

## Power-sharing

### Fastrack« Revision

- ▶ In a democracy, all power does not rest with any one organ of the state. An intelligent sharing of power among legislature, executive and judiciary is very important to design a democracy. The case of power-sharing is explained with reference to Belgium and Sri Lanka.
- ▶ Belgium is a small country in Europe with a population of approximately one crore.

#### Knowledge BOOSTER

 Belgium has borders with France, Netherlands, Germany and Luxembourg.

- ▶ The ethnic composition of this small country is very complex. 59% live in the Flemish region and speak Dutch. 40% live in Wallonia region and speak French and remaining 1% speak German. In the capital city of Brussels, 80% people speak French while 20% speak Dutch.
  - ▶ The minority French-speaking community was relatively rich and powerful and this was resented by Dutch-speaking community.
  - ▶ The Belgian leaders recognised the existence of regional differences and cultural diversities. They amended the Constitution four times between 1970 and 1993 to work out an arrangement that would enable everyone to live together within the same country.
  - ▶ These amendments gave many powers of the Central Government to the State Governments of the two regions of the country. The State Governments were not subordinate to the Central Government.
  - ▶ The amendments required the community government to be elected by the people belonging to one language community—Dutch, French and German-speaking. It did not matter where they live. This government had the power regarding the cultural, educational and language-related issues.
  - ▶ These arrangements helped to avoid civic strife between the two major communities and a possible division of the country on linguistic lines.
  - ▶ Sri Lanka is an island nation to the South of India. Its population is about two crore.
- ▶ The major social groups in Sri Lanka comprise of the Sinhala-speakers (74%) and the Tamil-speakers (18%). Approximately 7% are Christians, who are Tamil and Sinhala-speaking people.
  - ▶ The democratically elected government adopted a series of majoritarian measures to establish Sinhala supremacy.
  - ▶ In 1956, Sinhala was declared as the official language of Sri Lanka. The government's preferential policies favoured Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs.
  - ▶ Gradually, the feeling of alienation developed in Sri Lankan Tamils. They felt that the Constitution and the government policies denied them equal political rights, discriminated against them in getting jobs and other opportunities and ignored their interests.
  - ▶ The Sri Lankan Tamils launched parties and struggles for the recognition of Tamil as an official language, for regional autonomy and for equality of opportunity in securing education and jobs.
  - ▶ By 1980s several political organisations were formed demanding an independent Tamil Eelam (state) in Northern and Eastern parts of Sri Lanka.
  - ▶ The distrust between the two communities turned into widespread conflict. The resultant Civil War caused a terrible setback to the social, cultural and economic life of the country. Thousands of people of both the communities were killed.
  - ▶ The above discussion leads to the conclusion that power-sharing is desirable because of the following reasons:
    - Power-sharing is good because it helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.
    - Power-sharing ensures the stability of political order.
    - Power-sharing is the very spirit of democracy.

#### Knowledge BOOSTER

 Brussels has a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation.

- ▶ Power is shared among different organs of government such as the legislature, the executive and the judiciary and this is called horizontal distribution of power.

#### Knowledge BOOSTER

 Sri Lanka emerged as an independent country in 1948.

- ▶ Ministers and government officials are responsible to the Parliament or State Assemblies. Similarly, judges appointed by the executive, can check the functioning of executive or laws made by the legislature. This arrangement is called a system of checks and balances.
- ▶ Power is also shared among government at different levels. The division of powers among higher (central) and lower (state) levels of government is called vertical division of power or federal division of power.
- ▶ Power may be also shared among social groups such as

religious and linguistic groups. In some countries, there are constitutional and legal arrangements whereby socially weaker sections and women get representation in the legislature and administration.

- ▶ In a democratic set up, there are many political parties who compete for power. So, power-sharing can also be seen in the way political parties, pressure groups and movements control or influence those in power. In the long-run, power is shared among different political parties that represent different ideologies and social groups.



## Practice Exercise



### Multiple Choice Questions

**Q 1. How many times was the Constitution of Belgium amended between 1970 and 1993?**

- a. Two times                      b. Three times  
c. Five times                      d. Four times

**Q 2. Which two languages among the following are prominently spoken by Belgium Nationals?**

(CBSE 2020)

- a. French and English          b. Dutch and French  
c. Russian and Dutch          d. Russian and French

**Q 3. What led to tensions between the Dutch-speaking and French-speaking communities?**

- a. Both the communities demanded special powers.  
b. The minority French-speaking community was richer and more powerful than the majority Dutch-speaking community.  
c. The majority Dutch-speaking community was richer and more powerful than the minority French-speaking community.  
d. Both the communities were equal in socio-economic ladder and this was resented by the French-speaking community.

**Q 4. Which country has successfully negotiated differences among ethnic populations?**

- a. Sri Lanka                      b. Belgium  
c. Bangladesh                  d. Pakistan

### Knowledge BOOSTER

The Belgian Government recognised the existence of regional differences and cultural diversities. Between 1970 and 1993, they amended their Constitution four times to settle these ethnic diversities.

**Q 5. What major steps the Belgian Government took to enable everyone to live together within the same country? Choose the most correct option from the following:**

- a. They amended their Constitution four times.  
b. They amended their Constitution three times.  
c. They just asked them to form the communist government.  
d. Both a. and c.

