


UDAAN 2025

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Power Sharing (Important Questions)

1. There are two statements given below, marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): Power sharing can help to prevent conflict in society.
Reasoning (R): Power sharing ensures that different social groups are included in decision-making processes, reducing marginalisation and fostering inclusivity.
 (a) A is true but R is false.
 (b) A is false but R is true.
 (c) Both A and R are true and R explains A.
 (d) Both A and R are true but R does not explain A.
2. In an Indian state, communities X and Y have been engaged in a long-standing conflict over issues of co-existence and resource sharing. The tensions have intensified, leading to a demand from both communities for self-administration. What is the BEST resolution to this conflict?
 (a) Collapsing the present government due to its inefficiency in governing the state
 (b) Delaying the demands of self-administration and maintaining the current power structure
 (c) Imposing strict regulations to control the movements and interactions of both communities
 (d) Establishing a power-sharing arrangement where both communities have a role in decision-making
3. The principle of subsidiarity emphasises that decisions should be made by the people who are most affected by them, promoting decentralisation, efficiency, and citizen participation in governance, with higher levels of authority intervening only when lower-level authorities are unable to address certain issues effectively
 Which of the following constitutional principles legislations is in close alignment with the principle stated above?
 (a) Separation of power between the executive, legislature and judiciary
 (b) Division of power between the central, state and local government
 (c) Right of individuals to form and join political parties of their choice
 (d) Reservation for women in the highest law-making bodies
4. Learning from Belgium's experience, which of the following steps could have MOST LIKELY avoided a civil war in Sri Lanka that ended in 2009?
 (a) Making reservations in jobs for the Tamil speaking minority community
 (b) Dividing the entire country on the basis of linguistic lines to appease the citizens
 (c) Devising laws to accommodate the ethnic differences of citizens to ensure peace
 (d) Conducting a thorough census to strictly segregate the Indian Tamils from the Sri Lankan Tamils
5. Read the passage, observe the image given below and answer the questions that follow



© Tib - The Calgary Sun, Cagle Cartoons Inc.

The cartoon above refers to the problems of running Germany's grand coalition government that includes the country's two major parties, namely the Christian Democratic Union and the Social Democratic Party. The two parties are rivals to each other. They had to form a coalition government because neither of them got a clear majority of seats on their own in the 2005 elections. They take divergent positions on several policy matters but jointly run the government.

 - i. Which disadvantage of coalition governments is the image highlighting?
 - ii. Why did the rival parties choose to make a coalition despite being rivals?
 - iii. How does a democratic system, at times, cause such a challenge?

6. P. Power-sharing can be vertical as well as horizontal.
Q. All religious communities have reserved seats in the central government in India.

Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?

- (a) Only P
(b) Only Q
(c) Both P and Q are true.
(d) Neither P nor Q is true.
7. Which of the following is NOT an element of the Belgian model of power-sharing?
- (a) Some laws can only be passed with a majority from each linguistic group.
(b) The central government has an equal number of Dutch and French ministers
(c) State governments of the two linguistic regions enjoy some powers of the central government.
(d) Territories based on language were abolished and people were encouraged to live amongst each other.
8. Which of the following is correct with respect to the ethnic composition of Belgium?
- (a) 59% of people live in the Flemish region and speak the Dutch language.
(b) 30% of people living in the Wallonia region speak French.
(c) 10% of Belgians speak German.
(d) 1% of Belgians speak Russian
9. Annette studies in a Dutch medium school in the northern region of Belgium. Many French-speaking students in her school want the medium of instruction to be French. Selvi studies in a school in the northern region of Sri Lanka. All the students in her school are Tamil-speaking and they want the medium of instruction to be Tamil. If the parents of Annette and Selvi were to approach respective governments to realise the desire of the child who is more likely to succeed? And why?
- (a) Both the parents will succeed as both Belgium and Sri Lanka share power with communities
(b) Selvi's parents are likely to succeed as Tamils are in majority in Sri Lanka
(c) None of the parents have a chance to succeed as both countries are dictatorships
(d) Annette's parents are more likely to succeed as Belgium accommodates ethnic differences and shares power

10. The government of Ontario state in Canada has agreed to a land claim settlement with the aboriginal community. The Minister responsible for Native Affairs announced that the government will work with aboriginal people in a spirit of mutual respect and cooperation. Power sharing in this case is done with _____.

- (a) Organs of the government
(b) Local Government
(c) Social groups and communities
(d) Aboriginal government

NCERT CORNER

11. What are the different forms of power sharing in modern democracies? Give an example of each of these.
(CBSE All India 2019)
12. State one prudential reason and one moral reason for power-sharing with an example from the Indian context.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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."

