

CLASS 10 NOTES

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Power Sharing

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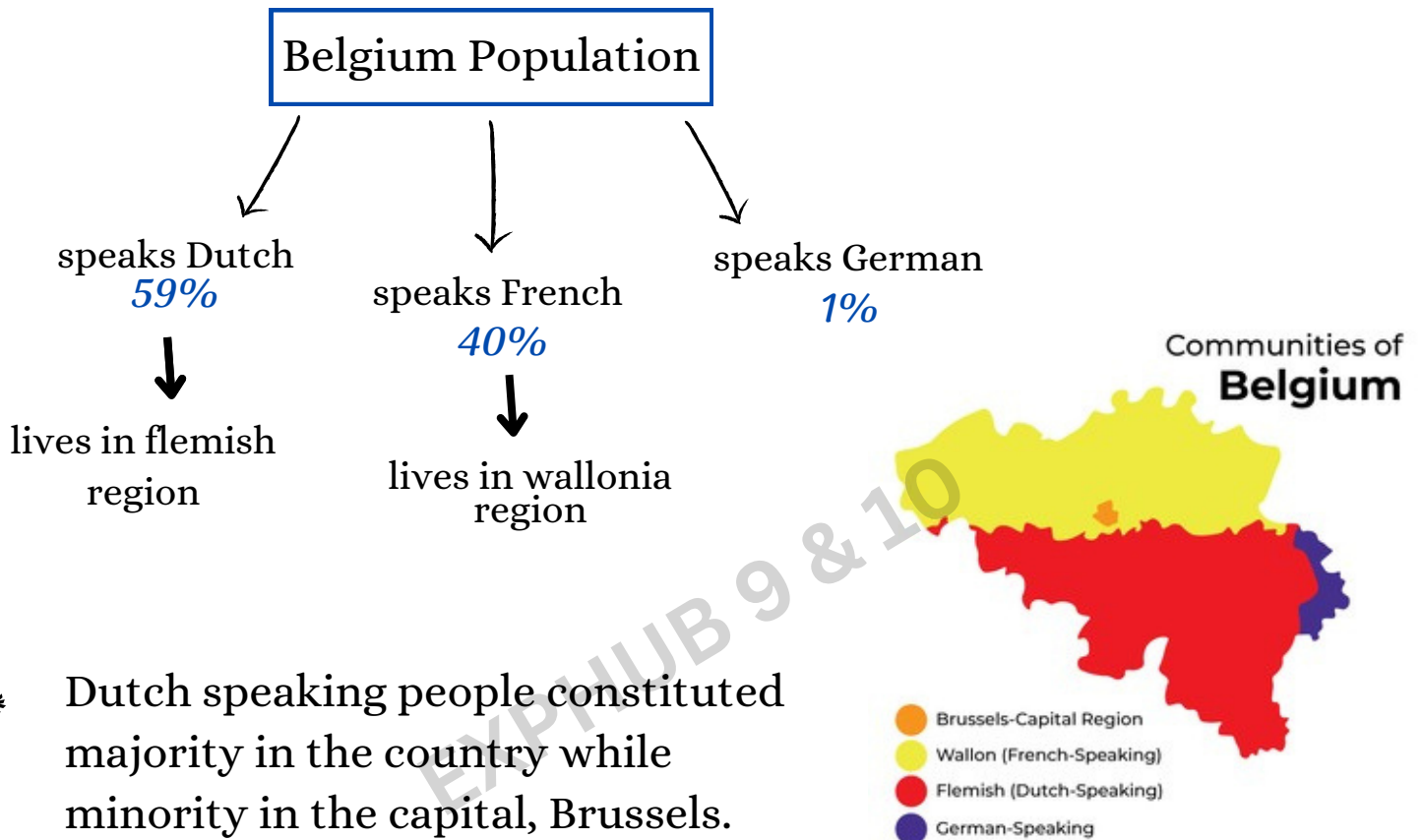




