

CBSE Test Paper - 02
Chapter - 16 Power Sharing

1. Who is the chairperson of Municipal Corporation? **(1)**
 - a. Sarpanch
 - b. Block development officer
 - c. Member of Lok Sabha
 - d. Mayor

2. In India, the government at the provincial or regional level are called **(1)**
 - a. union government
 - b. central government
 - c. Democratic government
 - d. state government

3. In which part of Sri Lanka are the Sri Lankan Tamils concentrated? **(1)**
 - a. North and East
 - b. South and East
 - c. South and West
 - d. North and West

4. Which is the official religion of Sri Lanka? **(1)**
 - a. Hinduism
 - b. Buddhism
 - c. Jainism
 - d. Christianity

5. In the year _____, an Act was passed to recognise Sinhala as the only official language, thus disregarding Tamil. **(1)**
 - a. 1999
 - b. 1956

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- c. 1846
 - d. 1948

6. Name the historical language of Southern Belgium. **(1)**
7. How many times was the Belgium Constitution amended between 1970 and 1993? **(1)**
8. What is the state religion of Sri Lanka? **(1)**
9. Which system of power-sharing is called, 'Checks and Balances'? **(1)**
10. Does a country get more power by actually dispersing the power? **(3)**
11. Describe any three demands of Sri Lankan Tamils. **(3)**
12. How can power be shared among governments at different levels? Explain. **(3)**
13. What was the series of majoritarian measures adopted by the Sri Lankan Government? **(3)**
14. What does the sharing of power among political parties, pressure groups and movements ensure? **(5)**
15. What are the different forms of power sharing in modern democracies? Give example of each. **(5)**

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Answers

1. d. Mayor
Explanation: The Mayor is the head of the Municipal Corporation
2. d. state government
Explanation: The governments at the provincial or regional level are called by different names in different countries. In India, we call them State Governments.
3. a. North and East
Explanation: Sri Lankan Tamils are concentrated in the north and east of the country.
4. b. Buddhism
Explanation: The major social groups are the Sinhala-speakers (74 per cent). Most of the Sinhala-speaking people are Buddhists.
5. b. 1956
Explanation: In 1956, an Act was passed to recognise Sinhala as the only official language, thus disregarding Tamil. The governments followed preferential policies that favoured Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs.
6. Walloon is the historical language of Southern Belgium.
7. The Belgium constitution amended four times between 1970 and 1993.
8. Buddhism is the state religion of Sri Lanka.
9. Horizontal form of power sharing is called checks and balances.
10. i. Power Sharing unites a country as every group gets the representation in the government.
ii. It ensures that every group's interests would be taken care of and everybody, irrespective of his community would be provided with equal political rights and opportunities.
iii. It discards discrimination based on caste or creed. It also infuses a spirit of belongingness and trust among the citizens who feel that they have a stake in the system.

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- iv. It therefore reduces political tensions and helps in the smooth functioning and stability of the system.
11.
 - i. Their language that the Tamil should be given equal status with that of Sinhala language.
 - ii. There should be no discrimination between them and the Sinhala residents of Sri Lanka in government jobs and university admissions.
 - iii. Their religion whether Hinduism and Christianity should be given equal respect with that of Buddhism.
 - iv. They should be given equal political rights.
12. Vertical division of power: Vertical division of power means sharing of power among governments at different levels.
- In India, there are three levels of the government:
- i. For the entire country: Central Government Union Government.
 - ii. At the provincial level: State Governments.
 - iii. At the local level (i.e., rural and urban): Local self governments like panchayats and municipal councils.
 - iv. Under this division of powers involving the higher and the lower levels of the government.
 - v. Under this, the lower organs work under the higher organs.
13. In 1948, after independence, the democratically elected Sri Lankan Government adopted a series of majoritarian measures to establish Sinhala supremacy by passing an Act in 1956.
- i. In Sri Lanka, Sinhala was recognized as the only official language. The Tamil language was not given due importance.
 - ii. The governments followed preferential politics that favoured Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs.
 - iii. The new constitution of Sri Lanka declared that Buddhism would be promoted by the state. It shall protect and foster Buddhism.
14.
 - i. The sharing of powers among political parties, pressure groups and movements ensures the influence in decision-making process as democracy implies people's choice among various contenders.
 - ii. Democracy provides citizens with a choice to choose their rulers. This choice is provided by the various political parties, who contest elections to win them. Such

competition ensures that power does not remain in one hand.

- iii. In the long run, power is shared among different political parties that represent different ideologies and social groups. Sometimes, this kind of sharing can be direct, when two or more parties form an alliance to contest elections. If their alliance is elected, they form a coalition government and thus, share power.
 - iv. At the same time, pressure group and movements influence power-sharing through dharna, rallies, protest, strike etc.
 - v. In another way by becoming the member of a committee or a part of the planning commission power can be shared for advocating better policies.
15. i. Power sharing among the different organs of government (Horizontal power sharing). In a democracy, power is shared among the different organs of the government such as the legislature, executive and the judiciary. This is called the horizontal distribution of power because it allows different organs of the government placed at the same level to exercise different powers. Under this kind of power sharing arrangement, one can exercise unlimited powers. Each organ has its own powers, and it can also check the powers of other. So this results in a balance of power among the various institutions.
- ii. Power sharing among governments at different levels : Under this, people choose separate governments at separate levels, for example, a general local government for the entire country and local governments at the provincial, sub-national or regional levels. Such a general government for the entire country is usually called a Federal government.
 - iii. Power sharing among different social groups : In a democracy, especially, in a multi-ethnic society, power is also shared among 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 the administration.
 - iv. Power sharing among political parties, pressure groups and movements : In a democracy, power is also shared among different political parties, pressure groups and movements. Democracy provides the citizens a choice to choose their rulers. This choice is provided by the various political parties, who contest elections to win them. Such competition ensures that power does not remain in one hand