

**CBSE Test Paper - 05**  
**Chapter - 16 Power Sharing**

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1. Between 1970 and 1993, Belgium leaders amended their constitution \_\_\_\_\_ times. **(1)**
  - a. five
  - b. two
  - c. three
  - d. four
  
2. Among Tamils there are \_\_\_\_\_ subgroups in Sri Lanka. **(1)**
  - a. Three
  - b. two
  - c. Five
  - d. Four
  
3. Which local government works at district level? **(1)**
  - a. Village panchayat
  - b. Zila Parishad
  - c. None of the mention above
  - d. Panchayat samiti
  
4. Identify the reason that can be given in favour of power sharing. **(1)**
  - a. it imposes domination of governments
  - b. it helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups
  - c. it destabilizes the political structure
  - d. it encourages civil wars
  
5. By what name local government at urban area called? **(1)**
  - A) Municipality
  - B) Municipal corporation
  - C) Panchayat samiti

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- a. Both B and C are true
  - b. Only A is true
  - c. Both A and B are true
  - d. Only B is true
6. Which language is spoken by the majority of the population in Brussels, the capital city of Belgium? **(1)**
  7. How the division of power between higher and lower level of government is known as? **(1)**
  8. 'Sri Lankan Tamil' refers to which social group? **(1)**
  9. What does the Coalition Government imply? **(1)**
  10. The mayor of Marchtem, a town near Brussels in Belgium, has defended a ban on speaking French in the town's school. He said the ban would help all non-Dutch speakers integrate in this Flemish Town. Do you think that this measure is in keeping with the spirit of Belgium's power sharing arrangements? Give reasons in about 50 words. **(3)**
  11. Explain the consequences of the majoritarian policies adopted by the Sri Lankan government. **(3)**
  12. Power sharing is the very spirit of democracy. Justify this statement with suitable points. **(3)**
  13. Describe the power sharing arrangement made by Belgium? **(3)**
  14. What are the outcomes and the lessons we learnt from the style of governance in Sri Lanka and Belgium? **(5)**
  15. How majoritarianism has increased the feeling of alienation among the Sri Lankan Tamils? Explain. **(5)**

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**Answers**

1. d. four

**Explanation:** 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.

2. b. two

**Explanation:** Among Tamils there are two subgroups. Tamil natives of the country Among Tamils there are two subgroups. Tamil natives of the country are called 'Sri Lankan Tamils' (13 per cent). The rest, whose forefathers came from India as plantation workers during colonial period, are called 'Indian Tamils'.

3. b. Zila Parishad

**Explanation:** Zila Parishad is a local government body at the district level in India.

It looks after the administration of the rural area of the district and its office is located at the district headquarters.

4. b. it helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups

**Explanation:** Two different sets of reasons can be given in favour of power sharing. Firstly, power sharing is good because it helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups. Since social conflict often leads to violence and political instability, power sharing is a good way to ensure the stability of political order.

5. c. Both A and B are true

**Explanation:** Urban Local government implies the governance of an urban area by the people through their elected representatives. It is called as Municipality or Municipal Corporation.

6. The majority of the population in Brussels (80%) in the capital city of Belgium speaks

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the French language.

7. The division of power is divided between upper and lower level of government is known as Vertical division of power. Under this, the lower organs work under the higher organs.
8. Tamil natives of the country is called ' Sri Lankan Tamil'.
9. A coalition government is a cabinet of parliamentary government in which several parties cooperate. It generally happens when no party gets a majority in the Parliament and several parties join together to prove their majority.
10. No, the measure taken by The Mayor of Merchtem is not in keeping with the spirit of Belgium's power sharing arrangements. As 59% of the population in the Flemish region speaks Dutch, the ban on speaking French in the town's schools would prevent French and Dutch speakers to mingle with each other and also create feelings of distrust and suspicion. The ban ignores the regional differences and cultural diversities. It is against the spirit of accommodating every linguistic group and creating a right environment for everyone to live. The ban, rather, makes the ground for civic strife and a possible division of the community on linguistic lines.
11. Consequences of majoritarian policies adopted by Sri Lankan Government were:
  - i. Tamils felt the government was not sensitive about Tamil language and culture because Sinhala was declared the official language.
  - ii. Tamils felt discriminated against securing jobs and education which were given preferentially to the Sinhala speakers.
  - iii. Tamils felt the government was practising religious discrimination because the State fostered Buddhism. Relations between Tamils and Sinhalese thus became strained.
  - iv. By 1980s several political organisations were formed demanding an independent Tamil State in northern and Eastern part of Sri Lanka.
  - v. Majoritarianism measures adopted to establish Sinhala dominance over the Sri Lankan Tamils led to widespread conflicts ending in civil war.
12. Power sharing is true spirit of democracy because:

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- i. It helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.
  - ii. It is a good way to ensure the stability of the political order.
  - iii. A democratic rule involves sharing power with those affected by its exercise, and who have to live with its effects.
  - iv. Here, people have a right to be consulted on how they are to be governed. Thus, a legitimate government is one where citizens, through participation, acquire a stake in the system.
  - v. These are the moral reasons which emphasise that the very act of power sharing is valuable.