POWER SHARING

Ethnic Composition of Belgium

Exam me aayega



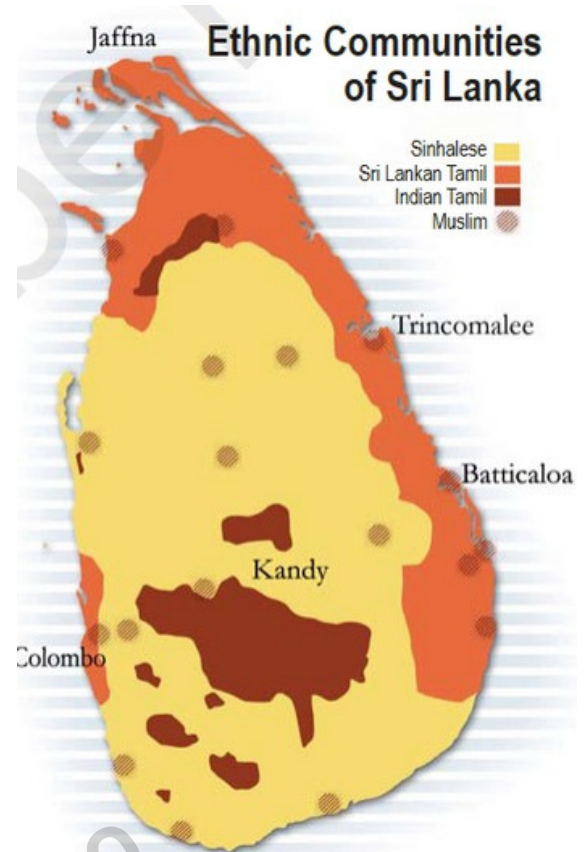
Brussels Population

speaks Dutch **20%** speaks French **80%**

Ethnic Composition of Sri Lanka

* Ethnic Communities :

- ↳ Sinhala Speakers - **74%**
- ↳ Tamil Speakers - **18%**
- ↳ Among this, **13%** are Sri Lankan Tamils and **5%** are Indian Tamils.
- ↳ Most Sinhala speakers are buddhists.
- ↳ Tamil speaking are both Muslims and Hindus and **7%** of the population is Christian who speaks both the languages (Sinhala and Tamil).



Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka

E.M.A

* Majoritarianism

- ↳ It is the idea that have the numerical majority of a population should help the final say in determining the outcome of a decision.
- ↳ Sri Lanka gained its independence in 1948, and after that, the majority Sinhala Community posed their dominance through majoritarianism.

* Sinhala supremacy in Sri Lanka

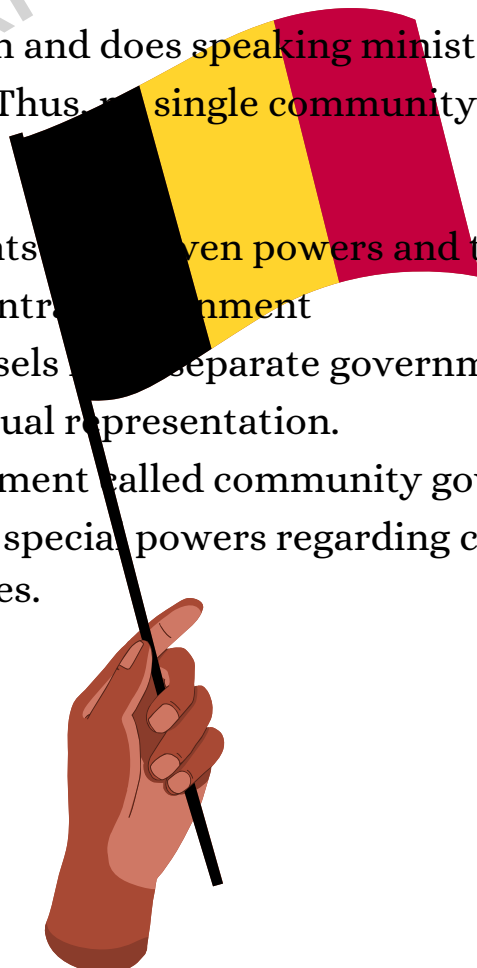
- ↳ In 1956, an act was passed to recognize Sinhala as only official language, thus disregarding Tamils.
- ↳ Sinhala were given favors in university and government jobs.



- ↳ Their religion Buddhism was favored and given special protection constitutionally.
- ↳ All these steps made Tamils felt alienated. They were denied political rights and discriminated.
- ↳ All this created a tense situation between the two communities and Tamils launched their struggle against the majority demanding a separate state, Eelam.
- ↳ This lead to a Civil War, in which thousands of people were killed.
- ↳

Belgian Model of Accomodation

- ↳ Leaders in Belgium amended their constitution four times to accommodate diversity between 1970 to 1993.
- ↳ The number of French and does speaking minister should be equal in the central government. Thus, no single community can make decisions unilaterally.
- ↳ The state governments were given powers and they were not subordinate to the central government.
- ↳ The capital city Brussels has a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation.
- ↳ Third kind of government called community government was formed. This government has special powers regarding cultural, educational and language related issues.
- ↳





Power Sharing is Desirable

* Prudential Reasons

- ↳ Power sharing reduces the chances of conflicts between various social groups.
- ↳ It is also a good way to ensure political stability in the country.
- ↳ Power Sharing will bring out better outcomes.

* Moral Reasons

- ↳ It is the right of the citizens to be consulted on how they have to be governed.
- ↳ Power sharing is the very spirit of the democracy and moral reasons of power sharing emphasise the very act of power sharing as valuable.

Forms of Power Sharing



* Power sharing among different organ of government

- ↳ Three levels - Legislature, Executive and Judiciary
- ↳ This is the horizontal distribution of power
- ↳ There is a system of check and balances.



