

SUMMARY

Sl. No.

Belgium and Sri Lanka are two typical case studies of countries that had a common problem of ethnic minorities but adopted different measures to deal with the problem. Belgium's population comprised of citizen who spoke Dutch Flemish region (59%) French Wallonia region (40%) and German (1%). In Sri Lanka Sinhala speaking people comprised of 74% while the Tamil speaking minority was just 18%.

The Political leadership in Belgium chose to be accommodative. At the level of the Central Governance, the Dutch and the French speaking people have equal number of ministers. Both communities have equal representatives at Brussels which has a separate government. The Third kind of government – The 'Community Government' is elected by people belonging to one community irrespective of where they live. Matters regarding cultural, educational and language are decided by the Community Government. The arrangement helped in avoiding any strife within the country.

The Sri Lankan government recognised Sinhalese as the only official language. State fostered Buddhism with no such regard for other religions. These measures alienated the Tamils. There is a demand for a separate and independent Tamil state in the North – eastern part of the country. The two ethnic groups are involved in a long drawn civil war. The unity of a country is seriously undermined if the majority is unwilling to share power with minority groups, where different groups have opportunities for participation , they acquire a stake in peace and stability of the nation.

Mks



Questions

1	<div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p>Name the various language groups of Belgium.</p>	3
2	<p>What led to the tension between the Dutch- speaking and the French – speaking communities of Belgium during the 1950s and 1960s?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The minority French-speaking community was relatively rich and powerful. This was resented by the Dutch-speaking community who got the benefit of economic development and education much later. 2. This led to tensions between the Dutch-speaking and French-speaking communities during the 1950s and 1960s. 3. The tension between the two communities was more acute in Brussels. Brussels presented a special problem: the Dutch-speaking people constituted a majority in the country, but a minority in the capital. 	3
3	<p><i>Define the term 'Prudential'.</i></p>	1
4	<p>“For a long time it was believed that all power of a government must reside in one person or groups of pressure located in one place”. Why?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For a long time it was believed that all power of a government must reside in one person or group of persons located at one place. 2. It was felt that if the power to decide is dispersed, it would not be possible to take quick decisions and to enforce them. 	1
5	<p><i>Define the term 'Ethnic'.</i></p>	1
6	<p>Why power sharing is desirable? Justify your answer with suitable examples.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Firstly, power sharing is good because it helps to reduce the possibility of conflict 	3

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.

2. Second, deeper reason why power sharing is good for democracies. Power sharing is the very spirit of democracy. A democratic rule involves sharing power with those affected by its exercise, and who have to live with its effects. People have a right to be consulted on how they are to be governed. A legitimate government is one where citizens, through participation, acquire a stake in the system.



7 Describe the how Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka spoiled the relation between various ethnic groups. OR

“The leaders of the Sinhala community sought to secure dominance over government by virtue of their majority”. Comment OR

What is majoritarianism? How has it increased the feelings of alienation among Sri Lankan Tamils? Explain with examples. (1+3=4) *CBSE Questions (March-2009)* OR

Why do the Sri Lankan Tamils feel alienated in spite of their long stay in Sri Lanka?

CBSE Questions (March-2013)

1. The democratically elected government adopted a series of **MAJORITARIAN** measures to establish Sinhala supremacy.
2. In 1956, an Act was passed to recognize Sinhala as the only official language, thus disregarding Tamil.

5

	<p>3. The governments followed preferential policies that favoured Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs.</p> <p>4. A new constitution stipulated that the state shall protect and foster Buddhism.</p> <p>5. All these government measures, coming one after the other, gradually increased the feeling of alienation among the Sri Lankan Tamils.</p> <p>They felt that none of the major political parties led by the Buddhist Sinhala leaders were sensitive to their language and culture. They felt that the constitution and government policies denied them equal political rights, discriminated against them in getting jobs and other opportunities and ignored their interests.</p>	
8	<p>How is power shared among various communities of Belgium? OR</p> <p>Discuss the Belgium model of Power Sharing. OR How have Belgium and Sri Lanka dealt with the question of power sharing differently? (3) OR What is the difference between the policies adopted by Belgium and Sri Lanka regarding power sharing arrangement? (3) _CBSE Questions (October-2011)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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. Constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be equal in the central government. 3. 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. 4. Brussels has a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation. 5. Apart from the Central and the State Government, there is a third kind of government. <p>This community government' is elected by people belonging to one language community – Dutch, French and German-speaking – no matter where they live. This government has the power regarding cultural, educational and language-related issues.</p>	5
9	<p>In a democracy political power should be shared among as many citizens as possible. Why?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For a long time it was believed that all power of a government must reside in one person or group of persons located at one place. 2. It was felt that if the power to decide is dispersed, it would not be possible to take quick decisions and to enforce them. 3. In a democracy, people rule themselves through institutions of self-governance. In a good democratic government, due respect is given to diverse groups and views that exist in a society. 4. Everyone has a voice in the shaping of public policies .So, in a democracy political power should be distributed among as many citizens as possible. 	3
10	<p>Why is horizontal distribution of power often referred to as a system of 'checks and balances'? Explain three reasons. (3) CBSE Questions (October-2012)</p> <p>OR Differentiate between horizontal and vertical power sharing. Give 3 points each.</p>	3

