. ii. Power sharing is a good way to ensure the stability of political order. iii. It controls social conflicts, violence and political instability. iv. It helps to unite the nation. v. A legitimate government is one where citizens, through participation, acquire a stake in the system. vi. Power Sharing is the very spirit of democracy. vii. Any other relevant points.

**Any two points to be explained.**

3. Which of the following was the primary objective of Belgium to form the separate government in Brussels ? (2024)

- (a) Promoting cultural events.
- (b) Managing international relations.
- (c) Enforcing local laws.
- (d) Ensuring linguistic accommodation.

**Answer.** (d) Ensuring Linguistic accommodation.

**Belgium and Sri Lanka; Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka; Accommodation in Belgium**

## MCQ

1. Two statements are given below as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

Assertion (A): Sri Lanka adopted "Tamil" as the official language of the State.

Reason (R): The Govt. of Sri Lanka adopted a series of majoritarian measures.

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (b) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (c) (A) is true but (R) is false.
- (d) (A) is false but (R) is true. (2023)

2. Which one of the following elements is NOT included in the Belgium model? (Term-1, 2021-22)

- (a) Dutch and French speaking ministers shall be equal in the government.
- (b) Many powers of the central government have been given to state governments.
- (c) Brussels has a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation.
- (d) There is a community government which has special powers of administration.

3. Two statements are given below as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the most appropriate option.

Assertion (A): Majority community is dominant in a few democratic states.

Reason (R): Dominance can undermine the unity of the country.

- (a) Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation of the A.
- (b) Both A and R are correct, but R is not the correct explanation of the A.
- (c) A is correct, but R is incorrect.
- (d) A is incorrect, but R is correct. (Term-1, 2021-22)

4. Two statements are given below as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the most appropriate option.

Assertion (A): The distrust between Sinhalese and Tamil communities turned into widespread conflict in Sri Lanka

Reason (R): 1956 Act recognised Sinhala as the only official language.

- (a) Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation of the A.
- (b) Both A and R are correct, but R is not the correct explanation of the A.

- (c) A is correct, but R is incorrect.
- (d) A is incorrect, but R is correct. (Term-1, 2021-22)

5. Which one of the following is a major caste group of Sri Lanka? (2020)

- (a) Christian and Tamil
- (b) Buddhist and Hindu
- (c) Sinhali and Tamil
- (d) Sinhali and Christian

6. Under which of the following is power shared in the 'Community Government' of Belgium? (2020)

- (a) Different social groups
- (b) Different organs of government
- (c) Central and State government
- (d) State government and Community government

### VSA (1 mark)

7. Fill in the blank:

59 percent of the total population of Belgium live in the region. (2021 C)

8. State any one step taken in Belgium to rule out the problem of regional differences and cultural diversities. (2020)

9. The Belgium model of 'Community government' worked well because (2020 C)

10. Why was there an acute problem in Brussels during 1950s and 1960s between the two communities? (2019 C)

11. Explain the major repercussion of passing Sinhala as the only official language in Sri Lanka in 1956. (2019 C)

12. How and when was Sinhala recognised as the official language of Sri Lanka? (2016)

13. Which factor is responsible for increasing the feeling of alienation among the Sri Lankan Tamil? (2015)

14. Which type of powers does community government of Belgium enjoy? (2015)



15. State any two measures adopted by Sri Lanka in 1956 as part of their majoritarian policy. (2015)

**OR**

What measure was adopted by the democratically elected government of Sri Lanka to establish Sinhala supremacy? (2014)

16. Who formed the majority in terms of population in Sri Lanka? (2014)

17. What is the state religion of Sri Lanka? (2014) R

18. In which city is the headquarters of the European Union located? (2014)

**SAI (3 marks)**

19. How did the Belgium government accommodate the social differences? (2021 C)

**OR**

Describe the elements of Belgian model for accommodating diversities. (2020)

20. Explain the three measures taken by Sri Lanka, as per the Act passed in 1956. (2017)

21. How is the ethnic composition of Belgium very complex? Explain. (2016)

22. How did Sri Lanka and the Belgium government try to solve the ethnic problem? (2016)

23. "Attempts at forced integration often sow the seeds of disintegration". Support the statement with suitable arguments. (2016)

24. Describe the power-sharing arrangement made in Belgium. (2015, 2014)

**LA (5 marks)**

25. Compare the situation of Belgium and Sri Lanka considering their location, size and cultural aspects. (2019)

**Why Power-sharing is Desirable?**

**MCQ**

26. Two statements are given below as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option.

Assertion (A): Elections are the spirit of democracy.

