

01

Power Sharing

Quick Revision

Power sharing among the three organs of state viz, Legislature, Executive and Judiciary is very important for proper functioning of the democracy.

Belgium

- Belgium is a small federal state in Western Europe having complex ethnic composition.
- The minority French speaking community (40%) was relatively rich and powerful while the Dutch-speaking community (59%) got the benefit of development and education much later.
- The capital of Belgium is Brussels, where 80% people speak French, while 20% speak Dutch language.

Tensions between the French and Dutch Communities

The social disparity led to tensions between Dutch and French speaking communities during the 1950s and 1960s.

Accommodation in Belgium

- Between 1970s and 1993, the Constitution of Belgium was amended four times.
- The Constitution suggests that the number of Dutch and French speaking ministers shall be equal in the Central Government of Belgium.
- The state governments are not subordinate to the Central Government.
- Brussels has a separate government, in which both the Dutch and French-speaking people have equal representation.
- Apart from the State and Central Government, there is a third kind of government; community government in Belgium which has the power

regarding cultural, educational and language related issues.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is an island nation in the Indian Ocean. It has a diverse population of about 2 crore people with 74% Sinhala Speakers and 18% Tamil Speakers.

Sub-Groups of Tamils

Tamils have two subgroups namely

- **Sri Lankan Tamils** Tamil natives of Sri Lanka are called Sri Lankan Tamils who constitute 13% of the population and are concentrated in the North and East of Sri Lanka.
- Most of Sinhala Speaking people are Buddhist, while most of the Tamils are Hindus or Muslims.
- **Indian Tamils** The Tamilians whose forefathers came from India as plantation workers during colonial rule and settled in Sri Lanka are called Indian Tamils. They constitute 5% of the population.

Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka

- The Sinhala community of Sri Lanka dominated the minority Tamil people and practised majoritarian policy.
- In 1956, an Act was passed to recognise Sinhala as the only official language.
- The government followed preferential policies that favoured Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs.
- The state protect and promote Buddhism.
- All these measures increased gradually the feeling of alienation among Sri Lankan Tamils.



The Struggles of Sri Lankan Tamils

- The Sri Lankan Tamils demanded regional autonomy and equality of opportunity in securing education and jobs and also to recognise Tamil as an official language.
- But their demand was repeatedly denied. By the 1980s they organised many political organisation like LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) and the conflict turned into a Civil War.

Why Power Sharing is Desirable?

- Power sharing is a good way to ensure the stability of the political order. It reduces the possibility of conflict between social groups.
- Power sharing is the spirit of democracy, people have a right to be consulted on how they are to be governed.

Forms of Power Sharing

- In modern democracy, power sharing arrangements can take many forms like horizontal distribution of power and vertical distribution of power.

- **Horizontal distribution of power ensures** that none of the organs, i.e. legislature, executive and judiciary can exercise unlimited power.
- In **vertical division of power** there are different levels of government and the powers are divided among them. It is also known as federal division of power. It is found both in India and Belgium but not in Sri Lanka.
- In Belgium, leaders took a different path of power sharing. After amending their Constitution, they developed the concept of community government apart from State and Central Government.
- Power is shared among different organs of government, among governments at different levels, among different social groups and can also be seen in the way political parties, pressure groups and movements control or influence those in power.

Objective Questions

Multiple Choice Questions

01. In Belgium, the French community was composed of

- (a) 54% (b) 40% (c) 46% (d) 56%

02. Which two languages among the following are prominently spoken by Belgium Nationals? *(CBSE 2020)*

- (a) French and English (b) Dutch and French
(c) Russian and Dutch (d) Russian and French

