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IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

- **Sri Lankan Tamils:** Tamil natives of Sri Lanka are called “Sri Lankan Tamils”. They constitute 13 percent of the population.
- **Indian Tamils:** The Tamilians whose forefathers came from India as plantation workers during the colonial period and settled there (Sri Lanka) are called “Indian Tamils”. They constitute 5 percent of the population.
- **Moral:** It is also a set of reasons which emphasize the intrinsic worth of power sharing.
- **Coalition Government:** When the alliance of two or more parties gets elected and forms a government it is known as the Coalition Government. This is another form of power sharing.
- **Prudential:** Decisions that are based on carefully calculated gains and losses and not based on purely moral considerations.
- **Civil war:** It is a situation when a violent conflict starts between opposing groups within a country that becomes so intense that it appears like a war
- **Majoritarian:** A belief that a majority community should be able to rule a country in whichever way it wants.
- **Ethnic:** Social division based on shared culture. People of the same ethnic group believe in their common descent
- **Community Government:** A type of Government which is elected by people belonging to the language community is called “Community Government”.
- **Civil War:** A violent conflict between opposing grounds within a country is known as a civil war. Sometimes it becomes so intense that it appears like a war.
- **Prudential:** It is a set of reason which favours power sharing. It is based on prudence, or on careful calculation of gains and losses.
- **Horizontal Distribution of Power:** A type of distribution in which power is shared among different organs of government, such as the legislature, executive and judiciary.
- **Checks and Balances:** A system in which each organ of the government checks the others which results in a balance of power among various institutions. It ensures that none of the organs can exercise unlimited power.



- **Vertical Division of Power:** It is a very of distribution of power that involves the higher and lower levels of government such as central, provincial or regional levels.
- **Federal government:** Federal Government is a type of Government in which powers are shared among the different levels. Like union level and provincial level. In this the general government for the entire country at the union level is called "Federal Government".
- **Reserved Constituencies:** It is a system in which constituencies are reserved in Assemblies and the Parliament for minorities in order to give them a fair share in power.

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Multiple Choice Questions

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1. Tamil natives of Sri Lanka are called the

- (a) Indian Tamils
- (b) Muslim Tamils
- (c) Sri Lankan Tamils
- (d) Christian Tamils

2. The term Eelam stands for

- (a) government
- (b) state
- (c) country
- (d) political party

3. Division of powers between higher and lower levels of government is called

- (a) horizontal division
- (b) parallel division
- (c) vertical division
- (d) none of the above

4. Which two languages are generally spoken in Belgium?

- (a) French and English
- (b) Dutch and Sinhala
- (c) French and Sinhala
- (d) Dutch and French.

5. Brussels is the capital of

- (a) Belgium
- (b) the Netherland
- (c) Sri Lanka
- (d) West Indies

6. 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.

7. 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 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.

8. 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

9. 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.

10. Who elects the community government in Belgium?

- (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.

11. In which year Sri Lanka emerged as an independent country?

- (a) 1947
- (b) 1948
- (c) 1949
- (d) 1950

12. Which is the state religion of Sri Lanka?

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

13. Which major social group constituted the largest share in population of Sri Lanka?

- (a) Sinhalas
- (b) Sri Lankan Tamils
- (c) Indian Tamils
- (d) Muslims

14. Which language is spoken by the majority of Belgians?

- (a) German
- (b) French
- (c) Dutch
- (d) English

15. Which religion is followed by Sinhala speaking people?

- (a) Hindus
- (b) Muslims
- (c) Buddhists
- (d) None of these

16. Which language was declared as the only official language of Sri Lanka by an Act passed in 1956?

- (a) Tamil
- (b) Sinhala
- (c) Hindi

(d) English

17. Which of the following is not one of the three organs of government powers are shared?

- (a) Legislature
- (b) Bureaucracy
- (c) Executive
- (d) Judiciary

18. 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

19. What led to non-sharing of power?

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

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

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

ANSWERS

- | | | | |
|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. c | 7. d | 13. a | 19. d |
| 2. b | 8. c | 14. c | 20. d |
| 3. c | 9. a | 15. c | |
| 4. d | 10. a | 16. d | |
| 5. a | 11. b | 17. b | |
| 6. c | 12. a | 18. d | |



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MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS



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

Answer: In 1956, an Act was passed to make Sinhala the official language. The government followed preferential policies favouring Sinhala applicants for University positions and government jobs.

