

Power Sharing



Objective Section _____ (1 mark each)

Q. 1. Which one of the following is a major caste group of Sri Lanka :

[CBSE Delhi, Set 1, 2020]

- (a) Christian and Tamil
- (b) Buddhist and Hindu
- (c) Sinhali and Tamil
- (d) Sinhali and Christian

Ans. (c)

Q. 2. Modern democracies maintain check and balance system. Identify the correct

option based on the horizontal power sharing arrangement.

[CBSE Delhi, Set 1, 2020]

- (a) Central government, state government, local bodies.
- (b) Legislature, executive, judiciary.
- (c) Among different social groups.
- (d) Among different pressure groups.

Ans. (b)



Very Short Answer Type Questions _____ (1 mark each)

Q. 1. State any one step taken in Belgium to rule out the problem of regional differences and cultural diversities.

[CBSE Delhi, Set 1, 2020]

Ans. Between 1970 and 1993 Belgium government amended their constitution four times. Constitution prescribes equal number of French and Dutch speaking people in Central Government so single community cannot make decisions.

Q. 2. How did the feeling of alienation develop among the Sri Lankan Tamils?

[CBSE OD, Set 1, 2019]

Ans. The measures of the act of 1956 introduced by Sinhalese Government made the Sri Lankan Tamils feel alienated. They felt that none of the major political parties led by the Buddhist Sinhalese were sensitive towards their language and culture. They also felt that the constitution and policies of the government denied them equal political rights, discriminated against them in terms of jobs and other opportunities by ignoring their interests.

Q. 3. Explain the meaning of 'Majoritarianism' as practised in Sri Lanka.

[CBSE OD, Set 2, 2019]

Ans. The dominance of majority community to rule the country in whichever way it wants totally disregarding the wishes and needs of minority community is known as Majoritarianism. In 1956, an act was passed by the Sinhala government to recognise Sinhala as the official language in Sri Lanka. The Sinhala government gave preferences to the Sinhalese in getting jobs and other such benefits. The Sinhalese completely disregarded the interests of Srilankan Tamils while this act was passed. This is a case of Majoritarianism.

Q. 4. Why is power sharing desirable?

[CBSE OD, Set 3, 2019]

Ans. Power sharing is desirable because: (i) it helps to reduce the possibility of struggles between social groups or communities. (ii) A democratic rule involves power sharing with those affected by its exercise and who have to live with its effects. People have a right to know that how they are to be governed.

Q. 5. What is another popular name of rural local government in India?

[CBSE, Term 1, 2016]

Ans. Another popular name of Rural local government in India is Panchayati Raj system.

Q. 6. What is meant by Majoritarianism?
[CBSE, Term 1, 2016]

Ans. The belief of the majority community is that they should be able to rule a country in whatever way they want by

disregarding the wishes of the minority, this is called Majoritarianism.

Q. 7. What is meant by the system of 'checks and balances'? [CBSE, Term 1, 2015]

Ans. The distribution of power among the legislature, executive and judiciary in the government is called a system of 'checks and balances' which is mainly used to restrict their powers.

Short Answer Type Questions-II _____ (3 marks each)

Q. 1. Evaluate the power sharing system in India.

[CBSE, 2019]