03. The special problem in Brussels was regarding

- (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

04. Out of the total population of the country ethnic groups in Belgium has the largest population and they live in

- (a) Walloon (b) Flemish
(c) German (d) None of these

05. Which of the following countries does not share its border with Belgium?

- (a) France
(b) Netherlands
(c) Sweden
(d) Luxembourg

06. How many times was the Constitution of Belgium amended between 1970 and 1993?

- (a) Three times
(b) Two times
(c) Four times
(d) Once



07. In Belgium, how were the tensions between the linguistic communities controlled?

- (a) By an agreement made between the majority and minority groups
- (b) By accepting a federal style of government
- (c) By making amendments to the Constitution of Belgium
- (d) By the minority group accepting the dominance of the majority groups

08. What powers does the Community Government in Belgium hold?

- (a) Cultural, educational and language-related issues.
- (b) Political issues
- (c) Defence related issues
- (d) All of the above

09. Who elects the community government in Belgium?

- (a) People belonging to one language community only.
- (b) Leaders of Belgium
- (c) Community leaders of Belgium
- (d) Citizens of entire country

10. Which one of the following statements about community government is true?

- (a) Power is shared among different organs of the government.
- (b) Power is shared among governments at different levels.
- (c) Power is shared by different social groups.
- (d) Power is shared by two or more political parties.

11. Belgium has worked on the principles of

- (a) Majoritarianism
- (b) Accommodation
- (c) Decentralisation
- (d) None of these

12. The official religion of Sri Lanka is

- (a) Sinhala
- (b) Buddhism
- (c) Christianity
- (d) Islam

13. What is the percentage of the Sinhala speaking population in Sri Lanka?

- (a) About 74% (b) Almost 50%
- (c) Less than 27% (d) Less than 19%

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

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

15. Find the incorrect option.

- (a) Sri Lanka emerged as an independent country in 1958.
- (b) Belgium has a population of a little over one crore, about half of the population of Haryana.
- (c) Power sharing is a good way to ensure the stability of political power.
- (d) In 1956, an Act was passed to recognise Sinhala as the only official language, thus disregarding Tamil.

16. Several government measures adopted in Sri Lanka gradually increased the among the Sri Lankan Tamils.

- (a) favoritism (b) feeling of alienation
- (c) subordination (d) protests

17. A war-like conflict between two opposite groups within a country is called

- (a) Cold War (b) Terrorist attack
- (c) Civil War (d) Ethnic War

18. The Sri Lankan Tamils demanded an independent state with the name of

- (a) Tamil Eelam (b) Tamil state
- (c) Tamilian Eelum (d) None of these

19. Power sharing is desirable because it

- (a) Helps the people of different communities to celebrate the festivals.
- (b) Imposes the will of majority community over others.
- (c) Reduces the conflict between the social groups.
- (d) Ensures the stability of political power.



20. Which of the following is not a benefit of power sharing?

- (a) It upholds the spirit of democracy.
- (b) Political parties get their expected share.
- (c) It ensures political stability in the long-run.
- (d) It reduces the possibility of conflicts between social groups.

21. When power is shared among different organs of the government is known as

- (a) Horizontal distribution of power
- (b) Federal distribution of power
- (c) Vertical division of power
- (d) Community distribution of power

22. The division of power between higher and lower level of government is known as

- (a) Horizontal distribution of power
- (b) Vertical division of power
- (c) Federal division of power
- (d) Community division of power

23. One of the prudential reasons for power sharing is

- (a) Power sharing is the very spirit of democracy.
- (b) People have a right to be consulted on how they are to be governed.
- (c) Citizens, through participation, acquire a stake in the system.
- (d) Power sharing is good because it helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.

24. Which is a federal division of power?

- (a) Governments at the provincial or regional level.
- (b) Legislature, executive and judiciary
- (c) Among different social groups
- (d) Political parties, pressure groups and movements

25. Which of the following is not the form of power sharing?

- (a) Division of power between people
- (b) Division of power among social groups
- (c) Vertical division of power
- (d) Horizontal distribution of power

26. Non-sharing of powers brings

- (a) Peace among all the communities.
- (b) Tyranny of the majority and oppression of the minority.
- (c) Negation of the spirit of democracy.
- (d) Both (b) and (c)

27. In dealing with Power Sharing, which one of the following statements is not correct about democracy?

- (a) People are the source of political power.
- (b) In a democracy, people rule themselves through institutions of self-governance.
- (c) In a democracy, due respect is given to diverse groups and views that exist in the society.
- (d) In a democracy, if the power to decide is dispersed, it is not possible to take quick decisions and enforce them.