13. The main elements of the Belgium model of power-sharing include:

- i. 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. Thus, no single community can make decisions unilaterally.
- ii. Many powers of the Central Government have been given to State Governments of the two regions of the country.
- iii. The Belgium model introduced a new concept of the third kind of government, i.e. the communist government. This government is elected by the people belonging to one language community.

14. i. We realize that the two countries, Sri Lanka and Belgium, are similar in respect of linguistic and ethnic diversity, yet both of them followed opposite policies to resolve the differences.
- ii. The Majoritarianism measures as followed in Sri Lanka created feeling of alienation among the Tamils leading to tensions in the region. It led to civil war waged by the Tamils who fight to create an independent state named Tamil Elam in the North and east of the Island. It is estimated that the war has claimed the lives of more than 68000 people since 1983 and it has caused significant harms to the population and the economy of the country.
  - iii. The accommodation policies followed in Belgium have worked well so far. They are complicated but nevertheless, have been able to prevent any outbreak of civil war. The policies helped the leaders of the country in creating an enabling environment for everyone to live together with unity without disturbing the social

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fabric of the country. The policies of the government gave equal representation to the different sections of the society.

- iv. Therefore it is clear that to be able to hold the country together, it is indispensable to recognize and regard the culture and other identifying differences of various groups and create mutually acceptable policies for sharing power.

In Sri Lanka, the majority Sinhala speakers wanted to dominate the minority Tamil speakers. They recognized Sinhala as the only official language in the nation. Many policies favoured Sinhala speakers for getting government jobs and many advantages over tamil speakers. All these government measures increased the alienated feeling among the Sri Lankan Tamils. As the government denied them equal rights, the relations between Tamils and Sinhala worsened. The demands of Tamils for equal rights and opportunities were repeatedly denied by the government. Many political leaders then started to demand for a independent area. Tamil Elam, for the Tamils. The tension between the two communities soon turned into a civil war and many people from both communities lost their lives. Here, Sri Lanka refuses to share power, and it eventually led to a disaster to the country. They wanted the majority community to dominate over the minority community.

The Belgian leaders took another path. They recognized every community and gave them equal rights.

In Belgium the Dutch speaking community constituted a majority in the country and a minority in the capital. The minority French speaking community was very rich and held powers in the government. Later, when the Dutch became educated, they felt a need to hold equal power in the government. This created tension between the two communities. Belgian government adopted a clever policy to accommodate both the communities in the country without any problems. The number of Dutch speaking people and French speaking people were equal in the central government, so that no group can take the decision unilaterally. They followed a federal system of government, ie, the state was not the sub ordinate of the central government. Brussels had a separate government. The French speaking community accepted equal representation because the dutch accepted it in the central government. The type of power sharing has led to a more stable and harmonious type of government in Belgium, unlike in Sri Lanka .

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15. Sri Lanka became independent in 1948. It immediately adopted measures to impose Sinhala supremacy.
- i. The Tamils felt alienated. No respect or recognition was given to their language, culture and religion.
  - ii. They began a struggle for equality in jobs, entry to the university, recognition of their language and culture.
  - iii. Slowly the conflict changed into a demand for regional autonomy.
  - iv. The Tamilians were grouped together in the North and East of Sri Lanka.
  - v. Their demands were ignored, the conflict became more severe and by the 1980s, the Tamilian demands had changed.
  - vi. They wanted Tamil Eelam in the North and East. A civil war ensued, which killed thousands on both sides.
  - vii. The flourishing economy of Sri Lanka has disappeared and the conflict has given a blow to social, cultural and economic life of Sri Lanka.
  - viii. A new constitution stipulated that the state shall protect and foster Buddhism.
  - ix. All these government measures, coming one after the other, gradually increased the feeling of alienation among the Sri Lankan Tamils.
  - x. In 1956 an act was passed to recognise Sinhala as the only official language, thus disregarding Tamil.