Reason (R): Elections expand Political participation.

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (b) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (c) (A) is true but (R) is false.
- (d) (A) is false, but (R) is true (2023)

27. Consider the following statements on Power Sharing and choose the correct option.

I. It deepens democracy.

II. It helps to reduce conflicts among social groups.

III. It is a way to ensure political stability.

IV. It brings socio-economic struggles.

- (a) I, II and III
- (b) II, III and IV
- (c) I, III and IV
- (d) I, II and IV (2023)

28. Consider the following statements on Power Sharing and choose the correct option: (2023)

(I) Majoritarianism is the real spirit of democracy.

(II) It creates balance and harmony in different groups.

(III) It reduces the possibility of conflict among social groups.

(IV) Power sharing is the essence of democracy.

- (a) I, II and III
- (b) II, III and IV
- (c) I, III and IV
- (d) I, II and IV

29. Two statements are given below as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the most appropriate option.

Assertion (A): Power-sharing is good.

Reason (R): It helps to reduce the possibility of conflicts between social groups.

- (a) Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation of the A.
- (b) Both A and R are correct, but R is not the correct explanation of the A.

- (c) A is correct, but R is incorrect.  
(d) A is incorrect, but R is correct. (Term-1, 2021-22)

**VSA (1 mark)**

30. Explain any one benefit of 'Power-Sharing'. (AI 2019)  
31. What is the prudential reason behind power-sharing? (2014)

**SAI (3 marks)**

32. "Sharing of powers makes a country more powerful and united." Do you agree with this statement and why? (2016)  
33. Give reasons why power-sharing is desirable. (2015)  
34. What is power-sharing? Why power-sharing is important in democracy? (2014)

**LA (5 marks)**

35. Why is power-sharing necessary in democracy? Explain. (2016)  
Forms of Power-Sharing

**MCQ**

36. Identify 'Horizontal power-sharing' arrangements among the following in modern democracies.  
(a) Different organs of government  
(b) Governments at different levels  
(c) Different social groups  
(d) Different parties, pressure groups and movements (Term-1, 2021-22)
37. What is NOT an integral part of the government? (Term-1, 2021-22)  
(a) Office of the Prime Minister  
(b) Legislature  
(c) Executive  
(d) Judiciary

**VSA (1 mark)**

38. What does 'the system of checks and balances' ensure in power-sharing? (2016)

39. Mention any one characteristic of power-sharing. (2016)

40. What system of power-sharing is called "Checks and Balances"? (2015)

**SAI (3 marks)**

41. Describe the horizontal power-sharing arrangements. (2020)

42. How can power be shared among governments at different levels? Explain. (2014)

**LA (5 marks)**

43. How is the idea of power-sharing emerged? Explain different forms that have common arrangements of power-sharing. (Delhi 2019)

### **CBSE Sample Questions**

#### **Belgium and Sri Lanka; Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka; Accommodation in Belgium**

**MCQ**

1. Consider the following statements regarding power sharing arrangements in Belgium and identify the incorrect one from the following: (2022-23)

(a) Equal number of members from Dutch and French community in the central government.

(b) Separate government for Brussels with equal representation of communities.

(c) The state government to be subordinate to the central government.

(d) Community government elected by people belonging to one language community.

2. Which one of the following countries adopted majoritarianism in its constitution? (Term-1, 2021-22)

(a) Nepal

(b) India

(c) Sri Lanka

(d) Bangladesh

3. Two statements are given below as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the most appropriate option.

Assertion (A): Sri Lanka adopted Sinhala as the only official language of the state.

Reason (R): The government of Sri Lanka wanted to foster their culture, language and religion.