16. 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 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

17. 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

18. 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

19. 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 or 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

PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS

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

(2019 Delhi)

21. How has the idea of power sharing emerged? Explain different forms that have common arrangements of power sharing.

(2019 Delhi Set)

22. Describe the elements of Belgian model for accommodating diversities.

(All India 2020, 2023)

23. Describe the horizontal power sharing arrangement.

(All India 2020)

24. Which of the following ethnic communities is in majority in Sri Lanka?

(CBSE 2021)

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

25. Two statements are given below as Assertion (A) and Reasoning (R). Read the statement and choose the most appropriate option. (CBSE 2021)

Assertion (A): Majority community is dominant in a few democratic state.

Reason (R): Dominance can undermine the unity of the country.

- (a) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
 (b) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
 (c) Assertion (A) is true but Reason (R) is false.
 (d) Assertion (A) is false but Reason (R) is true.

26. Two statements are given below as Assertion (A) and Reasoning (R). Read the statement and choose the most appropriate option. (CBSE 2021)

Assertion (A): The distrust between Sinhalese and Tamil communities turned into widespread conflict in Sri Lanka.

Reason (R): 1956 Act recognized Sinhala as the only official language and gave rights only to Sinhalese.

- (a) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- (b) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- (c) Assertion (A) is true but Reason (R) is false.
- (d) Assertion (A) is false but Reason (R) is true.

27. Consider the following statements on Power sharing and choose the correct option.

- I. Imposing the will of majority community over others.
- II. It helps in reducing the possibility of conflict between the social groups.
- III. Power sharing is a good way to ensure the stability of political order.
- IV. It brings socio-political opposition among parties.

Options:

- (a) I and III
- (b) II and III
- (c) I and IV
- (d) I and II

28. Consider the following statements on Power Sharing and choose the correct option:

- I. It deepens democracy.
- II. It helps to reduce conflicts among social groups.
- III. It is a way to ensure political stability.
- IV. It brings socio-economic struggles.

Options:

- (a) I, II and III
- (b) II, III and IV
- (c) I, III and IV
- (d) I, II and IV

29. Why is the power shared amongst different organs of government called as horizontal distribution of power? Identify the correct reason. (CBSE 2021)

- (a) It gives the judiciary more power than the legislature and executive.
- (b) It allows different organs of government to be placed at the same level.
- (c) It gives representation to different ideologies at political level.
- (d) It influences and coordinates in the decision-making process.

30. Two statements are given in the question below as Assertion (A) and Reasoning (R). Read the statements and choose the appropriate option. (CBSE 2022)

Assertion (A): Sri Lanka adopted Sinhala as the only official language of the state.

Reason (R): The government of Sri Lanka wanted to foster their culture, language and religion.

Options:

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is true but R is false.
- (d) A is false but R is true

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

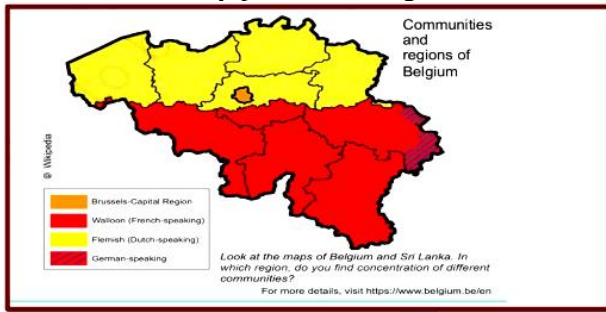
31. Which of the following statements accurately distinguishes between Majoritarianism and Power sharing?

- (a) Majoritarianism emphasizes the dominance of the majority community, while Power sharing emphasizes the sharing of power among different groups.
- (b) Majoritarianism emphasizes the need for consensus building, while Power sharing emphasizes the exclusion of minority groups.
- (c) Majoritarianism emphasizes the importance of accommodating minority interests, while Power sharing emphasizes the need for majority rule.
- (d) Majoritarianism emphasizes the need for peaceful resolution of conflicts, while Power sharing emphasizes the use of force to impose the majority's will.

32. You are a citizen of a country that has a democratic form of government. You want to ensure that the system of power-sharing in your country is effective and that no one branch of government has absolute power. Which of the following measures would best meet this goal?

- (a) All power is concentrated in the hands of the legislature only.
- (b) Power is divided between the central government and the states or provinces, with each level having its own sphere of influence.
- (c) Power is separated among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, with each branch having its own responsibilities and powers.
- (d) Power is shared among different levels of government, such as the national, regional, and local governments, with each level having some degree of autonomy.

33. Study the map thoroughly and mention the languages that are dominantly present in Belgium.



34. 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

35. 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 minorities.
 - 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 and C

Hints and Solutions

1. Explanation:

- (c) Both A and R are true and R explains A.

