

CHAPTER 3.1

Power Sharing

ONE MARK QUESTIONS

1. How and when was Sinhala recognized as the official language of Sri Lanka?

Ans : (CBSE S.R 2017)

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

2. What does the system of 'checks and balances' ensure in power sharing?

Ans : [CBSE S.R 2016-17]

That none of the organs of the government can exercise unlimited power.

3. Mention any one characteristics of power sharing.

Ans : [CBSE S.R 2016-17]

It gives the people right to be consulted or any other characteristics.

4. Which factor is responsible for increasing the feeling of alienation among the Sri Lankan Tamils?

Ans : [CBSE 2015]

Majoritarianism.

5. Which type of powers does the Community Government of Belgium enjoy? [CBSE 2015]

Ans :

This government has the power regarding culture, education and language related issues.

6. What is the state religion of Sri Lanka? [CBSE 2014]

Ans :

Buddhism.

7. Who formed the majority in terms of population in Sri Lanka? [CBSE 2014]

Ans :

Sinhala community.

8. What measure was adopted by the democratically elected government of Sri Lanka to establish Sinhala supremacy?

Ans : [CBSE 2014]

Majoritarian measure.

9. What is the prudential reason behind power sharing. [CBSE 2014]

or

Why power sharing is good for democracies?

Ans :

It reduces the possibility of conflict between social groups.

THREE MARKS QUESTIONS

10. Explain any three consequences of the majoritarian policies adopted by the Sri Lankan government.

Ans : [CBSE S.R 2016-17]

Consequences of majoritarian policies adopted by Sri Lankan Government.

- Tamils felt the government was not sensitive about Tamil language and culture.
- Tamils felt discriminated against in jobs and education.
- Tamils felt the government was practising religious discrimination.
- Relations between Tamils and Sinhalese became strained.

11. "Sharing of powers makes a country more powerful and united." Do you agree with this statement and why? [CBSE S.R 2016-17]

or

"Power sharing is the very spirit of democracy". Justify this statement with three suitable points.

[CBSE 2012]

or

How far do you agree with the statement that power sharing is keeping with the "Spirit" of democracy?

Ans : [CBSE 2012]

Power sharing keeps up with the 'Spirit' of Democracy as:

- Power sharing ensures that all people have stake in government.
- Power sharing ensures maximum participation. It upholds the concept of people's rule. It always brings better outcomes in democracy. It ensures the political stability in democracy.
- Power sharing accommodates diverse groups. It helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.

12. Describe the power sharing arrangement made by

Belgium. [CBSE 2014]

or

Explain any three elements of the Belgium model of power sharing.

Ans : [CBSE 2016-17]

The main elements of the Belgium model of power sharing includes:

- a. 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.
- b. 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.
- c. 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.

13. What is power sharing? Why power sharing is important in a democracy? [CBSE 2014]

Ans :

- (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 conflict 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.

14. How can power be shared among governments at different levels? Explain. [CBSE 2014]

or

Explain the vertical division of power giving example from India.

Ans : [CBSE 2012]

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:

- a. For the entire country: Central Government/ Union Government.
- b. At the provincial level: State Governments.
- c. At the local level (i.e., rural and urban): Local self governments like panchayats and municipal councils.

15. Describe any three majoritarian measures adopted by the Sri Lankan Government to establish Sinhala supremacy. [CBSE 2013, 2012]

or

Describe any three provisions of the Act which was passed in Sri Lanka in 1956 to establish Sinhala supremacy. [CBSE 2012]

or

Why did the Sri Lankan Tamils feel alienated in spite of their long stay in Sri Lanka? [CBSE 2012]

or

Explain three measures taken by Sri Lanka, according to an Act passed in 1956. [CBSE 2012]

or

Which three provisions of the Act passed in Sri Lanka in 1956 established Sinhala supremacy? [CBSE 2012]

or

Why Sri Lankan Tamils felt alienated? [CBSE 2011]

or

What were the reasons for the alienation of Sri Lankan Tamils? What was the effect of this on the country?

Ans : [CBSE 2011, 2010]

Sri Lankan Tamils felt alienated because:

1. 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.
2. The governments followed preferential politics that favoured Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs.
3. A new Constitution stipulated that the state shall protect and foster Buddhism.
4. Sri Lankan Tamils felt that none of the major political parties led by the Buddhist Sinhala leaders were sensitive to their language and culture.
5. As a result, the relations between the Sinhala and Tamil communities strained overtime and it soon turned into a Civil War.

16. Explain any three consequences of the majoritarian policies adopted by the Sri Lankan Government.

Ans : [CBSE 2012]

Consequences of majoritarian policies adopted by Sri Lankan Government were:

- a. Tamils felt the government was not sensitive about Tamil language and culture because Sinhala was declared the official language.
- b. Tamils felt discriminated against securing jobs and education which were given preferentially to the Sinhala speakers.
- c. Tamils felt the government was practising religious discrimination because the State fostered Buddhism. Relations between Tamils and Sinhalese became strained.