2. What is meant by the system of 'checks and balances'?

Answer: The horizontal distribution of power ensures that power is shared among different organs of government—the legislature, executive and judiciary. It allows different organs of government placed at the same level to exercise different powers. The horizontal distribution of power is also called a system of checks and balances. This system ensures that none of these organs can exercise unlimited power. Each organ checks the other.

3. What is vertical division of power?

Answer: When power is shared among governments at different levels, i.e., the Union or the Central Government, the State Government and the Municipality and Panchayat at the lower level. This division of power involving higher and lower levels of government is called the vertical division of power.

4. Compare the different ways in which the Belgians and the Sri Lankans have dealt with the problem of cultural diversity.

Answer: Both Belgium and Sri Lanka are democracies, yet they have dealt with the problem of cultural diversity very differently.

Belgium:

- Leaders realised that for the unity of the country it is important to respect the feelings and interests of different communities. The Constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French speaking people shall be equal in the Central Government.
- Both Dutch and French communities share power on an equal basis at the Centre. Along with the State Government, both communities have a third kind of Government called 'Community Government' which decides on cultural, education and language related issues.
- Between, 1970 and 1993, the Constitution was amended four times to enable all linguistic groups to live together within the same country.

Sri Lanka:



- In Sri Lanka, there are two major communities, the Sinhalese speaking (74%) and Tamil speaking (18%). The majority community, the Sinhalese have forced their domination over Tamils, refusing to share power.
- Both communities have lived in tension as the Sinhalese have denied political, educational, religious, employment and economic rights to the Tamils leading to Civil War.
- In 1956, the Government passed an Act to recognise Sinhala as the only official language, thus disregarding Tamil.

5. How far do you agree with the statement that power sharing is keeping with the spirit of democracy?

Answer: Power sharing is desirable in democracy because it helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups. Conflict between social groups leads to violence and political instability. Power sharing is a good way to ensure the stability of political order.

- Imposing the will of majority community over others, in the long run may undermine the unity of the nation. Tyranny of the majority is not just oppressive for the minority, it often brings ruin to the majority as well.
- 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. A legitimate government is one where citizens, through participation, acquire a stake in the system. Prudential reasons stress that power sharing brings out better outcomes whereas moral reasons emphasize the act of power sharing as valuable.

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

Answer: Sri Lanka emerged as an independent country in 1948. The democratically elected government adopted a series of majoritarian measures to establish Sinhala Supremacy. Consequences of these majoritarian policies:

- The Sri Lankan Tamils felt that none of the major political parties led by the Buddhist Sinhala leaders were sensitive to their language and culture and the government policies denied them equal political rights which led to increased feeling of alienation among them.
- The Sri Lankan Tamils felt that the constitution denied them equal rights in politics, in getting jobs and ignored their interests. The relation between the Tamil and Sinhala communities became extremely strained as a result.



- The Sri Lankan Tamils launched parties and struggles for the recognition of Tamil, for regional autonomy and equality of opportunity in every field.
- Therefore, the measures adopted by the government to establish Sinhala supremacy led to distrust between the two communities which turned the widespread conflict into a Civil War. As a result, thousands of people of both communities were killed and many families were forced to leave the country as refugees and lost their livelihoods.

7. Why is the ethnic composition of Belgium complex?

Answer: Belgium is a small country in Europe, having a population of a little over one crore.

- 59 per cent of the country's total population lives in the Flemish region and speak Dutch language.
- Another 40 per cent people live in Wallonia region and speak French. Remaining one per cent of the Belgians speak German.
- Whereas in the Belgian capital, Brussels, 80 per cent of the population is French-speaking and 20 per cent is Dutch-speaking.

8. How is Belgium's power-sharing path different from any other country?

Or, Explain the four elements in the Belgian power-sharing model.

Or, Why do we find the Belgian model very complicated? How has it helped to prevent conflict and division of the country on linguistic lines?

