

Worksheet 2

Ch-1 Power Sharing (Answers)

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

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 were sensitive to their language and culture. They felt that the constitution between the Sinhala and Tamil communities strained over time. The Sri Lankan Tamils launched parties and struggles for the recognition of Tamil as an official language, for regional autonomy and equality of opportunity in securing education and jobs. But their demand for more autonomy to provinces populated by the Tamils was repeatedly denied. By 1980s several political organisations were formed demanding an independent Tamil Eelam (state) in northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka. The distrust between the two communities turned into widespread conflict. It soon turned into a CIVIL WAR. As a result thousands of people of both the communities have been killed. Many families were forced to leave the country as refugees and many more lost their livelihoods.

1.1. What is not the geographical location of Sri Lanka as compared to India?

- a. Sri Lanka is an island nation.
- b. It is about 20kms from Rameswaram, the Southern coast of Tamil Nadu.
- c. It lies in the Indian Ocean.
- d. None of the above.

Answer: (d) None of the above.

1.2. What happened when demand of Tamils, for more autonomy, repeatedly denied by the government?

- a. It soon turned into a Civil war. Thousands of people of both the communities have been killed.
- b. Many became refugees.
- c. It improved the social, cultural and economic life of the country.
- d. Both (a) and (b)

Answer: (d) Both (a) and (b)

1.3. Which of the following was not a provision of the Act of 1956 passed in Sri Lanka?

- a. It recognises Sinhala as the only official language
- b. The government followed preferential policies that favoured Sinhala applicants.
- c. A new constitution stipulated that the state should protect and foster Buddhism.
- d. Provincial autonomy was given to Tamils.

Answer: (d) Provincial autonomy was given to Tamils.

1.4 The Sri Lankan Tamils launched parties and struggles for

- a. For regional autonomy
- b. Equality of opportunity in securing education and jobs.
- c. The recognition of Tamils as an official language.
- d. All of the above

Answer: (d) All of the above

2. 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.

2.1 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

Answer: (d) All of the above

2.2. 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

Answer: (c) All the political parties get their expected share

2.3. 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

Answer: (d) Community Government

2.4. 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.

Answer: (d) It does not have the power regarding cultural, educational and language related issues.

Answer the following questions:

1. How do pressure groups and movements exert influence on politics? (5)

Answer: Political parties and movements create pressure on the political parties in the following ways :

- a. **Raising Public issues:** They try to gain support and sympathy for their goals, and their activities by carrying out information campaigns, organizing meetings, file petition, etc. Most of these groups try to influence the mass media into giving more attention to these issues.
- b. **Participation in the working of government:** They often organize protest activities like strikes, disrupting government programs. Workers organizations from pressure groups or movement groups may participate in official bodies and committees that offer advice to the government.
- c. **Impact on political parties:** Most of the political parties take the agenda from these organizations. Most of the movement groups take a political stance without being a party.
- d. **New parties:** These movements give birth to a new political party. DMK, AIADMK, etc.

2. Compare the situation of Belgium and Sri Lanka considering location, size and cultural aspects. (5)

Answer:

• Location:

Belgium: Belgium is a Western European country and is bordered by France, Germany, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands. It has access to the North Sea and has a coastline of about 66 km.

Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka is an island country located in South Asia. It is situated in the Indian Ocean and is separated from India by the Palk Strait.

• Size:

Belgium: Belgium has an area of 30,528 square kilometers and is one of the smallest countries in Europe.

Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka has an area of 65,610 square kilometers and is a relatively small country.

• Cultural Aspects:

Belgium: Belgium is known for its waffles, chocolates, and beers. The country has two main cultural communities: the Dutch-speaking Flemish community and the French-speaking Walloon community. It also has a small German-speaking community. The country has a rich history of art, architecture, and literature.

Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka has a diverse culture that is influenced by its long history of Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam. The country is known for its famous tea, spices, and gems. The national cuisine is based on rice, fish, and curry. Sri Lanka is also known for its traditional dance, music, and handicrafts.

• Comparison:

Belgium and Sri Lanka are two countries with distinct differences in terms of location, size, and cultural aspects. Belgium is a small European country with a rich history of art and literature, while Sri Lanka is a small island country in South Asia with a diverse culture influenced by Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam. Both countries have their unique cuisines, with Belgium being known for its waffles, chocolates, and beers, and Sri Lanka being known for its traditional rice-based dishes and tea. Despite their differences, both countries have their own charm and offer visitors a unique experience.

3. Bring out any two sharp contrast between Belgium and Sri Lankan democracies. (5)

Answer: Sharp contrast between Belgium and Sri Lankan democracies are:

1. **Political Structure:** One sharp contrast between Belgium and Sri Lankan democracies lies in their political structures. Belgium follows a federal system with a parliamentary constitutional monarchy. It is divided into three regions: Flanders, Wallonia, and Brussels, each with its own government and legislative authority. In contrast, Sri Lanka has a unitary system with a semi-

presidential form of government, where power is centralized in the national government and the president holds significant executive powers.

2. **Ethnic and Religious Composition:** Belgium and Sri Lanka also differ significantly in terms of their ethnic and religious compositions. Belgium is a relatively homogenous country with a majority of the population identifying as Flemish or French-speaking Walloons. While there are some regional and linguistic tensions, Belgium's diversity is primarily based on language rather than ethnicity or religion. In contrast, Sri Lanka is a multi-ethnic and multi-religious country with the majority Sinhalese population and significant Tamil, Muslim, and other minority communities. Managing ethnic and religious diversity has been a major challenge for Sri Lanka's democracy due to historical conflicts and tensions.
3. **Historical Context:** The historical context of Belgium and Sri Lanka has shaped their respective democracies in distinct ways. Belgium has a long history of political stability and has successfully managed regional differences through a system of power-sharing and decentralization. In contrast, Sri Lanka has experienced periods of ethnic conflict and civil war, particularly between the Sinhalese majority and Tamil minority. These historical challenges have impacted the development and functioning of Sri Lanka's democracy, leading to ongoing efforts for reconciliation and addressing grievances.
4. **Human Development Indicators:** Another contrast can be observed in the human development indicators between Belgium and Sri Lanka. Belgium ranks high in various measures of human development, including education, healthcare, and standard of living. It has a well-established welfare state and social security system. Sri Lanka, while making progress in recent years, still faces challenges in areas such as poverty reduction, education, and healthcare. These disparities can have implications for the functioning and inclusiveness of their respective democracies.
5. **Regional and International Integration:** Belgium, as a member of the European Union (EU), benefits from regional integration and cooperation within the EU framework. It participates in the decision-making processes of the EU and enjoys the economic and political benefits that come with membership. In contrast, Sri Lanka, while being a member of various regional and international organizations, does not have the same level of integration and influence as Belgium within a regional bloc. This difference in regional and international integration can impact the scope and effectiveness of their democracies in addressing global challenges.

4. Sharing of powers makes our country more powerful and united. Do you agree with the statement? Why? (3)

Answer: Yes, we agree with this statement. Power sharing among different organs of the government not only helps in maintaining the system of check and balance but also strengthens the democracy and the country because:

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

5. Why is power sharing is desirable? (1)

Answer: Power sharing is desirable because it helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups. Power sharing is a good way to ensure the stability of political order as social conflict often leads to violence and political instability. Imposing the will of the 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. Tyranny of the majority is not only oppressive for the minority but it also brings ruin to the majority.