

Power-sharing

Case Study Based Questions

Source 1

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

Belgium is small country in Europe, smaller in area than the state of Haryana. It has borders with France, the Netherlands, Germany and Luxembourg. It has a population of a little over one crore, about half the population of Haryana. The Ethnic composition of this small country is very complex. Of the country's total population, 59 per cent lives in the Flemish region and speak Dutch language. Another 40 per cent people live in the Wallonia region and speak French. Remaining one per cent of the Belgians speak German. In the capital city Brussels, 80 per cent people speak French while 20 per cent are Dutch- speaking. The minority French-speaking community was relatively rich and powerful. This was resented by the Dutch-speaking community who got the benefit of economic development and education much later. This led to tensions between the Dutch- speaking and French-speaking communities during the 1950s and 1960s. The tension between the two communities was more acute in Brussels. Brussels presented a special problem, the Dutch- speaking people constituted a majority in the country, but a minority in the capital. Sri Lanka is an island nation, just a few kilometres off the Southern coast of Tamil Nadu. It has about two crore people, about the same as in Haryana. Like other nations in the South Asia region, Sri Lanka has a diverse population. The major social groups are the Sinhala-speakers (74 per cent) and the Tamil-speakers (18 per cent). Among Tamils there are two sub-groups. Tamil natives of the country are called 'Sri Lankan Tamils' (13 per cent). The rest, whose forefathers came from India as plantation workers during colonial period, are called 'Indian Tamils'. Sri Lankan Tamils are concentrated in the North and East of the country.

Q1. Belgium is a small country in Europe which has border withEuropean countries.

- a. four
- b. three
- c. five
- d. two



Q2. In Belgium, 59 per cent of population lives in the Flemish region and speak Dutch language, 40 per cent people live in the Wallonia region and speak French.

This suggest the:

- a. ethnic composition of the country.
- b. linguistic scenario of the country.
- c. supremacy of Dutch people.
- d. None of the above

Q3. Which statement is correct?

- a. The tension between French and Dutch-speaking people in Belgium becomes more acute in its capital city.
- b. Brussels does not face any problem due to the ethnic nature of it.
- c. The minority French people was rich and powerful in Brussels.
- d. Both a. and c.

Q4. Who are Sri Lankan Tamils?

- a. Tamil natives of Sri Lanka.
- b. Tamil who lives in Sri Lanka after 1960.
- c. Tamil who lives in Sri Lanka during 1950s and 1960s.
- d. None of the above

Q5. Brussels presented a special problem. What was it?

- a. Dutch-speaking people constituted a minority in the country, but a majority in the capital.
- b. Dutch-speaking people constituted a majority in the country, but a minority in the capital.
- c. Other foreign languages were seeping in.
- d. English was becoming dominant.

Q6. Two statements are marked as Assertion (A) and

Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

Assertion (A): The ethnic composition of Belgium is very complex.

Reason (R): Of the country's total population, 59% lives in the Flemish region and speaks Dutch Language.

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

Answers

- 1. (a)
- 2. (a)
- 3. (d)
- 4. (a)
- 5. (b)
- 6. (b)

Source 2

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

The Belgian leaders took a different path. They recognised the existence of regional differences and cultural diversities. Here are some of the elements of the Belgian model:

- 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.
- . 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.
- Brussels has 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.
- Apart from the Central and the State Government, there is a third kind of government. This community government' is elected by people, belonging to one language community-Dutch, French and German-speaking no matter where they live.



Q1. The Belgian leaders worked out an arrangement which would make their country a better place to live for all. For this they recognised two things, i.e.,and.....

- a. Cultural diversities, size of the different regions
- b. Regional differences, cultural diversities
- c. Regional differences, three tier administration
- d. None of the above

Q2. Why any single community in Belgium cannot make decision about the administration?

- a. Parliament there are both Dutch and French- speaking ministers.
- b. Some special laws are introduced.
- c. Some special laws require the support of majority of members from each linguistic groups.
- d. Both a. and c.

Q3. Brussels has a separate government in which both the..... have equal representation.

- a. Dutch-speaking and French-speaking
- b. Dutch-speaking and German-speaking
- c. French-speaking and German-speaking
- d. None of the above

Q4. What is the name of third kind of government in Belgium?

- a. Community Government
- b. Third Tier Government
- c. Special Government
- d. None of the above

Q5. The community government in Belgium is elected by.....

- a. people belonging to one language community- Dutch, French and German
- b. all the citizens
- c. all the community leaders
- d. all the leaders



Q6. Under which of the following is power shared in the 'community government' of Belgium?

- a. Different social groups.
- b. Different organs of government.
- c. Central and State Government.
- d. State Government and Community Government.

Answers

- 1. (b)
- 2. (c)
- 3. (a)
- 4. (a)
- 5. (a)
- 6. (a)

Source 3

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow:

Majoritarianism is a concept which signifies 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. When Sri Lanka became independent in 1948, the leaders of the Sinhala community established dominance over government by virtue of their majority. In 1956, an act was passed to recognise Sinhala as the only official language, thus disregarding Tamil. The government followed preferential policies that favoured Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs. A new Constitution stipulated that the state shall protect and promote Buddhism. All these government measures gradually increased the feeling of alienation among Sri Lankan Tamils. They felt that none of the major political parties led by the Buddhist Sinhala leaders were sensitive to their language and culture. The relation between the Sinhala and Tamil communities became strained over time.

Q1. What does the concept of majoritarianism signify?

Ans. The concept of majoritarianism signifies that the majority community of a country should be able to rule a country in whichever way it wants.



Q 2. What was the outcome of the Act passed in 1956?

Ans. The Act passed in 1956 recognised Sinhala as the only official language in Sri Lanka.

Q3. Why did the relation between the Sinhala and Tamil communities become strained?

Ans. The relation between the Sinhala and Tamil communities became strained because the Tamil community felt themselves alienated.