17. Which three demands of the Sri Lankan Tamils accepted and met with, can settle the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka for good? Explain. [CBSE 2012]

or

18. Mention any three demands of Sri Lankan Tamils.

Ans : [CBSE 2012]

Demands of the Tamils:

1. Recognition of Tamil as an official language.
2. Equal opportunities for Tamils in government jobs and educational institutions.
3. Provincial autonomy for Tamil dominated provinces.

19. Compare the different ways in which the Belgians and the Sri Lankans have dealt with the problem of cultural diversity. [CBSE 2012, 2011]

Ans :

The Belgian leaders recognised the existence of regional and cultural diversities.

- a. They amended their Constitution four times so as to work out an innovative arrangement that would enable everyone to live together in peace and harmony, i.e., there was sharing of power between the Dutch and the French both in the Central Government, State Government and Community Government. They followed a policy of accommodation.
- b. This helped to avoid civic strife and division of the country on linguistic lines.
- c. On the other hand, the Sinhalese who were in majority in Sri Lanka as compared to the Tamils followed a policy of majoritarianism and adopted a series of measures to establish Sinhala Supremacy by passing an Act of 1956. These measures alienated the Tamils leading to civic strife between the two communities.

20. Give reasons why power sharing is desirable. [CBSE S.R 2015,2012]

or

Why power sharing is necessary in democracy? Explain.

[CBSE 2011]

or

Write one prudential and one moral reason for power sharing. [CBSE 2011]

or

Why is power sharing desirable? Explain moral reasons in this regard. [CBSE 2012]

or

Why power sharing is desirable? Explain giving any three prudential reasons.

[CBSE 2012]

Ans :

Power sharing is desirable in democracy because:

(i) Prudential reasons:

- (a) It helps to reduce the possibility of conflict 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 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.

21. Describe horizontal and vertical power sharing in modern democracies.

or

Differentiate between horizontal and vertical division of powers. [CBSE 2011]

or

What is horizontal distribution of power? Mention its any two advantages. [CBSE S.R 2016-17, 2012]

or

Why is horizontal distribution of power Often referred to as a system of "checks and balances"? Explain.

[CBSE 2012]

Ans :

	Horizontal Division of Power	Vertical Division of power
1	Horizontal division of power is such a power sharing arrangement in which power is shared among different organs of government, such as legislature, executive and judiciary.	In vertical division of powers, power can be shared among governments at different levels like union, state and local levels of government, i.e., it involves higher and lower levels of the government.
2	In horizontal division of power, different organs of government exercise different powers. This is a concept of separation of powers.	In vertical division of powers, constitution clearly lays down the power of different levels of the government.
3	Horizontal distribution specifies the concept of checks and balances in order to check the exercise of unlimited powers of the organs.	There is no concept of checks and balances, because powers are clearly given by the constitution from the higher level to the lower level.

22. In modern democracies, power is often shared among different organs of the government. Explain.

Ans : [CBSE 2011]

Power is shared between different organs of the government such as Legislature, Executive and Judiciary. This system of power sharing is referred to as a system of 'checks and balances' because: All three organs are placed at the same level of power. The power distribution ensures that no organ enjoys unlimited powers. Each organ exercises a check on the others. Thus there is a balance of power.

23. Explain how power is shared among different organs of the government. [CBSE 2011]

Ans :

Power is shared among different organs of government i.e., Legislature, Executive and Judiciary

- a. Legislature: The legislature is concerned with passing the laws, controlling the finances of the state and delivering on matter of public importance.
 - b. Executive: The executive machinery implements the policies of the government and executes the rules made by the legislature bodies.
 - c. Judiciary: The judiciary is concerned with the interpretation of the laws and has the power to punish those who commit crimes or break the laws. The judiciary can also check the functioning of the executives.
4. Apart from the central and the state government, there is a third kind of government called the Community Government.
 5. This community government is elected by people belonging to one language community—Dutch, French and German-speaking. This government has the power regarding cultural, educational and language related issues

FIVE MARKS QUESTIONS

- 24.** How majoritarianism has increased the feeling of alienation among the Sri Lankan Tamils? Explain.
[CBSE 2014]

Ans :

Sri Lankan Tamils felt alienated because:

1. 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.
 2. The governments followed preferential politics that favoured Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs.
 3. A new Constitution stipulated that the state shall protect and foster Buddhism.
 4. Sri Lankan Tamils felt that none of the major political parties led by the Buddhist Sinhala leaders were sensitive to their language and culture.
 5. As a result, the relations between the Sinhala and Tamil communities strained overtime and it soon turned into a Civil War.
- 25.** Explain how Belgium was able to solve its ethnic problem. [CBSE 2013]

or

Explain the power sharing arrangement in Belgium. [CBSE 2011]

or

State the main elements of the power sharing model evolved in Belgium.

Ans : [CBSE 2011]

The main elements of the power-sharing model evolved in Belgium were:

1. 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.
2. Many powers of the Central Government have been given to State Governments of the two regions of the country. The State Governments are not subordinated to the Central Government.
3. 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