

CBSE Test Paper - 03
Chapter - 16 Power Sharing

1. The principal of majoritarianism led to a civil war in: **(1)**
 - a. Britain
 - b. Belgium
 - c. Sri Lanka
 - d. Tamil Nadu
2. 'Community government' in Belgium is a good example of which arrangement? **(1)**
 - a. Power shared among social groups
 - b. Power shared among different levels of government
 - c. Power shared among different parties
 - d. Power shared among different organs of government
3. 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 refers to: **(1)**
 - a. Minoritarianism
 - b. Majoritarianism
 - c. Communalism
 - d. domination
4. Following are the features of Belgium model. Identify the incorrect one. **(1)**
 - a. The number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be equal in the central government.
 - b. Many powers of the central government have been given to state governments of the two regions.
 - c. There will be third kind of government called 'community government'.
 - d. no power sharing among centre-state will done.
5. When compared to the size of Indian state, Belgium is smaller than which of the

following? **(1)**

- a. Goa
- b. Sikkim
- c. Rajasthan
- d. Haryana

6. Which factor is responsible for increasing the feeling of alienation among the Sri Lankan, Tamils? **(1)**
7. What is the significance of the word 'Ethnic'? **(1)**
8. Name any two countries with which Belgium has borders. **(1)**
9. Which two languages are generally spoken in Belgium? **(1)**
10. What do you mean by power sharing? **(3)**
11. Describe any three majoritarian measures adopted by the Sri Lankan Government to establish Sinhala supremacy. **(3)**
12. What do you mean by good democratic front? Explain. **(3)**
13. "Both Belgium and Sri Lanka are democracies, but they follow different systems of power sharing". Support the statement by giving three points of difference. **(3)**
14. Describe any three demands of the Sri Lankan Tamils? How did they struggle for their demands? **(5)**
15. Explain the power sharing arrangement among the different social groups. **(5)**

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Answers

1. c. Sri Lanka

Explanation: Sri Lanka emerged as an independent country in 1948. The leaders of the Sinhala community sought to secure dominance over government by virtue of their majority. As a result, the democratically elected government adopted a series of MAJORITARIAN measures to establish Sinhala supremacy. The distrust between the two communities turned into widespread conflict. It soon turned into a CIVIL WAR.

2. a. Power shared among social groups

Explanation: 'Community government' in Belgium is a good example of 'Power shared among social groups'.

3. b. Majoritarianism

Explanation: Majoritarianism: 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. The policy of Majoritarianism was followed in Srilanka.

4. d. no power-sharing among centre-state will done.

Explanation: Here are some of the elements of the Belgian model:
The number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be equal in the central government. Many powers of the central government have been given to state governments of the two regions. There will be third kind of government called 'community government'.

5. d. Haryana

Explanation: Belgium is a small country in Europe, smaller in area than the state of Haryana.

6. Majoritarianism is a major factor responsible for increasing the feeling of alienation among the Srilankan Tamils.

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7. The word ethnic means social divisions based on shared cultural tradition.
 8. France and Luxembourg are the adjoining countries of Belgium.
 9. French and Dutch
 10.
 - Power sharing means sharing of responsibility and powers among different organs and levels of government.
 - The concept of providing a permanent share of power in the government to different communities or regions is termed as power-sharing.
 - Under this the people and the leaders of the nation respect the feelings and interests of different communities and regions.
 - It is a strategy for resolving disputes over-exercising of power.
 - It is a powerful approach to unite the diversities by making them party to the decision making process.
 - The principle of power-sharing is very important for the unity and growth of democracy.
 11. Sri Lankan Tamils felt alienated because:
 - i. In 1956, an Act was passed to recognize Sinhala as the only official language.
 - ii. The governments followed preferential policies that favoured Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs.
 - iii. A new Constitution stipulated that the state shall protect and foster Buddhism.
 - iv. Sri Lankan Tamils felt that none of the major Political parties led by the Buddhist Sinhala leaders was sensitive to their language and culture.
 12. In good democratic front
 - i. People rule through the representatives elected by themselves.
 - ii. Due respect is given to different groups and views that exist in the country.
 - iii. Every one has right to vote and value of each vote is equal.
 - iv. Everyone has a voice in the shaping of public policies and as many people as possible should share power.
 13. The difference in power-sharing of Belgium and Sri Lanka:
 - i. In Belgium, the government does not follow preferential policies in matters of jobs

and education.

- ii. In Belgium, there is a special government called 'Community Government' to look after the cultural, educational and language related issues. In Sri Lanka, the major political parties are not sensitive to the language and culture of the Tamils.
- iii. In Belgium, there is no discrimination between different religions. In Sri Lanka, Buddhism is the official religion.
- iv. In 1956 Sri Lankan government passed an act to recognize Sinhala as the only official language whereas Belgium government tried to protect and foster all the languages spoken by the people.

14. Following were the three demands of Sri Lankan Tamils:

- i. **Recognition of Tamil language:** Tamil language to be recognized as an official language and Tamil should be given equal status with that of the Sinhala language and should be added as an official language.
- ii. **Regional autonomy:** Their religion should be equally respected with that of Buddhism and they should be given equal political rights.
- iii. **Equality of opportunity in securing education and jobs:** There should be no discrimination between the Sri Lankan Tamils and Sinhala residents of Sri Lanka in government jobs and university posts.

In order to protest for their demand, they started a political struggle in the way of conflict with the government.

- i. By 1980s several political organisations were formed demanding an independent Tamil Eelam (State) in northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka.
 - ii. The distrust between the two communities turned into a wider conflict which soon turned into a civil war.
 - iii. As a result, thousands of people of both communities were killed, causing a terrible setback to the social, cultural and economic life of the country.
15. i. In a democracy, especially in a multi-ethnic society, power is also shared among social groups such as the religious and linguistic groups.
- ii. Community government in Belgium is a good example of this arrangement.
 - iii. In some countries, there are constitutional and legal arrangements whereby socially weaker sections and women are represented in the legislatures and

administration.

- iv. In India to provide share in power to backward and other classes, a system of reserved constituencies in assemblies and the parliament is followed.
- v. This type arrangement is meant to give a proper share in the government and administration to diverse social groups who otherwise would feel alienated from the Government.
- vi. Minorities are well accommodated through the reserved constituencies in assemblies and the parliament of our country.
- vii. Women are also ensured political participation through the reservation of seats.
- viii. Power sharing among social groups is an example of prudential set of reason.