

Social Studies

(Civics)

Chapter 1: Power Sharing



Important Questions

Multiple Choice questions-

1. Which of the following is an example of horizontal sharing of power? [CBSE 2011]

- (a) Power sharing between different states.
- (b) Power sharing between different organs of the government.
- (c) Power sharing between different levels of the government.
- (d) Power sharing between different political parties.

2. Who elects the *community government* in Belgium? [CBSE 2011]

- (a) People belonging to one language community only.
- (b) By the leader of Belgium.
- (c) The citizens of the whole country.
- (d) The community leaders of Belgium.

3. The Community Government signifies:

- (a) The powers of government regarding community development.
- (b) The powers of the government regarding law making for the community.
- (c) The powers of the government regarding cultural, educational and language related issues.
- (d) The government enjoys privileges to safeguard the interest of a particular community.

4. The word 'ethnic' signifies:

- (a) different religions.
- (b) social division on shared culture.
- (c) a violent conflict between opposite groups.
- (d) a careful calculation of gains and losses.

5. Power sharing is:

- (a) the very spirit of democracy
- (b) separation of powers at different levels.
- (c) system of checks and balances.
- (d) a type of balancing powers.

6. Choose the correct option: [CBSE 2011]

Power sharing is desirable because it helps:

- (a) To increase pressure on government.
- (b) To reduce possibilities of conflicts.
- (c) To generate awareness among people.
- (d) To increase percentage of voters.

7. System of 'checks and balances' means:

- (a) Horizontal distribution of powers.

- (b) Separation of powers.
- (c) Put a check on the exercise of unlimited powers of the organs of government by maintaining a balance of power among various institutions.
- (d) Federal division of powers

8. Which of the following features are common to Indian and Belgian form of power-sharing arrangements?

- A. Power is shared among governments at different levels.
- B. Power is shared among different organs of government.
- C. Power is shared among different social groups.
- D. Power is shared among different parties and takes the form of competition.

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

9. In dealing with power sharing, which one of the following statements is NOT correct about democracy?

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

10. 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 is:

- (a) Power Sharing
- (b) Central Government
- (c) Majoritarianism
- (d) Community Government

11. A system of 'checks and balances' is another name for which one of the following power-sharing arrangements:

- (a) Power sharing among different social groups.
- (b) Vertical division of power or power shared among different levels of government.
- (c) Horizontal division of power or power shared among different organs of the government.
- (d) Power sharing in the form of political parties, pressure groups and governments.

12. Which one of the following statements about power-sharing arrangements is correct?

- (a) Power sharing is necessary only in societies which have religious, linguistic or ethnic divisions.
- (b) Power sharing is suitable only for big countries that have regional divisions.

- (c) Every society needs some form of power sharing even if it is small or does not have social divisions.
- (d) Power-sharing is not necessary at all.

13. Consider the following statements about the ethnic composition of Sri Lanka:

- A. Major social groups are the Sinhala- speaking (74%) and Tamil-speaking (18%)?
 B. Among the Tamils, there are two sub-groups, Sri Lankan Tamils and Indian Tamils.
 C. There are about 7% Christians, who are both Tamil and Sinhala.
 D. Most of the Sinhala-speaking are Hindus or Muslims and most of the Tamil-speaking are Buddhists.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

14. Prudential reasons of power sharing stress on the facts that:

- A. It ensures the stability of political order.
 B. It reduces the possibility of conflict between social groups.
 C. It gives a fair share to minority.
 D. It is the very spirit of democracy.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) A, B
 (b) A, C and D
 (c) All are correct
 (d) A, B & C

15. How many people speak French and Dutch in the capital city of Brussels?

- (a) 60 percent French 40 percent Dutch
 (b) 50% Dutch 50% French
 (c) 80% French 20% Dutch
 (d) 80% Dutch 20% French

Very Short-

1. What is Majoritarianism?
2. Mention one step which was taken by Sri Lankan Government to create Majoritarianism.
3. State one prudential reason and one moral reason for power sharing from the Indian context.
4. Name the country which has lost peace due to Majoritarianism.

5. What is the difference between prudential and moral reasons for power sharing?
6. Name two subgroups of Tamils in Sri Lanka.
7. What is the system of checks and balances of power sharing?
8. State two main bases of the social divisions in Sri Lanka.
9. Who formed majority in terms of population in Sri Lanka?
10. Who formed majority in terms of population in Belgium?