28. Consider the following statements about power sharing arrangements in Belgium and Sri Lanka.

- A. In Belgium, the Dutch-Speaking majority people tried to impose their domination on the minority French-Speaking community.
- B. In Sri Lanka, the policies of the government sought to ensure the dominance of the Sinhala-speaking majority.
- C. The Tamils in Sri Lanka demanded a federal arrangement of power sharing to protect their culture, language and equality of opportunity in education and jobs.
- D. The transformation of Belgium from unitary government to a federal one prevented a possible division of the country on linguistic lines.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

Codes

- (a) A, B, C and D
- (b) A, B and D
- (c) C and D
- (d) B, C and D



29. Which one of the following is a moral reason of power sharing?

- (a) It helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.
- (b) It does not lead to confusion in managing the state.
- (c) People have a right to be consulted on how they are to be governed.
- (d) Power sharing is a good way to ensure the stability of political order.

30. Which among the following is not a valid reason for power sharing?

- (a) Power sharing helps to reduce tensions.
- (b) Power sharing brings political stability.
- (c) Power sharing is essential for majoritarianism
- (d) Power sharing is a part and parcel of democracy.

31. Population of Sri Lanka Tamils is concentrated in region of Sri Lanka. (CBSE SQP 2021)

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

32. What, according to this cartoon, is the relationship between democracy and concentration of power?



- (a) Democracy increases instability and divisiveness
- (b) Democracy opposes the idea of concentration of powers
- (c) Democracy promotes the idea of concentration of powers
- (d) Democracy accommodates social diversities

33. Find the incorrect option.

- (a) In Sri Lanka, Tamil has two sub groups i.e. Sri Lanka Tamils and Indian Tamils
- (b) There are 7% Christians in Sri Lanka
- (c) Most of the Sinhala speaking people are Hindus in Sri Lanka
- (d) Sinhala was recognised as the only official language in Sri Lanka

34. Which of the following is not correctly matched from the given options?

List-I	List-II
A. Sri Lanka got independence	1. 1948
B. Act declared Sinhala as the official language	2. 1956
C. Civil War ended in Sri Lanka	3. 2011
(a) Only A	(b) Only B
(c) Only C	(d) None of these

35. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below in the lists.

List-I (Forms of Power Sharing)	List-II (Forms of Government)
A. Power is shared among different organs of the government.	1. Community Government
B. Power is shared among governments at different levels.	2. Separation of Powers
C. Power is shared by different social groups.	3. Coalition Government
D. Power is shared by two or more political parties.	4. Federal Government
A B C D	A B C D
(a) 1 2 3 4	(b) 2 4 1 3
(c) 3 2 4 1	(d) 4 3 2 1

Assertion/Reasoning MCQs

Direction (Q. Nos. 36-40) *In the questions given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct code.*

Codes

- (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.

36. Assertion (A) French speaking community in Belgium was rich and powerful.

Reason (R) Belgium government favoured French speaking community.

37. Assertion (A) In Belgium there is mutually acceptable arrangement for sharing power.

Reason (R) The leaders realised that the unity of the country is possible only by respecting the feelings and interests of different communities and regions.

38. Assertion (A) Community government in Belgium is elected by one language community.

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

39. Assertion (A) 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 representative to all the communities.

40. Assertion (A) Power sharing is good for establishing stable democracy.

Reason (R) Power sharing leads to ethical tension.

Case Based MCQs

01. Read the following source and answer the questions that follow.

Belgium is a 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.