- (a) Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation of the A.
- (b) Both A and R are correct, but R is not the correct explanation of the A.
- (c) A is correct, but R is incorrect.
- (d) A is incorrect, but R is correct. (Term-1, 2021-22)

4. Population of Sri Lankan Tamils is concentrated in region of Sri Lanka. (2020-21)

- (a) North and South
- (b) North and East
- (c) East and West
- (d) South and East

VSA (1 mark)

5. Define majoritarianism. (2020-21)

6. Define ethnicity. (2020-21)

### Why Power-sharing is Desirable?

#### MCQ

7. Consider the following statements on power-sharing and select the answer using the codes given below:

- I. It is good for democracy.
- II. It creates harmony in different groups.
- III. It brings transparency in the governance.
- IV. It brings socio-political competition among parties.

- (a) I, II & III
- (b) II, III & IV
- (c) I, III & IV
- (d) I, II & IV (Term-1, 2021-22)

8. Identify the significant reason of power-sharing from the following options.

- (a) Reduces socio-economic conflicts
- (b) Provides ethnic-cultural development



- (c) Allows people to enjoy specific rights
- (d) Restricts supremacy of one party (Term-1, 2021-22)

### LA (5 marks)

9. 'Power-sharing is the essence of a democratic government: Examine the statement. (2020-21)

### Forms of Power-sharing

#### MCQ

10. Apart from the Central and the State Government, Belgium has a third kind of government as well. Identify this third kind of government from the following options.

- (a) Democratic Government
- (b) Socialist Government
- (c) Community Government
- (d) Liberal Government (Term-1, 2021-22)

11. Why is the power shared amongst different organs of government called as horizontal distribution of power? Identify the correct reason.

- (a) It gives judiciary more power than legislature and executive.
- (b) It allows different organs of government to be placed at the same level.
- (c) It gives representation to different ideologies at political level.
- (d) It influences and coordinates in the decision- making process. (Term-1, 2021-22)

## ANSWERS

### Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

1. (d): (A) is false but (R) is true. Sri Lanka adopted 'Sinhala' as the official language.
2. (d): Community government in Belgium has the power regarding cultural, educational and language related issues.
3. (b): There are some countries in which majority community is dominant, like Sri Lanka. Reason is also correct, but they do not relate.



4. (b): 1956 Act recognised Sinhala as the only official language further the government also followed the preferential policies that favoured Sinhala applicants for jobs. Different government measures coming one after the other gradually, led to distrust between Sinhalese and Tamil communities, which turned into widespread conflict in Sri Lanka.

5. (b): Buddhist and Hindu.

6. (a): Different social groups.

7. 59% of total population of Belgium lives in Flemish region.

8. Equal representation in the centre.

9. belonging to one language community.

10. In Belgium, the minority French speaking community was richer than the Dutch speaking people. This was resented by the Dutch speaking community. This led to acute problem in Brussels during 1950s and 1960s between these two communities.

11. Major repercussion of passing Sinhala as the only official language is Sri Lanka in 1956 is it increase the feeling of alienation among the Sri Lanka on Tamils. They launched parties and struggles for the recognition of Tamil as an official language.

12. Sinhala was recognised as the official language of Sri Lanka by passing an Act in 1956.

13. Majoritarianism Sri Lanka shows us a contracting example: it show us that if a majority community wants to force its dominance over others and refuses to share power, it can undermine the unity of the country.

14. The government has power regarding cultural, educational and issues related to language.

15. Majoritarianism measures adopted in Sri Lanka are:-

(i) They declared Sinhala as an official language.

(ii) They tried to promote their religion Buddhism.

(iii) In order to gain control over Tamil speakers they changed constitution and made new constitution in their own favour.

16. Sinhala community



17. Buddhism

18. Brussels

19. Belgium model for the accommodation of diversities:

(i) Though the Dutch were in majority in the country, the French and Dutch speaking population was given equal representation in the central government.

(ii) Belgium was declared as a Federal state and thus state governments were given important powers.

(iii) The state governments did not act as a subordinate to the central government.

20. The measures taken by Sri Lanka are:

(i) Government adopted majoritarian measure to establish Sinhala Supremacy. In 1956, an Act was passed to recognise Sinhala as the only official language thus disregarding Tamil.

(ii) The governments followed preferential politics that favoured Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs.

(iii) A new Constitution stipulated that the state shall protect and foster Buddhism.

21. (i) Out of the country's total population, 59 per cent live in the Flemish region and speak Dutch language.