Short Questions-

1. How Belgian government solved its ethnic Problem ?
2. What is majoritarianism? How it has led to alienation of majority community in Sri Lanka?
3. Describe three demands of Sri Lankan Tamils. How did they struggle for their independence?
4. How is power shared among different organs of the government, I.e., legislature, executives and judiciary?
5. How is federal government better than a unitary government? Explain with examples of Belgium and Sri Lanka.
6. Write down the features of Horizontal division of power sharing.
7. Write Down the features of Vertical division of power sharing.
8. Give a comparative analysis between Belgium and India in the sphere of area.
9. What is the reason for tension in Belgium?
10. What was the background of Sri Lankan Tamils?

Long Questions-

1. How are the ethnic problem solved in Belgium? Mention any four steps which were taken by the governments to solve the problem?
2. Explain the power sharing arrangement among the different political parties, pressure groups and movements.
3. Explain the power sharing arrangement among the different organs of the government.
4. Explain the power sharing arrangement among the different social groups.
5. Explain the power sharing arrangement among the different levels of the government.
6. What are advantages enjoyed by the Sinhala Community in Sri Lanka? Describe the consequences.

7. Describe the population composition of Sri Lanka and the reasons for the formation of Majoritarian government in 1948.
8. What measures were adopted by the Belgium government to accommodate regional and cultural diversities?

Assertion Reason Questions:

1. **DIRECTION:** Mark the option which is most suitable:

- If both assertion (A) and reason (R) are true and reason (R) is the correct explanation of assertion (A).
- If both assertion (A) and reason (R) are true, but reason (R) is not the correct explanation of assertion (A).
- Assertion (A) is true, but reason (R) is false.
- Both assertion (A) and reason (R) are false.

Assertion(A): Community government in Belgium allows to share power among religious and linguistic groups.

Reason(R): In India there are legal and constitutional arrangements where by socially weaker sections and women are represented in the legislatures and administration.

2. **DIRECTION:** Mark the option which is most suitable:

- If both assertion (A) and reason (R) are true and reason (R) is the correct explanation of assertion (A).
- If both assertion (A) and reason (R) are true, but reason (R) is not the correct explanation of assertion (A).
- Assertion (A) is true, but reason (R) is false.
- Both assertion (A) and reason (R) are false.

Assertion(A): Sri Lanka emerged as an independent country in 1949.

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

Case Study Questions:

1. Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:

Power may also be shared among different social groups, such as the religious and linguistic groups. 'Community government' in Belgium is a good example of this arrangement. In some countries there are constitutional and legal arrangements whereby socially weaker sections and women are represented in the legislatures and administration. This type of arrangement is meant to give space in the government and administration to diverse social groups who otherwise would feel alienated from the government. This method is used to give minority communities a fair share in power.

- i. Power sharing means:
 - a. System of political arrangement in which power is shared between ministers of the government.
 - b. System of political arrangement in which power is shared between different organs of the government.
 - c. System of political arrangement in which power is shared between different levels of the government.
 - d. All of the above.

- ii. Which one is not a benefit of Power sharing?
 - a. Reduces the possibilities of conflicts between social groups.
 - b. Ensures political stability in the long run.
 - c. All the political parties get their expected share.
 - d. It upholds the spirit of democracy.
- iii. Apart from the Central and State Government, there is a third type of government in Belgium called the:
 - a. Regional Government.
 - b. State Government.
 - c. Union Government.
 - d. Community Government.

- iv. Which is not a feature of Community government?
 - a. Apart from the Central and the State Government, this is a third type of government.
 - b. It is elected by the people belonging to one community that is Dutch, French, German speaking.
 - c. It is mainly based on cooperation and tolerance.
 - d. It does not have the power regarding cultural, educational and language related issues.

2. Read the passage below 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. Last year we studied that 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. Power sharing between different organs of the government is being referred as:
 - a. Horizontal distribution of power.
 - b. Vertical division of power.
 - c. Union Government.
 - d. Community Government.

ii. Power Sharing is between:

- a. Legislature, executive and parliament.
- b. Legislature, executive and judiciary.
- c. Legislature, high court, and judiciary.
- d. None of the above.

iii. It allows different organs of government placed at the same level to exercise different powers is known as:

- a. Circular distribution of power.
- b. Vertical distribution of power.
- c. Horizontal distribution of power.
- d. All of the above.

iv. Judges are appointed by the executive; they can check the functioning of executive or laws made by the legislature known as:

- a. Horizontal distribution of power.
- b. Vertical distribution of power.
- c. Checks and balances.
- d. All of the above.

