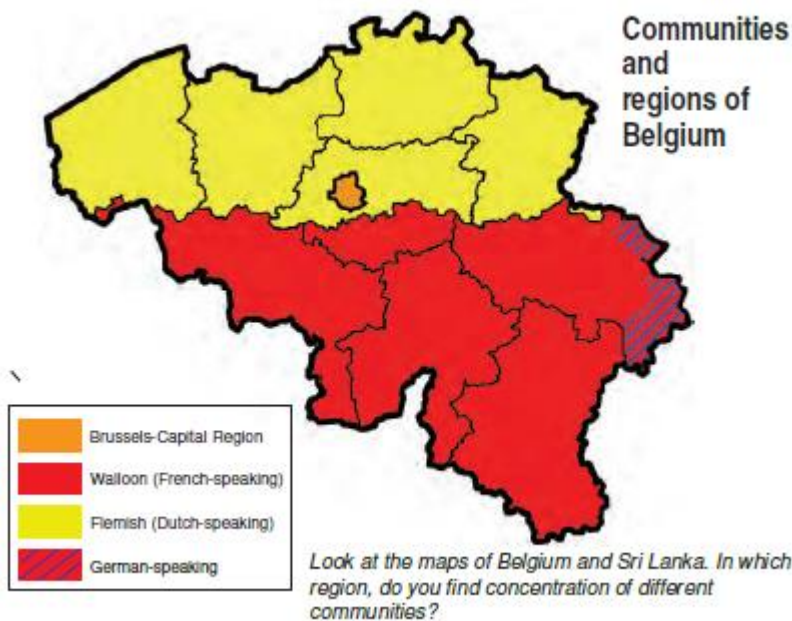




CBSE Notes Class 10 Political Science Chapter 1 – Power Sharing

Story of Belgium

Belgium is a small country in Europe with a population of over 1 crore, about half the population of Haryana. Of the country's total population, 59% speak the Dutch language, 40% of people speak French, and the remaining 1% speak German. Look at the map below to know the language variation of Belgium. The minority French-speaking community was rich and powerful, so they got the benefit of economic development and education. This created tensions between the Dutch-speaking and French-speaking communities during the 1950s and 1960s.



Accommodation in Belgium

In Belgium, the government handled the community difference very well. Between 1970 and 1993, Belgian leaders amended their constitution four times and came up with a new model to run the government.

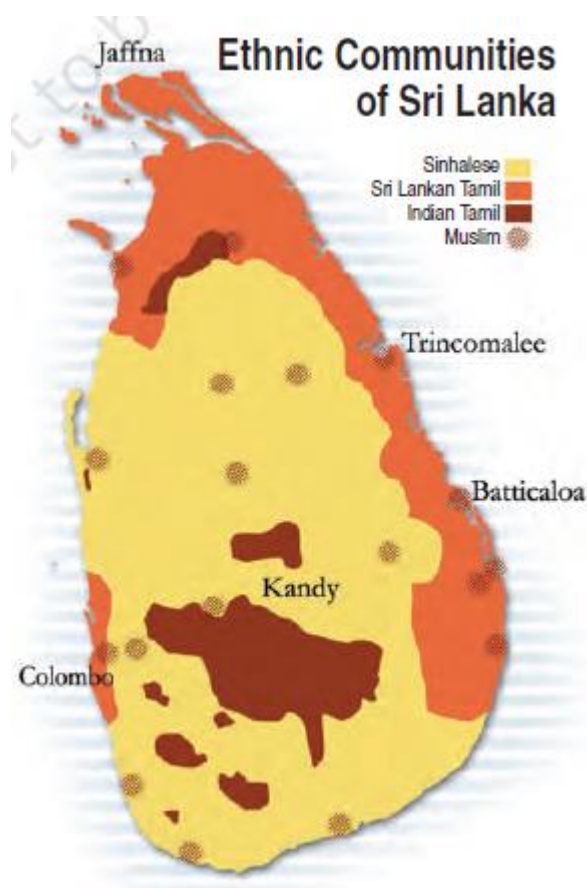
Here are some of the elements of the Belgian model.

