

QUESTION BANK

CLASS – 10

CIVICS

CH – 1 POWER SHARING

IMPORTANT TERMS:

1. Power Sharing : When the power does not rest with any one organ of the state rather it is shared among legislature , executive and judiciary.
2. Ethnic :- A social division based on shared culture.
3. Civil war:- A conflict between opposing groups within country.
4. Majoritarianism:- Under this majority community rules the country in its own way by disregarding the wishes and needs of the minority.
5. Community government:- In this different social groups are given power to handle the affairs related to their communities.
6. Prudentia I:- Careful calculation of gains and losses.
7. Federal Government :- A general government where power is shared by different levels of government.

CHAPTER AT A GLANCE:

1. In a democracy the powers are distributed and thus do not rest with any one person or level or organ.
2. Case studies of 2 countries
 - a) Belgium – Policy of Accomodation
 - b) Sri- Lanka – Policy of MajoritarianismConflicts and solutions arouse due to the ethnic diversities in both the countries.
3. Need for power sharing
 - a) Moral reasons
 - b) Prudential reasons
4. Forms of power sharing
 - a) Power is shared among different among different organs.
 - b) Power is shared among different among different levels.
 - c) Power is shared among different social groups.
 - d) Power is shared among political parties, pressure groups and movements.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS:

1. Brussels is the capital of:
 - a) Belgium
 - b) Paris
 - c) Germany
 - d) Wallonia
2. Which religion does the Tamils of Sri-Lanka follow?
 - a) Buddhism
 - b) Christianity
 - c) Hindus or Muslims
 - d)Sikhism
3. Which country followed a series of Majoritarianism?
 - a) Belgium
 - b) Brussels
 - c) Germany
 - d) Sri – Lanka

4. What is the name of the third kind of government in Belgium?
a) Local government b) all the above c) Regional government d) Community government
5. How many times the constitution of Belgium was amended between 1970 and 1993?
a) three times b) two times c) four times d) six times
6. In which part of Sri – Lanka are the Sri Lankan Tamils concentrated?
a) North and south b) North and East c) East and west d) South and East
7. Most of the Sinhala speaking people are
a) Christians b) Hindus c) Buddhists d) Muslims
8. 'Sri Lankan Tamil' refers to which of following?
a) Tamil Muslim b) Tamil native of the country c) Tamil Hindu d) Tamil whose forefathers came from India in the colonial period.
9. Horizontal distribution of power has a system of :
a) Checks and balances b) balance and functions c) Equal functioning d) All the above
10. Non-sharing of power leads to
a) Peace among all the communities b) tyranny of the majority and oppression of the minority
c) The very spirit of democracy d) Both 2 and 3
11. Power can be shared in modern democracies in the following ways:
a) Among different social groups b) all the above b) Among various levels d) Among different organs of the government
12. In Brussels , What percentage of people speak French?
a) 20% b) 40% c) 59% d) 80%
13. In Which year Sri – Lanka emerged as a independent country?
a) 1947 b) 1927 c) 1948 d) 1956
14. This helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.
a) Power sharing b) power division c) power unity d) all the above
15. Which of the following is an example of power sharing among different social groups?
a) Local government b) Community government c) Unitary government d) Federal government.

ANSWERS:

1.A 2. C 3. D 4. D 5. C 6. B 7. C 8. B 9.A 10.D 11. B 12. D 13. C 14. A 15. B

VERY SHORT ANSWERS:

1. When did Belgium gain independence?
Belgium gained independence in April 19, 1839.
2. Write any two valid reasons for power sharing.

- a. It is more democratic. b. All sections of the society are given a share in the governance of their country.

3. Which minority community is relatively rich and powerful in Belgium?

French.

4. What is coalition government?

When two or more parties form an alliance to contest elections is called a coalition government.

5. Give the two different sets of reasons in favour of power sharing.

Prudential and Moral reasons.

6. What is horizontal distribution of power?

The horizontal distribution of power ensures that power is shared among different organs of Government – the legislature, executive and judiciary.

7. What is federal division of powers?

Federal division of power means power to be shared among Governments at different levels as provided in the constitution.

8. What is vertical division of power?

When power is shared among Government at different levels - the union or the Central Government, the State Government and the Municipality and the Panchayat at the lower level.

SHORT AND LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS:

1. What are the different forms of power sharing in modern democracies? Give an example of each of these.

Different forms of power sharing in modern democracies are as follows:

- Power sharing in different organs of government. Eg. Power sharing between legislature and executive.
- Power sharing at different levels of government. Eg. Power sharing between Union government and State government.
- Power sharing among social groups. Eg. Reservation in government jobs for OBCs and SCs and STs. Power sharing among various pressure groups. Eg. Representative of trade union being consulted while making a new labour law.

2. What is common between Indian and Belgian form of power sharing arrangements?

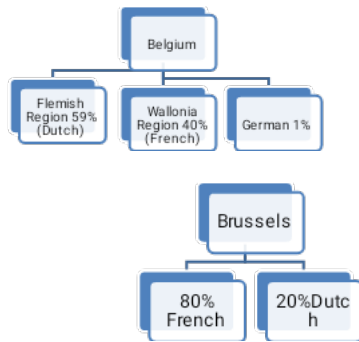
Both India and Belgium have: a) A federal form of government where power is shared among Governments at different levels called Federal form of government as in Belgium or the Central or Union Government as in India. B) Power in both the countries is also shared among different social groups such as religious and linguistic groups. Community government in Belgium and 'Reserved constituencies' in assemblies in India is a good example.