- (i) The word 'ethnic' signifies
 - (a) different religions
 - (b) social division on shared culture
 - (c) a violent conflict between opposite groups.
 - (d) All of the above
- (ii) The special problem arose in Brussels was regarding
 - (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) English was becoming a dominant language.
 - (d) Other Foreign languages were seeping in.
- (iii) 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)
- (iv) Most of the Sinhalese speaking people in Sri Lanka are
 - (a) Hindus
 - (b) Christians
 - (c) Muslims
 - (d) Buddhists

02. Read the following source and answer the questions that follow.

Sri Lanka emerged as an independent country in 1948. The leader of the Sinhala community sought to secure

dominance over government by virtue of their majority. As a result, the democratically elected government adopted a series of Majoritarian measures to establish Sinhala supremacy. 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 foster Buddhism.

All these government measures, coming one after the other, gradually increased the feeling of alienation among the Sri Lankan Tamils. They felt that none of the major political parties led by the Buddhist Sinhala leaders was sensitive to their language and culture. They felt that the constitution and government policies denied them equal political rights, discriminated against them in getting jobs and other opportunities and ignored their interests. As a result, the relations between the Sinhala and Tamil communities strained over time.

- (i) What is the reason to adopt Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka?
 - (a) Sri Lanka got independence in 1948.
 - (b) Sri Lanka is a Buddhist country.
 - (c) The leaders of Sinhala community sought to secure dominance over government.
 - (d) None of the above
- (ii) Which of the following was not a provision of the Act, of 1956 passed in Sri Lanka?
 - (a) Sinhala was recognised as the only official language.
 - (b) Buddhism was to be protected by the state.
 - (c) Provinces were given autonomy.
 - (d) Sinhalas were favoured in government jobs.



(iii) Which measures of government in Sri Lanka are responsible to increase alienation among the Sri Lankan Tamils?

- (a) Sri Lanka should protect and foster Buddhism.
- (b) Sinhala applicants for university position and government jobs are favoured.
- (c) Both (a) and (b)
- (d) Migration of Tamils was stopped.

(iv) Why the relation between the Sinhala and Tamil became strained over time?

- (a) Constitution and government policies denied the equal political rights between Sinhala and Tamil communities.
- (b) There was a civil war between them.
- (c) There was disagreement between the two communities.
- (d) Due to inequality in the society.

03. Read the source given below and answer the following questions.

The Belgian leaders took a different path. They recognised the existence of regional differences and cultural diversities. 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. The arrangement they worked out is different from any other country and is very innovative. 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 government 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.

(i) The Belgian leaders took a different path which was based on the policy of

- (a) Majoritarianism
- (b) Accommodation
- (c) Diversification
- (d) Both (a) and (c)

(ii) How many times the Belgian Constitution was amended?

- (a) Two times
- (b) Three times
- (c) Four times
- (d) Five times

(iii) In the question given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct code.

Assertion (A) French speaking community in Belgium was rich and powerful.

Reason Belgian government adopted a power sharing model which is based on equal representation of all the communities.

Codes

- (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.

(iv) The Constitution of Belgium prescribes that the number of Dutch and French-speaking ministersin the Central Government?

- (a) Shall be equal
- (b) Dutch speaking shall be more
- (c) French speaking will be more
- (d) None of the above



04. Read the following source and answer the questions that follow.

The idea of power-sharing has emerged in opposition to the notions of undivided political power. For a long time it was believed that all power of a government must reside in one person or group of persons located at one place. It was felt that if the power to decide is dispersed, it would not be possible to take quick decisions and to enforce them. But these notions have changed with the emergence of democracy. One basic principle of democracy is that people are the source of all political power. In a democracy, people rule themselves through institutions of self-government. In a good democratic government, due respect is given to diverse groups and views that exist in a society. Everyone has a voice in the shaping of public policies. Therefore, it follows that in a democracy political forms of power-sharing should be distributed among as many citizens as possible.