* Power Sharing among different levels of government

- ↳ Three levels - Central, State and Local government
- ↳ This is the vertical distribution of power.
- ↳ This is the federal division of power and also known as federalism.

* Power Sharing among different social groups

- ↳ “Community government” is a good example of this.
- ↳ It is sharing power between various religious and linguistic groups.
- ↳ There are reserved constituencies in State assemblies and parliament of our country.



* Power sharing among different political parties, pressure groups and movements.

- ↳ Coalition government is a good example of it.
- ↳ Different political parties represent different ideologies and social groups.
- ↳ The interest groups influence the decision making process.

Top 7 previous year questions

Short questions

1. Describe the ethnic composition of Belgium.

- (i) It has two main languages i.e. Dutch and French. Of the country's total population, 59% lives in the Flemish region and speaks the Dutch language
- (ii) 40% people of Belgium live in the Wallonia region and speak French. The remaining 1% speak German.
- (iii) In the capital city Brussels, 80% of people speak French while 20% are Dutch-speaking.
- (iv) The minority French-speaking people are more rich and powerful than the Dutch-speaking people.

2. Explain any three elements of Belgian model of accomodation.

To accommodate diverse regional and cultural diversities Belgian Government adopted the following measures

- (i) The Constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be equal in the Central Government.
- (ii) Many powers of the Central Government have been given to State Governments of the two regions of the country.
- (iii) Brussels, the capital of Belgium, has a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation.

3. Describe the way in which power can be shared among governments at different levels.

Power can be shared among governments at different levels in the following ways

- (i) Power is shared among different organs of government, such as the Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary. None of these organs can exercise unlimited power as each organ checks the others.
- (ii) In a federal form of government, power can be divided between the Central Government and the State Government as well as at the Local Government level.
- (iii) Power may be shared among different social groups, such as religious and linguistic groups. Power-sharing arrangements can also be seen in the way political parties, pressure groups, and social movements control or influence those in power.

4. Evaluate the power sharing system in India.

Power power-sharing system in India can be described in the following ways

- (i) In India power is shared among different organs of government, such as legislature, executive, and judiciary. This separation of power ensures that none of the organs can exercise unlimited power.

- (ii) In India, power is shared among the Union Government and State Government. Our constitution lays down the powers of different levels of government. Under the State Government power is divided into municipality and panchayat.
- (iii) In India, there are reserved constituencies for both women and socially weaker sections, both in parliament and in assemblies.
- (iv) In India, different political parties, pressure groups and movements control and influence the government.

5. **Compare the situation of Belgium and Sri Lanka considering their location, size and cultural aspects.**

Location: Belgium is a small country in Europe that has borders with France, the Netherlands, Germany, and Luxembourg. On the other hand, Sri Lanka is an island nation, which is located a few kilometers off the Southern coast of Tamil Nadu.

Size: Belgium covers an area of 30,688 km². On the other hand, Sri Lanka has a total area of 65,610 km².

Culture: In Belgium, the minority (40%) French-speaking community was relatively rich and powerful, but the minority Dutch-speaking (59%) community got the benefit of economic development and education.

On the other hand, in Sri Lanka, 74% are Sinhala speakers and 18% are Tamil speakers. Buddhism is the main language here. There are also Hindus, Muslims, and Christians.

Long questions

6. **What was the reason of the Civil War in Sri Lanka? What was its impact on the country?**

The reasons of the Civil War in Sri Lanka were

- (i) The democratically elected government in Sri Lanka adopted a series of majoritarian measures to establish Sinhala supremacy in Sri Lanka.
- (ii) The government followed preferential policies that favored Sinhalese in respect of jobs, religion, and many more.
- (iii) All the measures taken by the government gradually increased the feeling of alienation among the Sri Lankan Tamils. They felt themselves deprived.

The impact of these measures on the country was

- (i) People got divided based on ethnic and linguistic communities along with a widespread conflict of violent nature.
- (ii) Thousands of Sri Lankan Tamils were killed or were forced to leave their country.
- (iii) The civil war gave a terrible setback to the social, cultural, and economic life of Sri Lanka, which influenced even the Sinhala community.
- (iv) People of both communities suffered heavy losses.

7. **Compare how Belgium and the Sri Lankans have dealt with cultural diversity.**

Belgium dealt with cultural diversity through measures

- (i) The number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be equal in the Central Government.
- (ii) Many powers of the Central Government are given to State Governments.
- (iii) The capital, Brussels has a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation.
- (iv) Community Government is elected by people belonging to one language community which deals with cultural, educational, and language-related issues.

Sri Lanka dealt with Cultural diversity by following measures

- (i) A preferential policy was adopted that favoured Sinhala's applications for university positions and government jobs.
- (ii) The state followed a policy of majoritarianism by protecting and fostering Buddhism.

EXPHUB 9 & 10