3. What are the basic principles of a good democracy?

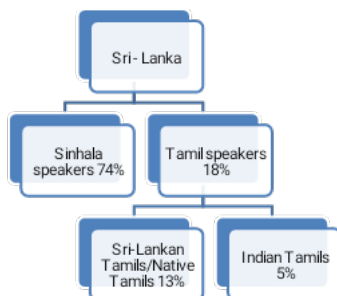
The basic principles of a good democracy are that power of a government must not vest in one person or a group of persons and that people are the source of all political power therefore due respect to given to diverse groups and everyone should have a voice in the shaping of public politics.

4. Describe the ethnic composition of Belgium and Sri- Lanka.

Belgium is a small country in Europe which shares its boundaries with Netherlands, France and Germany. The ethnic composition of this country is very complex.



Sri Lanka : It is an island nation just a few kilometres off the southern coast of Tamil Nadu. Most of the Sinhala speaking people are Buddhists while most of the tamilians are Hindus and Muslims. There are about 7% Christians who speak both Tamil and Sinhala.



5. Why do we find the Belgian model very complicated? How has it helped to prevent conflict and division of country in linguistic lines?

The power sharing arrangements made by the Belgian leaders were different and more innovative than any other country. To recognise the existence of regional differences and cultural diversities they amended their Constitution four times between 1970 and 1993.

The major elements of the Belgian model are :

- i) Constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French speaking ministers shall be equal in the Central government. No single community can make decisions unilaterally.
 - ii) The state governments are not subordinate to the Central Government.
 - iii) Brussels the capital has a separate Government where both the communities have equal representation.
 - iv) A third kind of Government , Community government is elected by people belonging to one community – Dutch, French, and German speaking. This government can decide on cultural, educational and language related issues.
6. Compare the power sharing models of Belgium and Sri – Lanka.

Both Belgium and Sri – Lanka are democracies yet they have differently dealt with the matter of power sharing.

Belgium: a) Leaders realised that for the unity of the country it is important to respect the interest and feelings of different communities. B) The Belgian model of power sharing between the centre, state and community governments have led to unification of the country.

- b) Between 1970 and 1993 the constitution was amended four times to enable all linguistic groups to live together within the same country.

Sri-Lanka: a) In Sri-Lanka, Sinhals the majority community have forced their dominance over Tamils refusing to share power. B) In Sri – Lanka the dominance of the community over the other has led to civil war. c) in 1956 the government passed an Act to recognise Sinhala as the only official language thus disregarding Tamil.

7. What steps did Sri Lankan Tamils take to attain regional autonomy?

The Sri Lankan Tamils launched parties and struggles for the recognition of Tamil as an official language for regional autonomy. By 1980s several political organisations were formed demanding an independent Tamil Eelam (state) in northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka.

8. Explain the prudential and moral reasons of power sharing.

Prudential reasons: Prudential reasons stress that power sharing would bring out better outcomes by helping to reduce the possibility of any conflict between the social groups and power sharing is a good way to ensure the stability of political order through unity of the nation.

Moral reasons: Moral reasons uphold power sharing as the very spirit of democracy. A democratic rule involves sharing power with those affected by its exercise. People have the right to be consulted and have equal participation in the government.

9. State reasons which led to Civil War in Sri Lanka.

In 1956, an Act was passed to make Sinhala as the official language and the government followed preferential policies favouring Sinhala applicants for University positions and Government jobs and the constitution provided for state protection for Buddhism. As such the Sri Lankan Tamils felt that none of the major political parties led by the Buddhist Sinhala leaders were sensitive to their language and culture and denied them equal political rights which led to increased feeling of alienation among them. Therefore the measures adopted by the Government to establish Sinhala supremacy led to distrust between the two communities which turned the widespread conflict into a Civil War.

10. Discuss the various forms of power sharing.

The basic principle of democracy is that people are the source of all political power. Everyone has a voice in the shaping of public policies. Thus in modern democracies power sharing arrangements can take many forms.

- a) Power is shared among different organs of the government. This is also called horizontal distribution of power i. e., legislature, executive and judiciary. The legislature is concerned with passing the laws controlling the finances of the state and deliberating on matters of public importance. The executive machinery implements the policies of the government and executes the laws made by the legislative bodies. The judiciary is concerned with the interpretation of the laws and has the power to punish those who commit crimes or break

the laws. Since they are placed at the same level and such a separation ensures that none of the organs can exercise unlimited power. Thus, each organ can check the other which results in the balance of power amongst various institutions.

- b) Power can be shared among government at different levels. This is also known as vertical power sharing where the general government for the entire country is usually referred to as central, union or federal which is followed by the state government and at the local level we have municipalities and panchayats. This system helps in reducing corruption and increases administrative efficiency. Its aim is to reconcile national unity, interests and power with States' rights and interests.

- c) Power is shared among different social groups such as religious and linguistic groups. Community Government in Belgium is a good example of this arrangement. This type of

arrangement helps in promoting social groups who would otherwise feel alienated from the government.

- d) Power sharing arrangements can also be seen within various political parties, pressure groups and movements. In a democracy the citizens must have freedom to choose among various contenders of power. Such competition ensures that power does not remain in one hand. Sometimes this kind of sharing can be direct when two or more parties together form a coalition government. In India we have many interest groups such as those of traders, farmers etc. who also have a share in government power.