1. The 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 the majority of members from each linguistic group. Thus, no single community can make decisions unilaterally.
2. The state governments are not subordinate to the Central Government.
3. Brussels has a separate government in which both communities have equal representation.
4. Apart from the Central and the State Governments, 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. This government has the power regarding cultural, educational and language-related issues.

The Belgium model was very complicated, but it helped to avoid civic strife between the two major communities.

Story of Sri Lanka

Now, let's take the situation of another country, Sri Lanka. It is an island nation having a population of 2 crores, about the same as Haryana. Sri Lanka has a diverse population. The major social groups are the Sinhala speakers (74%) and the Tamil speakers (18%). Among Tamils, there are two subgroups, "Sri Lankan Tamils" and "Indian Tamils". You can see the map below to know the population distribution of different communities in Sri Lanka.



In Sri Lanka, the Sinhala community enjoyed the bigger majority and imposed its will on the entire country.

Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka emerged as an independent country in 1948. The Sinhala community was in the majority, so they formed the government. They also followed preferential policies that favoured Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs. These measures taken by the government gradually increased the feeling of alienation among the Sri Lankan Tamils. Sri Lankan Tamils 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. Due to this, the relationship between the Sinhala and Tamil communities became poor. Sri Lankan Tamils launched parties and struggled for the recognition of Tamil as an official language, for regional autonomy and for equality of opportunity in securing education and jobs. But their demand was repeatedly denied by the government. The distrust between the two communities turned into widespread conflict and turned into a civil war. As a result, thousands of people from both communities have been killed. Many families were forced to leave the country as refugees, and many more lost their livelihoods. The civil war ended in 2009 and caused a terrible setback to the social, cultural and economic life of the country.

What have you learned from the stories of Belgium and Sri Lanka?

- Both countries are democracies, but they deal differently with the concept of power-sharing.
- In Belgium, the leaders have realised that the unity of the country is possible only by respecting the feelings and interests of different communities and regions. This resulted in mutually acceptable arrangements for sharing power.
- Sri Lanka shows that if a majority community wants to force its dominance over others and refuses to share power, it can undermine the unity of the country.

Why is power sharing desirable?

You will find the answer to this question in the points below.

1. Power sharing is good because it helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.
2. The second reason is that a democratic rule involves sharing power with those affected by its exercise and who have to live with its effects. People have a right to be consulted on how they are to be governed.

Let us call the first set of reasons *Prudential* and the second moral. The prudential reasons stress that power-sharing will bring out better outcomes, whereas the moral reasons emphasise the act of power-sharing as valuable.

Form of Power Sharing

Most of you must think that sharing power = dividing power = weakening the country. A similar thing was believed in the past. It was assumed that all the power of a government must reside in one person or group of persons located in one place. Otherwise, it would be very difficult to make quick decisions and to enforce them. But these notions have

changed with the emergence of democracy. In a democracy, people rule themselves through institutions of self-government. Everyone has a voice in the shaping of public policies. Therefore, in a democratic country, political power should be distributed among citizens.

In modern democracies, power sharing can take many forms, as mentioned below:

1. **Power is shared among different organs of government, such as the legislature, executive and judiciary.** This is called horizontal distribution of power because it allows different organs of government placed at the same level to exercise different powers. Such separation ensures that none of the organs can exercise unlimited power. Each organ checks the others. This arrangement is called a system of checks and balances.
2. **Power can be shared among governments at different levels** – a general government for the entire country and governments at the provincial or regional level, which is called the federal government.
3. **Power may also be shared among different social groups**, such as religious and linguistic groups. 'Community government' in Belgium is a good example of this arrangement. This method is used to give minority communities a fair share of power.
4. **Power sharing arrangements can also be seen in the way political parties, pressure groups and movements** control or influence those in power. When two or more parties form an alliance to contest elections, and if they get elected, they form a coalition government and thus share power.

Frequently Asked Questions on CBSE Class 10 Political Science Notes Chapter 1: Power Sharing

Q1

What is 'Power Sharing'?