	CBSE Questions (October-2010) OR Explain the various forms of power sharing with proper illustrations.	
10.1	Power shared among different organs of government (Separations of power) 1. Power is shared among different organs of government, such as the legislature, executive and judiciary. Let us call this horizontal distribution of power because it allows different organs of government placed at the same level 2. In a democracy, even though ministers and government officials exercise power, they are responsible to the Parliament or State Assemblies. Similarly, although judges are appointed by the executive, they can check the functioning of executive or laws made by the legislatures. This arrangement is called a system of checks and balances .	3
10.2	Power shared among governments at different levels. (Federation) 1. Power can be shared among governments at different levels – a general government for the entire country and governments at the provincial or regional level. 2. Such a general government for the entire country is usually called federal government. In India, we refer to it as the Central or Union Government. The governments at the provincial or regional level are called by different names in different countries. In India, we call them State Governments. 3. This system is not followed in all countries. There are many countries where there are no provincial or state governments. 4. But in those countries like India, where there are different levels of governments, the constitution clearly lays down the powers of different levels of government. This is what they did in Belgium, but was refused in Sri Lanka. This is called federal division of power. 5. The same principle can be extended to levels of government lower than the State government, such as the municipality and the panchayat. Let us call division of powers involving higher and lower levels of government or vertical division of power.	5
10.3	Power shared among different social groups (Community Government) Power may also be shared among different social groups, such as the religious and linguistic groups. 1. '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 administration. 2. This type of arrangement is meant to give space in the government and administration to diverse social groups who otherwise would feel alienated from the government. This method is used to give minority communities a fair share in power.	3
10.4	Power shared among political parties, pressure groups and movements. (Coalition Government) 1. Power sharing arrangements can also be seen in the way political parties, pressure groups and movements control or influence those in power. 2. In a democracy, the citizens must have freedom to choose among various contenders for power. 3. 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. 4. In a democracy, we find interest groups such as those of traders, businessmen, industrialists, farmers and industrial workers. 5. They also will have a share in governmental power, either through participation in governmental committees or bringing influence on the decision making process.	5

<p>11</p>	<p><i>Consider the following statements about power sharing arrangements in Belgium and Sri Lanka.</i></p> <p>A. In Belgium, the Dutch-speaking majority people tried to impose their domination on the minority French-speaking community.</p> <p>B. In Sri Lanka, the policies of the government sought to ensure the dominance of The Sinhala-speaking majority.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>D. The transformation of Belgium from unitary government to a federal one prevented a possible division of the country on linguistic lines.</p> <p>Which of the statements given above are correct?</p> <p>(a) A, B, C and D (b) A, B and D (c) C and D (d) B, C and D</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>12</p>	<p><i>Read the following passage and pick out any one of the prudential reasons for power sharing offered in this.</i></p> <p>“We need to give more power to the panchayats to realize 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.”</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>13</p>	<p><u>CBSE Questions (March-2008)</u></p> <p>1. Which are the two social groups in Sri Lanka? (1)</p> <p>2. Define ‘Elam’. (1)</p> <p><u>CBSE Questions (March-2010)</u></p> <p>Name the language which is spoken by the majority of people in Brussels. (1)</p> <p><u>CBSE Questions (October-2010)</u></p> <p>What is the percentage of French speaking in Brussels? (1)</p> <p>(a) 40 (b) 60 (c) 20 (d) 80</p> <p><u>CBSE Questions (October-2011)</u></p> <p>1. Choose the correct alternative (1)Horizontal distribution of power sharing is ---</p> <p>A) Sharing of power among different organs of government</p> <p>B) Sharing of power among different social groups</p> <p>C) Power shared among political parties</p>	<p>1</p>

D) Sharing of power among different pressure groups and movements.

2. In which one of the following countries the principle of Majoritarianism led to Civil war? (1) a) Sri Lanka b) Belgium c) India d) Pakistan.

1. Choose the correct alternative - Power sharing is desirable because it helps

- a) To increase pressure on government.
- b) To reduce possibilities of conflicts.
- c) To generate awareness among people.
- d) To increase percentage of voters.

1. Which major social group constituted the largest share in population of Sri Lanka? (1)

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

CBSE Questions (October-2012)

A special government unique to Belgium alone is. (1)

- a) Community government
- b) Coalition government
- c) Cultural government
- d) Representative government.

CBSE Questions (September-2013)

Power sharing is good because: (1)

- a) it increases the conflict between Social groups.
- b) it ensures the instability of political order
- c) it reduces the possibility of conflict between social groups.
- d) it leads to violence.

CBSE Questions (September-2014)

1. Describe the major demands of Sri Lankan Tamils which can settle the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka for good.(5)

2. Explain how power is shared in modern democracies. (5)

3. Suggest any two measures to integrate the people belonging to different ethnic group in a society.(3)

4. What is meant by the system of 'checks and balances'? (1)

CBSE Questions (September-2015)

- 1. Mention any one characteristics of power sharing.(1)
- 2. Explain the horizontal distribution of power and three merits of this form of power sharing.(5)

15

(Note: Q. No 2, 3, 4, 7 & other CBSE Questions must be written in the note book)