MCQ Answers-

1. Answer: b
2. Answer: a
3. Answer: c
4. Answer: b
5. Answer: a
6. Answer: b
7. Answer: c

8. Answer: (b) B, C and D
9. Answer: d
10. Answer: c
11. Answer: c
12. Answer: c
13. Answer: (a) A, B, C
14. Answer: d
15. Answer: c

Very Short Answers-

1. Ans. A belief that the majority community should be able to rule a country in whatever way it wants, by disregarding the wishes and needs of the minorities.
2. Ans. In 1956, an act was passed to recognize Sinhala as the official language.
3. Ans. India is a multinational society and India is a democratic country.
4. Ans. Sri Lanka.
5. Ans. Prudential reasons stress that power sharing will bring out better outcome or results; where as moral reasons emphasize the very act of power sharing as valuable.
6. Ans. Sri Lankan Tamils and Indian Origin Tamils.
7. Ans. Under this system, one organ of the government keeps the check over other. None of the organs can exercise unlimited power.
8. Ans. Religion and Language
9. Ans. Sinhalese Buddhist formed majority.
10. Ans. The Dutch formed majority

Short Answers-

1. **Ans.** The Path of accommodation adopted in Belgium.
 - a). Dutch and French speaking ministers shall be equal in the central govt.
 - b). Many Powers of the central government have been given to state govt. The state govt are not subordinate to the central govt.
 - c). Brussels has a separate govt in which both the communities have equal representation.
 - d). There is a third kind of govt called community govt elected by the people belonging to Dutch, French and German no matter where they live.
2. **Ans.** The dominance of majority community to rule the country in whichever way it wants totally disregarding the wishes and needs of minority community is known as

majoritarianism.

- a). In srilanka mainly there are two communities- Sinhala and Tamils the leaders of the sinhala community sought to secure dominance over the govt by virtue of their majority. Sinhala has been recognized as the official language of the country by disregarding
- b). Government followed a preferential policy favouring sinhalased in university portions and govt jobs.
- c). The govt encouraged and protected Budhism The distrust has turned into a civil war that has caused a setback to social cultural and economic life of Srilanka.

3. Ans.

- a). Recognition of Tamil as an official language.
- b). Regional autonomy
- c). Equal opportunity in securing jobs and education.

They formed several political organizations, but when the government tried to suppress their activities by force, this led to civil war

4. Ans.

- a). This type of power sharing is known as horizontal power sharing as well as all the organs is placed at the same level and each organ can check the other.
- b). For example even through ministers and government officials exercise power, they are responsible to the parliament.

5. Ans. Federalism is a system of government under which power is divided between a central authority and its various constituent units.

- a). In federal government power is shared among the different levels of government but in unitary government all powers are in the hands of a single unit.
- b). The Belgium leaders tried to solve the ethnic problem by respecting the feeling and interest if different committees and regions by establishing a federal government, whereas the Sri Lankan Government tried to solve the problem through Majoritarianism.

6. Ans. Horizontal Division of power, in which power is shared among different organs of the government like legislature, Executive and Judiciary.

- a). Different organs of the government exercise the power.
- b). It specifies the concept of check and balance.
- c). It ensures the concept of the expansion of the democracy.
- d). Examples: Legislature, Executive and Judiciary are the organs Government of India

7. Ans. In vertical division of Power Sharing power is shared among the different levels of the government like Union Government, state government and Lower levels.

- a). Different levels of the government exercise the power of the government.
- b). No specification of the system of checks and balance.
- c). It ensures the concept of deepening of democracy.
- d). Central Government, State Government and Panchayat Raj are the example of the Vertical division of Power Sharing.

8. Ans.

- a). Area wise Belgium is a small country in Europe. It is smaller in area than that of Haryana in India.
- b). It has borders with Netherlands, France and Germany.
- c). Regarding population it has a population over one crore, about half of the population of Haryana.
- d). It has a very complex ethnic composition comprising various language speaking communities than India which is a secular and integrated country.

9. Ans.

- a). The Dutch form 59%, the French form 40% and the German about 1% comprises the population of Belgium.
- b). The French community is in majority in the capital of Belgium, Brussels.
- c). They are rich and powerful and this is not liked by the Dutch.
- d). The Dutch speaking community got the benefit of economic development and education much later showed the resentment.
- e). This led to conflict between French and Dutch speaking people.

10. Ans.

- a). Their forefathers came from India as plantation workers during colonial period.
- b). Tamils who are brought as indentured laborers from India by British colonists to work in estate plantation are called Indian Origin Tamils re 5%.
- c). Sri Lankan Tamils live in the north eastern part of the country.

Long Answers-**1. Ans.**

- a). Equal no of Ministers for both the groups: The Belgium 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.
- b). More powers to the state government: Under the proper power sharing arrangement many powers of the central government were given to state government for the two regions of the country. The state governments were not subordinate to the central government.