Answer: The power-sharing arrangements made by the Belgian leaders were different and more innovative than any other country. To recognise the existence of regional differences and cultural diversities, they amended their Constitution four times between 1970 and 1993.

The major elements of the Belgian Model are:

- Constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be equal in the Central Government. No single community can take decisions unilaterally.
- The State Governments are not subordinate to the Central Government.
- Brussels, the capital, has a separate government where both the communities have equal representation.
- A third kind of government, 'Community Government', is elected by people belonging to one language community — Dutch, French and German speaking — no matter where they live. This government can decide on cultural, educational and language related issues.



9. What is majoritarianism? Is it wrong if a majority community in a country rules? Give reasons to justify your answer.

Answer: 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 majoritarianism.

Yes, it is wrong if a majority community in a country rules.

- The very idea of power-sharing has emerged in opposition to the notions of undivided political power.
- A positive attitude towards diversity and willingness to accommodate it, is good for democracy.
- Power in the hands of one community will make the other community feel marginalised, deprived and discriminated.
- The struggle against such inequalities sometimes takes the path of conflict and defiance of State power as in Sri Lanka.

10. Analyse how majoritarianism has increased the feeling of alienation among the Sri Lankan Tamils?

Or

Mention the measures adopted by the government to establish Sinhala supremacy.

Answer: Sri Lanka emerged as an independent country in 1948. The democratically elected government adopted a series of measures to establish Sinhala supremacy:

- In 1956, an Act was passed to make Sinhala the official language.
- The government followed preferential policies favouring Sinhala applicants for University positions and government jobs.
- The Constitution provided for State protection and fostering of Buddhism.
- The Sri Lankan Tamils felt that none of the major political parties led by the Buddhist Sinhala leaders were sensitive to their language and culture and the government policies denied them equal political rights which led to increased feeling of alienation among them.
- The Sri Lankan Tamils launched parties and struggles for the recognition of Tamil, for regional autonomy and equality of opportunity in every field.
- Therefore, the measures adopted by the government to establish Sinhala supremacy led to distrust between the two communities which turned the widespread conflict into a Civil War.



11. "Power Sharing is the very spirit of democracy". Justify the statement.

Answer: A democratic rule involves sharing power with those affected by its exercise. Power sharing ensures that people have the right to be consulted and have equal participation in the government.

- In a democracy, each individual has a say in governance through their elected representatives. This is the essence of power sharing that grants equal rights to each citizen.
- Sharing of power ensures that respect for diversity and desire for living together becomes a shared ideal amongst different communities in a country. It actually makes the country united and the administration easier.
- Prudential reasons stress that power sharing would bring out better outcomes by helping to reduce the possibility of any conflict between the social groups.
- Power sharing is a good way to ensure the stability of political order through unity of the nation.

12. Describe the vertical and horizontal forms of power sharing exercised in India.

Answer: Vertical distribution of power: Power can be shared among governments at different levels –a general government for the entire country and governments at provincial or regional level. This is the federal form of government.

- When power is shared among governments at different levels, i.e., the Union or the Central Government, the State Government and the Municipality and Panchayat at the lower level. This division of power involving higher and lower levels of government is called the vertical division of power.
- The Constitution clearly lays down the powers of different levels of government. This federal division of power involving higher and lower levels of government is also called the vertical division of power. Example: A key change in the Constitution of Belgium in 1993 was that the regional governments were given constitutional powers that were no longer dependent on the Central Government. Thus, Belgium shifted from a unitary to a federal form of government.

Horizontal distribution of power: Power is shared among different organs of government, such as the legislature, executive and judiciary. This is horizontal distribution of power. It ensures that power is shared among different organs of government—the legislature, executive and judiciary. It allows different organs of government placed at the same level to exercise different powers.

- In a democracy, ministers and government officials exercise power. They are responsible to the Parliament or State Assemblies. The judges appointed by the executive can check the functioning of executive or laws made by the legislature.



- The horizontal distribution of power is also called a system of checks and balances.
- This system ensures that none of the organs can exercise unlimited power. Each organ checks the other. This results in a balance of power among various institutions.