(ii) Another 40 per cent people live in the Wallonia region and speak French.

(iii) Remaining one per cent of the Belgians speak German.

(iv) In the capital city Brussels, 80 per cent people speak French while 20 per cent are Dutch speaking.

22. (i) The Belgium leaders tried to solve the ethnic problem by respecting the feelings and interests of different communities and regions, whereas the Sri Lankan government tried to solve the problem through majoritarianism.

(ii) Belgian leaders established a federal structure under which power was shared between the Union Government and its other constituent units whereas Sri Lankan leaders adopted Unitary Government structure.

(iii) The Belgium solution helped in avoiding civic strife whereas the majoritarianism in Sri Lanka led to the civil war.



23. It is true that forced integration of communities very often bring in a lot of feelings of grudge and disagreement among the regions. This has been seen in Sri Lanka between the Sinhalese and Tamils. The problem arises during integration of two regions in division of power and sharing of resources. Each side

is afraid that the other party or region will dominate over their region. They are afraid of going backwards. And, in today's world no one wants to be pushed aside by others. An important example is the breakdown of erstwhile USSR into different countries of East Europe. That is why integration should be on a harmonious, cordial and amical terms and not by force.

24. The Power-sharing arrangement made in Belgium are-

(i) Constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French speaking ministers shall be equal in the Central Government. Some special laws require the support of majority of members from each linguistic group. Thus, no single community can make decisions unilaterally.

(ii) Many powers of the Central Government have been given to State Governments of the two regions of the country. The State Governments are not subordinate to the Central Government.

(iii) Brussels had a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation. The French-speaking people accepted equal representation in Brussels because the Dutch-speaking community has accepted equal representation in the Central Government.

(iv) Apart from the central and the state government, there is a third kind of government called the community government.

(v) This community government is elected by people belonging to one language community such as - Dutch, French and German speaking. This government has the power regarding cultural, educational and language related issues.



25. The comparison between situation of Belgium and Sri Lanka are as follows:

Basis of difference	Belgium	Sri Lanka
Location	It is located in Western Europe, bordered to the north by the Netherland, to the east by Germany and Luxembourg and to the south and the west by France.	It is located in the Indian Ocean South of India.
Size	It is relatively small country covering a size of about 30,688 sq. km.	It covers an area of about 65,610 sq. km.
Culture	Population of Belgium are diversified as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 59% of the total population speak Dutch</li><li>- 40% of the total population speak French</li><li>- 1% of the total population speak German</li></ul> However, in the capital Brussels 80% speak French and 20% speak Dutch.	Population of Sri Lanka are diversified as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 74% population is Sinhala speaking</li><li>- 18% population speak tamil, out of which Sri lankan Tamil is 13% and Indian immigrant tamils are 4%</li><li>- The Sinhala speakers are Buddhists and the Tamil speakers are Muslims or Hindus.</li></ul>

26. (d): Power sharing is the spirit of democracy.

27. (a): I, II and III

28. (b): II, III and IV

29. (a) Power-sharing is good for democracy as it helps to reduce the possibility of conflicts between social groups.

30. Power-sharing helps to reduce the possibility of conflicts between different social groups. A social conflict often leads to violence and political instability. Power-sharing helps to ensure the stability of political order.

31. Power-sharing helps in reducing the conflicts between various social groups. Hence, power-sharing is necessary for maintaining social harmony and peace.

32. (i) The first reason is power-sharing helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.

(ii) Power-sharing is a good way to ensure the stability of political order as social conflict often leads to violence and political instability.

(iii) Imposing the will of the majority community over others may look like an attractive option in the short run, but in the long run it undermines the unity of the nation.

(iv) Tyranny of the majority is not only oppressive for the minority but it also brings ruin to the majority.



(v) Another important reason is that the very spirit of democracy is power-sharing. A democratic rule involves sharing power with those affected by its exercise, and who have to live with its effects. People have a right to be consulted on how they are to be governed. A legitimate government is one where citizens, through participation, acquire a stake in the system.

33. Power-sharing is desirable in democracy because:

(i) Prudential reasons:

(a) It helps to reduce the possibility of conflicts between social groups. Since social conflict often leads to violence and political instability.