- (i) The basic principle of democracy is
- (a) People are the source of all political power.
 - (b) None can exercise unlimited power.
 - (c) Power of a government resides in one person.
 - (d) To reduce conflict between social groups.
- (ii) Which is a prudent reason for power-sharing?
- (a) It reduces the possibility of conflict between communities and ensures the stability of political order.
 - (b) Power-sharing is the very spirit of democracy.
 - (c) Both (a) and (b)
 - (d) It delays decision-making process.
- (iii) Which of the following options describes a good democratic system?
- (a) Everyone has a voice in the shaping of public policies.
 - (b) Power to take quick decision and to enforce them.
 - (c) All power resides in one person.
 - (d) Power is shared among central and state governments.
- (iv) Which of the following is not one of the aspects of federal division of powers?
- (a) Sharing of powers among central provincial and local governments.
 - (b) Division of powers involving higher and lower levels of government.
 - (c) The Constitution clearly lays down powers of different levels of government.
 - (d) There is no vertical division of powers.
- 05.** Read the following source and answer the questions that follow.

Power is shared among different organs of government, such as the legislature, executive and judiciary. Let us call this horizontal distribution of power because it allows different organs of government placed at the same level to exercise different powers. Such a separation ensures that none of the organs can exercise unlimited power. Each organ checks the others. This results in a balance of power among various institutions.

In a democracy, even though ministers and government officials exercise power, they are responsible to the Parliament or State Assemblies. Similarly, although judges are appointed by the executive, they can check the functioning of executive or laws made by the legislatures. This arrangement is called a system of checks and balances.

- (i) Community Government in Belgium is an example of power sharing.
- (a) Horizontal
 - (b) Vertical
 - (c) Majoritarian
 - (d) Both (a) and (b)

(ii) Indian Parliament and State Assemblies are an example of power sharing.

- (a) Horizontal
- (b) Vertical
- (c) Majoritarian
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

(iii) Power sharing arrangement is ideal because

- (a) It gives equal power to all the organs of the government.

(b) It gives unlimited power to some organs of the government.

(c) It maintains balance of power among various organs of the government.

(d) It gives equal power to all the political parties.

(iv) Under distribution of power, different organs of the Government placed at the same level exercise different powers.

- (a) Vertical
- (b) Horizontal
- (c) Federal
- (d) Majoritarian

ANSWERS

Multiple Choice Questions

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (b) | 2. (b) | 3. (b) | 4. (b) | 5. (c) | 6. (c) | 7. (c) | 8. (a) | 9. (a) | 10. (c) |
| 11. (b) | 12. (a) | 13. (a) | 14. (c) | 15. (a) | 16. (b) | 17. (c) | 18. (a) | 19. (c) | 20. (b) |
| 21. (a) | 22. (b) | 23. (d) | 24. (a) | 25. (a) | 26. (d) | 27. (d) | 28. (d) | 29. (c) | 30. (c) |
| 31. (b) | 32. (b) | 33. (c) | 34. (c) | 35. (b) | | | | | |

Assertion/Reasoning MCQs

36. (b) 37. (a) 38. (a) 39. (c) 40. (c)

Case Based MCQs

Passage 1

- (i) (b) (ii) (b) (iii) (a) (iv) (d)

Passage 3

- (i) (b) (ii) (c) (iii) (a) (iv) (a)

Passage 5

- (i) (a) (ii) (b) (iii) (c) (iv) (d)

Passage 2

- (i) (c) (ii) (c) (iii) (c) (iv) (a)

Passage 4

- (i) (a) (ii) (a) (iii) (a) (iv) (d)

EXPLANATIONS

- 15.** Sri Lanka emerged as an independent country in 1948.
- 16.** 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 eventually led to civil war. Thus, the reason is false.
- 33.** Most of the the Sinhala speaking people are Buddhist in Sri Lanka.
- 34.** Civil war ended in Sri Lanka in 2009.
- 36.** There was ethnic tension between French speaking and Dutch speaking communities in Belgium. For resolving, the government adopted a power sharing arrangements where all the communities got equal representation.
- 39.** 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 suitable community which eventually led to civil war. Thus, the reason is false.