2. Explanation:

- (d) Establishing a power-sharing arrangement where both communities have a role in decision-making

3. Explanation:

- (b) Division of power between the central, state and local government

4. Explanation:

- (c) Devising laws to accommodate the ethnic differences of citizens to ensure peace

5. Explanation:

- A coalition government may not agree on policy decisions which can affect a country's progress.
- The government at the centre enforces policy decisions that affect the entire country including the people who support each party, thus the rivals preferred to make a coalition.
- Democracy enables people to vote for their chosen representatives. In the absence of a clear majority, political parties may form a coalition.

6. Explanation:

- (a) Only P

7. Explanation:

- (d) Territories based on language were abolished and people were encouraged to live amongst each other.

8. Explanation:

- (a) 59% of people live in the Flemish region and speak the Dutch language.

9. Explanation:

- (d) Annette's parents are more likely to succeed as Belgium accommodates ethnic differences and shares power

10. Explanation:

- (d) Aboriginal government

11. Explanation:

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

- Horizontal distribution of power – Power is shared among different organs of government, such as the legislature, executive and judiciary. Example: India
- Vertical or 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)
- Community government – Power may also be shared among different social groups, such as religious and linguistic groups. Example: Belgium
- 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.

12. Explanation:

- 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 given fundamental rights and directive principles of state policies are implied in the government.

13. Explanation:

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

14. Explanation:

- 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.

15. Explanation:

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

16. Explanation:

- (a) A B D F

17. Explanation:

- (d) B, C and D

18. Explanation:

- | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | D | A | B | C |
| (b) | B | C | D | A |
| (c) | B | D | A | C |
| (d) | C | D | A | B |

19. Explanation:

- (b) Both A and B are true

20. Explanation:

- In Sri Lanka and Belgium, there were ethnic conflicts for power on basis of the language. The group being numerically larger were in conflict with the groups lesser in number.
- Both Belgium and Sri Lanka were bothered by the issue of power sharing. However, Belgium worked out an accommodation principle as compared to Sri Lanka which switched to majoritarianism.
- Power sharing took place in different ways in Belgium and Sri Lanka. Belgium opted for a conciliatory mode of power sharing through respect and representation for different communities and regions.
- On the other hand, Sri Lanka adopted a confrontational approach where the majority community exerted its dominance over others and refused to share power.
- The first approach led to stronger unity while the later approach undermined the unity of the country and caused civil war

21. Explanation:

- It is true that the idea of power sharing emerged in opposition to the notions of undivided political power.
- Traditionally, it was believed that power should be concentrated in one hands because if power is divided then it would be difficult to take rapid decisions and apply them
- But the development of the concept of democracy has changed this notion of power concentration in one hands. This is so because democracy believes in distribution of power among people as people are the source of authority.
- Power can be divided among the various organs of the government, levels of the government, social groups and communities , political parties etc.
- Moreover, concentration of power in one hands leads to revolution and war in the long run and breaks the unity of the nation.

22. Explanation:

- The Belgian leaders recognized the existence of regional differences and cultural diversities in Belgium and thus worked out an arrangement which could enable all citizens to live with harmony. The elements of the Belgium Model are.
- The Constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be equal in the central government. Thus, no single community can make decisions unilaterally.
- 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, the third kind of government called the community government is elected by people belonging to one language community – Dutch, French and German, which has the power regarding cultural, educational and language-related issues.

23. Explanation:

- i. Horizontal power-sharing refers to the distribution of between different organs of government, such as the legislature, executive and judiciary, which are placed at the same level to exercise different powers.
- ii. Horizontal separation of power ensures that none of the organs can exercise unlimited power and each organ checks the others.
- iii. It results in a balance of power among various institutions. In a democracy, even though ministers and government officials exercise power, they are responsible to the Parliament or State Assemblies.
- iv. Although judges are appointed by the executive, they can check the functioning of executive or laws made by the legislatures.
- v. This arrangement is also called a system of checks and balances.

24. Explanation:

- (d) Sinhalese

25. Explanation:

- (b) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).

26. Explanation:

- (a) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).

27. Explanation:

- (b) II and III

28. Explanation:

- (a) I, II and III

29. Explanation:

- (b) It allows different organs of government to be placed at the same level.

30. Explanation:

- (c) A is true but R is false.

31. Explanation:

- (a) Majoritarianism emphasizes the dominance of the majority community, while Power sharing emphasizes the sharing of power among different groups.

32. Explanation:

- (c) Power is separated among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, with each branch having its own responsibilities and powers.

33. Explanation:

- The languages that are dominantly present in Belgium are Dutch and French

34. Explanation:

- (a) A, B, C

35. Explanation:

- (d) A, B and C



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