(b) It is a good way to ensure the stability of political order.

(c) Imposing the will of majority Community over others may look like an attractive option in the short run, but in the long run it undermines the unity of the nation.

(ii) Moral reasons:

(a) Power-sharing is the very spirit of democracy. A democratic rule involves sharing of power with those affected by its exercise and who have to live with its effect.

(b) People have a right to be consulted on how they are to be governed.

(c) A legitimate government is one where citizens through participation, acquire a stake in the system.

34. (i) When the power does not rest with any one- organ of the state rather it is shared among legislature, executive and judiciary it is called power-sharing.

(ii) Power-sharing is important in a democracy because:

(a) It helps to reduce the possibility of conflicts between social groups.

(b) It is the very spirit of democracy.

(c) It is a good way to ensure the stability of the political order.

35. (i) The first reason is power-sharing helps to reduce the possibility of conflicts between social groups.

(ii) Power-sharing is a good way to ensure the stability of political order as social conflict often leads to violence and political instability.

(iii) Imposing the will of the majority community over others may look like an attractive option in the short run, but in the long run it undermines the unity of the nation.

(iv) Tyranny of the majority is not only oppressive for the minority but it also brings ruin to the majority.



(v) Another important reason is that the very spirit of democracy is power-sharing. A democratic rule involves sharing of power with those affected by its exercise, and who have to live with its effects. People have a right to be consulted on how they are to be governed. A legitimate government is one where citizens, through participation, acquire a stake in the system.

36. (a): The power that is shared among different organs of government equally is known as horizontal power-sharing.

37. (a): Office of the Prime Minister.

38. The system of checks and balances ensures that no one branch of the national government gains too much power.

39. Power-sharing is a system of governance where all the communities in the society participate in the policy making.

40. The system of horizontal power distribution is called "checks and balances".

41. Arrangements of power in horizontal power-sharing are as follows:

(i) Power is shared among different organs of the government, such as the legislature, executive and judiciary.

(ii) Different organs of the government exercise different powers.

(iii) This arrangement is called a system of checks and balances.

42. Vertical division of power: Vertical division of power means sharing of power among governments at different levels. In India, there are three levels of the government:

(i) For the entire country: Central Government/Union Government.

(ii) At the provincial level: State Governments.

(iii) At the local level (ie., rural and urban): Local self governments like panchayats and municipal councils. Horizontal power-sharing is:

(i) Power is shared among different organs of the government, such as the legislature, executive and judiciary.

(ii) Different organs of the government exercise different powers

(iii) This arrangement is called a system of checks and balance.

### CBSE Sample Questions



1. (c): Many powers of the central government has been given to the state governments. The state governments are not subordinate to the central government. (1)
2. (c): Sri Lanka adopted majoritarianism in its constitution. (0.80)
3. (a): In 1956, an act was passed to recognise Sinhala as the only official language of the state. The government followed preferential policies. A new constitution stipulated that the state shall protect and foster Buddhism.
4. (b) : North and East (0.80) (1)
5. A belief that the majority community should be able to rule a country in whichever way it wants, by disregarding the wishes and needs of the minority. (1)
6. A social division based on shared culture. People belonging to same ethnic group believes in their common descent. (1)
7. (a): Power-sharing is good for democracy as it helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between different social groups and brings transparency in the government. (0.80)
8. (a): Power-sharing is good because it helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between socio-economic groups. (0.80)
9. (i) Power is shared among different organs of government, such as the legislature, executive and judiciary also called as horizontal power-sharing. Example - India.  
(ii) Power can be shared among governments at different levels - a general government for the entire country and governments at the provincial or regional level. Example - India (Union Government & State Government).  
(iii) Community government - Power may also be shared among different social groups such as the religious and linguistic groups. Example - Belgium.  
(iv) Power-sharing between political parties, pressure groups and movements - Such competition ensures that power does not remain in one hand.  
(v) In the long run, power is shared among different political parties that represent different ideologies and social groups. (5×1)



10. (c): This is community government. It is elected by people belonging to one language community- Dutch, French and German-speaking, no matter where they live. (0.80)

11. (b): Power is shared among different organs of the government such as legislature, executive and judiciary. It allows different organs of government placed at the same level to exercise different powers. (0.80)