- c). Equal representation at state and the central level: A separate government has been set up at Brussels in which both the communities have equal representation.
- d). Formation of community government: A third kind of government was made that is community government. This community government is elected by the people belonging to one language community. Dutch, French and German speaking people have their own community government.

2. Ans.

- a). In a democracy power is also shared among the different political parties, pressure groups and movements.
- b). Democracy provides the citizens a choice to choose their rulers. This choice is provided by the various political parties, who contest elections to win. Such competition ensures that power does not remain in one hand.
- c). In the long run power is shared among different political parties that represent different ideologies and social groups.
- d). Sometimes this kind of sharing can be direct, when two or more parties from an alliance to contest elections. If their alliance is elected, they form a coalition government and thus share power.
- e). In a democracy, various pressure groups and movements also remain active. They will also have a share in governmental power, either through participation in governmental committees or bringing influence on the decision making process.

3. Ans.

- a). In a democracy power is shared among the different organs of the government such as Legislature, Executive and Judiciary. This is also called as the horizontal distribution of power sharing.
- b). Legislature is lawmaking body, Executive is law implementing body and Judiciary is dispute solving body of the Government.
- c). Because it also allows different organs of government placed at the same level to exercise different power.
- d). Under this kind of power sharing arrangements, no organ of the government can exercise unlimited powers.
- e). Each organ has its own power and checks the powers of other.
- f). This results in the in a balance of power among various institutions.

4. Ans.

- a). In a democracy, especially in multiethnic society, power is also shared among social groups such as the religious and linguistic groups.
- b). Community government in Belgium is a good example of this arrangement.
- c). In some countries, there are constitutional and legal arrangements whereby

socially weaker sections and women are represented in the legislatures and administration.

d). In India to provide share in power to backward and other classes, a system of reserved constituencies in assemblies and the parliament is followed.

e). This type arrangement is meant to give proper share in the government and administration to diverse social groups who otherwise would feel alienated from the Government.

5. Ans.

a) Under this people choose separate government at separate levels for example a general government for the entire country and governments at the provincial, sub-national or regional level.

b). Such a general government for the entire country is usually called a federal government.

c). In India we refer to it as the union government. The governments at the provincial or regional level are called by different names in different countries.

d). In India these are known as state governments. This system is not followed in all the countries of the world.

e). The division of power is more important under such type of Governments. A government at different levels enjoys different powers which are given to them by the constitution.

f). The divisions of power involving higher and lower levels of government are called vertical division of power.

6. Ans.

(a) The leaders of the Sinhala community tried to ensure the dominance of their community over the other communities of Sri Lanka after independence.

(b) They adopted a series of majoritarian measures to establish Sinhala supremacy.

(c) In 1956, an act was passed to recognize Sinhala as the only official language.

(d) Sinhala people were given special preference in government jobs and university admissions.

(e) Buddhism was declared the national religion.

(f) Consequences: All these government measures increased the feeling of alienation among the other Communities. They felt that their language and culture were not given due importance. They also felt that the constitution and the policies of the government denied them to give equal political powers. As a result their relations with the Sinhala community worsened.

7. Ans.

(a) It is an Island nation south of India. Tamil natives are called Sri Lankan Tamils and

formed 13% population.

(b) The Indian Tamils whose forefathers had come from India as plantation workers formed 5% population.

(c) The Sinhala Buddhist, who was 74% of the population, formed the majority government after independence in 1948.

(d) Tamils are either Hindus or Muslims, 7% of the people are Christian who are both Tamil and Sinhala.

(e) Sinhalese enjoy majority and can impose their will on the entire country.

8. Ans.

(a) In 1970-1993, the constitution of Belgium was amended for times to accommodate linguistic, cultural and regional differences.

(b) The Dutch and French speaking ministers were equal number in the central government.

(c) Special laws required the support of majority of members from each linguistic group.

(d) Many powers of the central government had been given to state governments of the two regions of the country.

(e) Brussels had a separate government where both communities were given equal representation.

(f) Community government of each section was also introduced.

Assertion Reason Answer:

1. (b) If both assertion (A) and reason (R) are true, but reason (R) is not the correct explanation of assertion (A).
2. (d) Both assertion (A) and reason (R) are false.

Case Study Answer:

1. i (d) All of the above.
 - ii. (a) Reduces the possibilities of conflicts between social groups.
 - iii. (b) State Government.
 - iv. (a) Apart from the Central and the State Government, this is a third type of government.
2. i (b) Vertical division of power.
 - ii. (c) Legislature, high court, and judiciary.
 - iii. (b) Vertical distribution of power.
 - iv. (d) All of the above.