

## Power-sharing

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### Assertion & Reason Type Questions

In the following questions given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

- 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.

**Q 1. Assertion (A):** The Belgian leaders recognised the existence of regional differences and cultural diversities.

**Reason (R):** Between 1970 and 1993, they amended their Constitution four times so as to work out an arrangement that would enable everyone to live together within the same country.

**Answer : A**

**Q 2. Assertion (A):** Community government in Belgium is elected by one language community.

**Reason (R):** Community government helped in resolving conflict between different linguistic groups.

**Answer : A**

**Q 3. Assertion (A):** French-speaking community in Belgium was rich and powerful.

**Reason (R):** Belgian Government favoured French-speaking community.

**Answer : C**

**Q 4. Assertion (A):** Majority community is dominant in a few democratic states.

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

**Answer : B**



**Q 5. Assertion (A):** The Belgian Constitution was amended by its leaders four times.  
**Reason (R):** It was amended so as to work out an arrangement that would enable everyone to live together within the same country.

**Answer :** A

**Q 6. 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.

**Answer :** A

**Q 7. 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.

**Answer :** A

**Q 8. Assertion (A):** There was a feeling of alienation among Sri Lankan Tamils.

**Reason (R):** The Sri Lankan Government denied them equal political rights and discriminated against them in getting jobs and other opportunities.

**Answer :** A

**Q 9. Assertion (A):** Power-sharing is good.

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

**Answer :** A

**Q 10. Assertion (A):** In a democracy, everyone has voice in the shaping of public policies.

**Reason (R):** India has federal system.

**Answer :** B

**Q 11. Assertion (A):** Sri Lanka adopted 'Tamil' as the official language of the state.

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

**Answer :** D

**Q12. Assertion (R) :** Tyranny of majority is highly desirable.

**Reason (R) :** It helps in making the political order more stable.



**Q13. Assertion (R) :** In Belgium, the leaders realized that the unity of the country is possible by respecting the feelings and interest of different countries.

**Reason (R) :** Belgium favoured Dutch speaking community.

**Q14. Assertion (R) :** French speaking community in Belgium was rich and powerful.

**Reason (R) :** Belgian Government favoured French speaking community.

**Q15. Assertion (R) :** In a democracy, everyone has voice in the shaping of public policies.

**Reason (R) :** India has federal system.

**Q16. Assertion (R) :** Power should reside with one person and group located at one place in a democracy.

**Reason (R) :** If the power is dispersed, it will not be possible to take decision quickly and enforce it.

**Q17. Assertion (R) :** Belgium and Sri Lanka both faced ethical tension among different communities.

**Reason (R) :** Both the countries resolved the conflict by power sharing arrangement which gave equal representation to all the communities.

**Q18. Assertion (R) :** There was a feeling of alienation among Sri Lankan Tamils.

**Reason (R) :** The Sri Lankan government denied them equal political rights and discriminated against them in getting jobs and other opportunities,

**Q19. Assertion (R) :** Community government in Belgium is elected by one language community.

**Reason (R) :** Community government helped in resolving conflict between different linguistic groups.

**Q20. Assertion (R) :** Sinhala was recognized as only official language of Sri Lanka.

**Reason (R) :** The government of Sri Lanka wanted to establish the supremacy of Sinhala community.



**Q21. Assertion (R) :** Power Sharing is good.

**Reason (R) :** It leads to ethical tension.

**Q22. Assertion (A) :** Power can be shared among governments at different levels – a general government for the entire country and governments at the provincial or regional level.

**Reason (R) :** Such a general government for the entire country is usually called federal government.

**Q23. Assertion (A) :** In Belgium, the Dutch community could take advantage of its numeric majority and force its will on the French and German-speaking population.

**Reason (R) :** In Sri Lanka, the Sinhala community enjoyed an even bigger majority and could impose its will on the entire country.

**Q24. Assertion (A) :** Sri Lanka emerged as an independent country in 1946.

**Reason (R) :** The leaders of the Sinhala community sought to secure dominance over government by virtue of their majority.

**Q25. Assertion (A) :** Although judges are appointed by the executive, they can check the functioning of executive or laws made by the legislatures.

**Reason (R) :** The arrangement of monarchy is called a system of check and balances.

**Q26. Assertion (A) :** Sri Lanka has a diverse population.

**Reason (R) :** The major social groups are the Sinhala-speakers (74 per cent) and the Tamil-speakers (18 per cent).



## ANSWER KEY 12 to 26

**Q12 :** (d) Tyranny of majority community is oppressive for the minority community and can also ruin the majority. It is a source of dissatisfaction and tension which is a source of political instability.

**Q13 :** (d) Belgians adapted a power sharing arrangement in which all the communities have equal representation. This helped in relieving tension between the different communities. Thus they did not favour any particular community. Both the assertion and reason are false.

**Q14 :** (c) There was ethnic tension between French speaking and Dutch speaking communities in Belgium. For resolving, the government adopted a power sharing arrangement where all the communities got equal representation.

**Q15 :** (b) In a democracy, people elect the representatives who participate in the decision making process. Due respect and proper representation is given to diverse groups in a democratic system. Hence, in democracy everyone has voice in the shaping of public policies. However the reason does not justify the assertion.

**Q16 :** (d) In a good democratic government, due respect is given to diverse groups and views that exist in the society. Hence, political power should be distributed among citizens.

**Q17 :** (c) Belgians adopted a power sharing model where all the communities got equal representation; this helped in solving tension between different communities. However, Sri Lanka tried to promote the supremacy of Sinhala community which eventually led to civil war. Thus the reason is false.

**Q18 :** (a) An act was passed in 1956 to recognize Sinhala as an official language. The government of Sri Lanka favoured people from Sinhala community for higher education and government jobs. It led to resentment among Sri Lankan Tamils as government was not sensitive to their culture and language.

**Q19 :** (a) Community government is elected by people of one language community, i.e. French, Dutch and German speaking. Such a government has power related to culture, education and language issues. It helps in resolving conflicts between different ethnic groups by safeguarding the interest of its group.



**Q20 :** (a) The government of Sri Lanka passed an Act in 1956 to recognize Sinhala as only official language of Sri Lanka. The government also formulated preferential policies to favour Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs. All this was done to establish supremacy of Sinhala community. Thus the reason justifies the assertion.

**Q21 :** (c) Power Sharing is good because it helps in reducing the chances of conflict between different social groups and ensures stability of the political system.

**Q22 :** (a)

**Q23 :** (b)

**Q24 :** (d)

**Q25 :** (c)

**Q26 :** (a)