Power sharing means the distribution of power among the organs of the government, such as the legislature, executive and judiciary.

Q2

What are the languages spoken in Belgium?

Belgium is composed of four language areas: the Dutch language area, the French language area, the German language area (9 municipalities in the east of Belgium) and the bilingual Brussels-Capital area.

Q3

Where is Sri Lanka located?

Sri Lanka is an island in the Indian Ocean, located to the south of the Indian Subcontinent, sprawling over an area of 65,525 sq. km.

NCERT Solutions for Class 10 Civics Chapter 1 – Power-sharing

The Solutions for Chapter 1 of Democratic Politics-I are given below. Students should also check for other subjects.

Exercises Page No. 10

1. What are the different forms of power-sharing in modern democracies? Give an example of each of these.

Answer.

There are different forms of power-sharing in modern democracies. They are given below:

- a. Horizontal distribution of power – Power is shared among different organs of government, such as the legislature, executive and judiciary. Example: India
- b. The federal division of power – Power can be shared among governments at different levels – a general government for the entire country and governments at the provincial or regional level. Example: India (Union Government and State Governments)
- c. Community government – Power may also be shared among different social groups, such as religious and linguistic groups. Example: Belgium
- d. Power-sharing between political parties, pressure groups and movements – Such competition ensures that power does not remain in one hand. In the long run, power is shared among different political parties that represent different ideologies and social groups.

2. State one prudential reason and one moral reason for power-sharing with an example from the Indian context.

Answer.

While prudential reasons stress that power-sharing will bring out better outcomes. In India, the power is shared horizontally among various organs of government. The Legislature, Executive and Judiciary are responsible for administering India. Reservation is applicable in India, where various sections are given benefits over others to avoid conflicts.

Moral reasons emphasise the very act of power-sharing as valuable. In India, citizens are conferred with fundamental rights and directive principles of state policies are implied in the government.

3. After reading this chapter, three students drew different conclusions. Which of these do you agree with and why? Give your reasons in about 50 words. Thomman – Power sharing is necessary only in societies which have religious, linguistic or ethnic divisions. Mathayi – Power sharing is suitable only for big countries that have regional

divisions. Ouseph – Every society needs some form of power-sharing, even if it is small or does not have social divisions.

Answer.

Ouseph's conclusion is the right one. Every state should have some or other form of power-sharing. Power-sharing ensures an optimum balance between different sections of society. The chances of conflict lessen, and so does the injustice. Hence, power-sharing becomes the value of democracy. Also, power-sharing is a good way to ensure the stability of political order

4. The Mayor of Merchtem, a town near Brussels in Belgium, has defended a ban on speaking French in the town's schools. He said that the ban would help all non-Dutch speakers integrate into this Flemish town. Do you think that this measure is in keeping with the spirit of Belgium's power-sharing arrangements? Give your reasons in about 50 words.

Answer.

The measure of the Mayor of Merchtem to ban French-speaking in the town's schools near Brussels is unfair. It does not keep with Belgium's power-sharing arrangement. Power-sharing helps maintain a balance between different sections of society. In Belgium, there is a need to maintain the power-sharing between the Dutch and the French to avoid civil unrest. Banning the French will promote the tendency of civil unrest. To promote peace among different communities, the Mayor should promote a bilingual education system in the town's schools.

5. Read the following passage and pick out any one of the prudential reasons for power sharing offered in this. "We need to give more power to the panchayats to realise the dream of Mahatma Gandhi and the hopes of the makers of our Constitution. Panchayati Raj establishes true democracy. It restores power to the only place where power belongs in a democracy – in the hands of the people. Giving power to Panchayats is also a way to reduce corruption and increase administrative efficiency. When people participate in the planning and implementation of developmental schemes, they would naturally exercise greater control over these schemes. This would eliminate the corrupt middlemen. Thus, Panchayati Raj will strengthen the foundations of our democracy."

Answer.

The prudential reason in the given passage is – "Giving power to Panchayats is also a way to reduce corruption and increase administrative efficiency."