Example: In India the judiciary has an independent status. The Supreme Court is the apex court of justice. The Parliament is the legislative body where the laws governing the country are made and the Executive is the implementing body.

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Case-Based Questions

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QUESTION 1

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follows:

The Belgian leaders 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 the majority of members from each linguistic group
- 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.
- 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.
- Apart from the Central and the State Government, 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.

Answer the following MCQs by choosing the most appropriate option:

1. _____ and _____ dealt with the question of power sharing differently.

- (i) India, Sri Lanka
- (ii) Belgium, Sri Lanka
- (iii) Wallonia, Brussels
- (iv) Flemish, Wallonia

Answer: b

2. Which of the following is not the element of "Belgian model"?

- (i) Equal number of ministers for both the groups
- (ii) Setting up of Community Government
- (iii) More power to the central government
- (iv) Equal representation at the state and central level

Answer: c



3. "Apart from the Central and the State Government, there is a third kind of government" Which of the following is incorrect with respect to this?

- (i) The unique government is Community Government
- (ii) A single social group is given powers to handle community-related affairs
- (iii) Elected by people belonging to Dutch, French and German-speaking
- (iv) Power regarding cultural, educational and language-related issues

Answer: b

4. Which of the following title best describes the given passage?

- (i) The ethnic composition of Belgium
- (ii) Accommodation in Sri Lanka
- (iii) Accommodation in Belgium
- (iv) The ethnic composition of Sri Lanka

Answer: c

QUESTIONS 2

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follows:

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 speaks 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.

Answer the following mcqs by choosing the appropriate option:

1. Area of Belgium is

- (i) equals to Haryana
- (ii) greater than Haryana
- (iii) smaller than Haryana
- (iv) equals to Europe

Answer: c



2. Belgium share its border with:

- (i) France
- (ii) Germany
- (iii) Luxembourg
- (iv) All of the above

Answer: a

3. Which language speaks on majority level in the country?

- (i) Dutch
- (ii) German
- (iii) French
- (iv) None of these

Answer: b

4. Capital of Belgium:

- (i) Netherlands
- (ii) Brussels
- (iii) Wallonia
- (iv) Europe

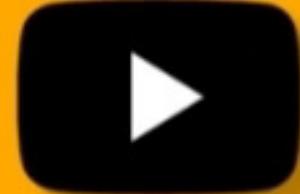
Answer: c



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Picture Based Question

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1) What does the cartoon represent?

Ans. In 2005, some new laws were made in Russia giving more powers to its President. During the same time the US President visited Russia. Here, Putin can be seen advising Bush that they got to keep their rein tight, i.e. they should have the maximum control.

2) Identify the two main leaders shown here.

Ans. George W. Bush of USA and Vladimir Putin of Russia.

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

Ans. The very idea of democracy is against the concept of concentration of power. The cartoon explains how the US and the Russian President have given them more powers in having a final say with regard to any policy decision and are controlling the democratic regimes of their respective country.

4) Can you think of some other examples to illustrate the point being made here?

Ans. Any other country where power distribution is not fair and is uneven can be cited as an example here. For example- when Sheikh Mujib Ur Rahman did the same thing by declaring Bangladesh as a one party democracy and making his own party (Awami League) more dominant and powerful.

Q) Country of the leaders shown in Image?

- (a) Russia and U.S.A
- (b) Turkey and Korea
- (c) India and Sri Lanka
- (d) None of the above

ANSWER: a

QUESTION 2



1) What does the cartoon represent?

Ans. The cartoon refers to the problems of running a coalition government. If any one party fails to get a majority, they are left with no option but to form a coalition government. In a coalition government, conflicts are maximum, decision making becomes slow and they generally result in fall of the government as all the parties want to have the charge of the key areas (steering wheel as depicted in this cartoon). There cannot be two steering wheels in car, as it will make it directionless.

2) Which country is represented here?

Ans. The country represented and talked here is Germany. The two major parties of the country, namely the Christian Democratic Union and the Social Democratic Party formed a coalition. The two parties are historically rivals to each other. They had to form a coalition government because neither of them got clear majority of seats on their own in the 2005 elections. They take divergent positions on several policy matters, but still jointly run the government.