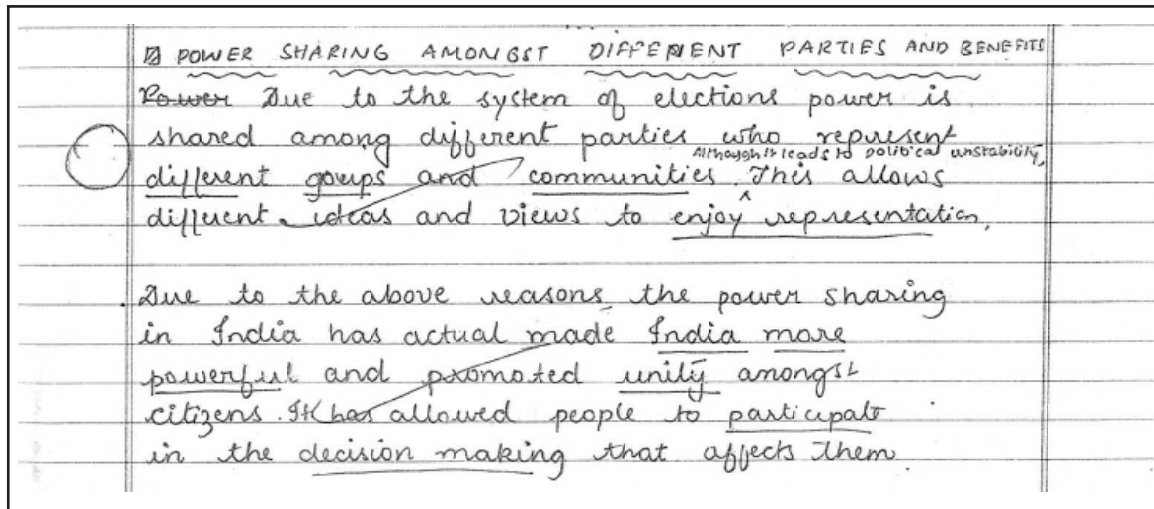
 Topper's Answers

17. Power sharing in India is done in different ways, each with its own benefits.

HORIZONTAL DISTRIBUTION OF POWER AND ITS BENEFITS
Power is shared among different organs of the government, namely the legislature, the judiciary and the executive, placed at the same level. Different organs exercise different powers as well as check the other organs.

VERTICAL DIVISION OF POWER AND ITS BENEFITS
India is a federal country that divides its power amongst the national government and the government at local and state level. This allows the issues and problems to be settled easily and effectively and the state can function as an autonomous body. They are not subordinate of the central government.

POWER SHARING AMONGST DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES AND BENEFITS
Power is shared among different religious, linguistic and regional groups. There are legal provisions made whereby the weaker section of the society and women are represented in the assemblies and legislature.



Q. 2. Explain any three forms of power sharing among different organs of government in India.

[CBSE, Term 1, 2016]

Ans. Forms of power sharing are:

(i) Horizontal form of power sharing e.g., Legislative, Executive and

Judiciary.

(ii) Vertical form of power sharing e.g., Union government and State government.

(iii) Power sharing between political parties and pressure groups and movements e.g. colonial government.

Long Answer Type Questions _____ (5 marks each)

Q. 1. Compare the situation of Belgium and Sri Lanka considering their location, size and cultural aspects.

OR

How is the idea of power sharing emerged? Explain different forms that have common arrangements of power sharing. [CBSE Delhi, Set 1, 2019]

Ans.

Belgium	Sri Lanka
Belgium is a European country which shares its boundaries with Netherlands, Luxembourg and Germany.	Sri Lanka on the other hand, is an island nation, a south asian country, situated south to India.
It is a very small country in Europe, even smaller in area than that of the state of Haryana.	It has about 2 crore people, about same as Haryana. As compared to Belgium, it is much bigger in area.

The ethnic composition of Belgium is very complex. Of the total population 59% are living in Flemish region and speak Dutch language. Another 40% people live in the Wallonia region and speak French and the remaining one percent of the Belgians speak German.

- French speaking community relatively rich and powerful.
- Dutch - speaking people are in majority.

OR

Power sharing has emerged as a strong substitute to the idea of undivided political power, which believed in giving power to one person or a group of people located

in one place. The core principle of power sharing is that people are the source of all political powers. Common forms of power sharing are:

- (i) Vertical division of power:
The sharing of power can be done at different levels of the government. a Central Government for the entire country and governments at provincial or regional level. This type is usually called federal government.
- (ii) Horizontal division of power:
In this form, the power is divided among different organs of the government such as Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary. It places different organs of the government at the same level.
- (iii) Power is also shared among different social groups such as religious and linguistic groups e.g: community government.
- (iv) Various power sharing arrangement can also be seen in the way political parties, pressure groups and movements control or influence those in power.

Q. 2. Highlight the reasons for the increase in the feeling of alienation among the Sri Lankan Tamils after independence.

[CBSE, Term 1, 2015]

Ans. Sri Lanka got freedom in 1948. They followed the democratic rule over the country and adopted a policy of majoritisation. They established Sinhala supremacy and neglected the Srilankan Tamils after independence.

- (i) Sinhala became the official language of Sri Lanka in 1956 after passing an act.
- (ii) The government provides preference to Sinhala community in all kinds of job.
- (iii) Buddhism became the state religion. Sri Lankan Tamils felt that all political parties led by Buddhist Sinhala leaders were sensitive to their religion and language. They denied equal political rights to Tamilians. So, they launched parties and struggled against them for regional autonomy and equality of opportunity. This struggle between two in Sri Lanka turned in to civil war.