6. Different arguments are usually put forth in favour of and against power-sharing. Identify those which are in favour of power-sharing and select the answer using the codes given below. Power-sharing:

- A. **reduces conflict among different communities**
- B. **decreases the possibility of arbitrariness**
- C. **delays the decision-making process**
- D. **accommodates diversities**
- E. **increases instability and divisiveness**
- F. **promotes people's participation in government**

G. undermines the unity of a country

(a)	A	B	D	F
(b)	A	C	E	F
(c)	A	B	D	G
(d)	B	C	D	G

Answer.

(a)	A	B	D	F
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7. 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 a unitary government to a federal one prevented a possible division of the country on linguistic lines.**

Which of the statements given above is correct?

(a) A, B, C and D

(b) A, B and D

(c) C and D

(d) B, C and D

Answer.

(d) B, C and D

8. Match List I (forms of power-sharing) with List II (forms of government) and select the correct answer using the codes given below in the lists.

List I	List II
1. Power shared among different organs of government	A. Community government
2. Power shared among governments at different levels	B. Separation of powers
3. Power shared by different social groups	C. Coalition government
4. Power shared by two or more political parties	D. Federal government

Answer.

List I	List II
1. Power shared among different organs of government	Separation of powers
2. Power shared among governments at different levels	Federal government
3. Power shared by different social groups	Community government
4. Power shared by two or more political parties	Coalition government

9. Consider the following two statements on power-sharing and select the answer using the codes given below.

A). Power-sharing is good for democracy.

B). It helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.

Which of these statements are true and false?

(a) A is true, but B is false

(b) Both A and B are true

(c) Both A and B are false

(d) A is false, but B is true

Answer.

(b) Both A and B are true

Power-sharing Summary

Chapter 1 of **NCERT Social Science Civics** textbook – Democratic Politics-II will introduce students to a system called power-sharing in a democracy. This system of power-sharing allows the government to share its responsibilities and powers at different levels. In India, the legislature, executive, and judiciary are different organs that share the power to run the government in one way or the other. Class 10 students will be introduced to different forms of power-sharing with examples of Sri Lanka, Belgium and more.

The students will also get to know about the following topics:

1.
 1. **Belgium and Sri Lanka**
 2. **Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka**
 3. **Accommodation in Belgium**

a. Why is power sharing desirable?

4. **Forms of power-sharing**

‘Democratic Politics-II’ is an important book for Class 10 Social Science subject. Apart from this chapter, the full set of is also provided for students.

Frequently Asked Questions on NCERT Solutions for Class 10 Political Science Chapter 1

Q1

Do BYJU’S NCERT Solutions for Class 10 Political Science Chapter 1 provide accurate information for the CBSE exam preparation?

The solutions offered by BYJU'S are accurate enough based on the guidelines set by the CBSE board. The faculty create the modules passionately so that students can learn new topics efficiently. **NCERT Solutions** are detailed yet easy to comprehend, making it interesting for the students to refresh the concepts after learning them. Students can access the PDF format of solutions which are available at BYJU'S with a free download option, and score well in the CBSE exams. The concepts are explained in an elaborate manner to help students grasp them without any difficulty.

Q2

Can BYJU'S NCERT Solutions for Class 10 Political Science Chapter 1 help students fetch good marks in the CBSE exam?

BYJU'S is an online learning platform where chapters and exercises have been framed by experts to help students practice well for their CBSE exams. The answers are prepared and reviewed by the subject matter experts who possess vast experience in the respective subject. The solutions are created by keeping in mind the method of helping students to learn new concepts at this stage. So, the main aim of providing solutions is to empower students with knowledge.

Q3

What topics are important in Chapter 1 of NCERT Solutions for Class 10 Political Science?

The important topics in Chapter 1 of **NCERT Solutions for Class 10** Political Science are

1. Belgium and Sri Lanka
2. Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka
3. Accommodation in Belgium
4. Forms of power-sharing

To learn these concepts effortlessly, students are recommended to download the NCERT Solutions for Class 10 Political Science and refer to them while answering the textbook questions. The solutions are given in both online and offline modes to help students to learn the subject at their own pace.