**Q 6. Apart from the Central and the State Government, Belgium has a third kind of government as well. Identify this third kind of government from the following options:** (CBSE SQP 2021 Term-1)

- a. Democratic Government  
b. Socialist Government  
c. Community Government  
d. Liberal Government

**Q 7. Which one of the following elements is not included in the Belgium model?** (CBSE 2021 Term-1)

- a. Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be equal in the government.  
b. Many powers of the Central Government have been given to State Governments.  
c. Brussels has a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation.  
d. There is a community government which has special powers of administration.

**Q 8. Analyse the information and identify the correct option:**

The Belgian leaders took a different path. They recognised the existence of regional differences and cultural diversities. 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.

- a. Ethnic composition of Belgium.  
b. Accommodation in Belgium.  
c. Elected government in Belgium.  
d. Belgium an independent country.

**Q 9. Under which of the following is power shared in the 'community government' of Belgium?**

- a. Different social groups.  
b. Different organs of government.  
c. Central and State Government.  
d. State Government and Community Government.

### Knowledge BOOSTER

The community government is elected by people belonging to one language community. This government has the power regarding cultural, educational and language related issues.

**Q 10. Which one of the following is a major caste group of Sri Lanka?** (CBSE 2020)

- a. Christian and Tamil      b. Buddhist and Hindu  
c. Sinhali and Tamil      d. Sinhali and Christian

### Knowledge BOOSTER

Tamils make up 18% of the ethnicity of Sri Lanka while the Sinhalese community makes up 74% of the total population forming the largest ethnic composition in Sri Lanka.

**Q 11. When did Sri Lanka emerged as an independent country?**

- a. 1947      b. 1948      c. 1949      d. 1950

**Q 12. By 1980s several political organisations were formed in Sri Lanka demanding an independent Tamil Eelam in which of the part of Sri Lanka?**

- a. Northern parts      b. Eastern parts  
c. Western parts      d. Both a. and b.

**Q 13. Arrange the following in correct sequence:**

- (i) An Act was passed to recognise Sinhala as the official language.  
(ii) Sri Lanka emerged as an independent nation.  
(iii) A civil war broke out.  
(iv) Several political parties were formed demanding an independent Tamil state.

- a. (i), (ii), (iv), (iii)      b. (ii), (i), (iv), (iii)  
c. (ii), (i), (iii), (iv)      d. (i), (ii), (iii), (iv)

**Q 14. Which of the following was the main reason for the killing of thousands of people in Sri Lanka?**

- a. Cold War between Sinhala and Tamil-speakers.  
b. Civil War between Sinhala and Tamil-speakers.  
c. Atomic War between Sinhala and Tamil-speakers.  
d. None of the above

**Q 15. Which of the statements about power-sharing arrangements in Belgium and Sri Lanka is correct?**

- a. In Belgium, the Dutch-speaking majority people tried to impose their domination.  
b. In Sri Lanka, the policies of the government sought to ensure the dominance of the Sinhala-speaking majority.  
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.  
d. The transformation of Belgium from a unitary government to a federal one prevented the division of country on linguistic lines.

**Q 16. Choose the correctly matched option:**

Column I	Column II
A. Sinhala-speakers	1. 80 per cent
B. Tamil-speakers	2. 18 per cent
C. French-speakers	3. 20 per cent
D. Dutch-speakers	4. 74 per cent

a. A-1      b. B-2      c. C-3      d. D-4

**Q 17. Arrange the following in correct sequence:**

- (i) An Act was passed to recognise Sinhala as the official language.  
(ii) Sri Lanka emerged as an independent nation.  
(iii) A civil war broken out.  
(iv) Several political parties were formed demanding an independent Tamil state.
- a. (i), (ii), (iv), (iii)      b. (ii), (i), (iv), (iii)  
c. (ii), (i), (iii), (iv)      d. (i), (ii), (iii), (iv)

**Q 18. Which of the following was not one of the initial demands of the Sri Lankan Tamils?**

- a. Recognition of Tamil as an official language.  
b. Regional autonomy.  
c. Equality of opportunity in securing jobs and education.  
d. Creation of an Independent Tamil Eelam (state).

**Q 19. Population of Sri Lankan Tamils is concentrated in ..... region of Sri Lanka.** (CBSE SQP 2020)

- a. North and South      b. North and East  
c. East and West      d. South and East

**Q 20. Which one of the following countries adopted majoritarianism in their Constitution?**

(CBSE SQP 2021 Term-1)

- a. Nepal      b. India  
c. Sri Lanka      d. Bangladesh

**Q 21. Which one of the following ethnic communities is in majority in Sri Lanka?** (CBSE 2021 Term-1)

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

**Q 22. What led to non-sharing of power?**

- a. Peace among all the communities.  
b. The tyranny of the majority and oppression of minority.  
c. Negation of the very spirit of democracy.  
d. Both b. and c.

**Q 23. Which is a prudent reason for power-sharing?**

- a. It reduces the possibility of conflict between communities and ensures the stability of political order.  
b. Power-sharing is the very spirit of democracy.  
c. Both a. and b.  
d. None of the above

**Q 24. Which of the following countries have federal division of powers?**

- a. India      b. Belgium  
c. Sri Lanka      d. Both a. and b.

**Q 25. Identify the correct option of power-sharing on the basis of different levels of government.** (CBSE 2020)

- a. Among different pressure groups.  
b. Among different social groups.  
c. Legislature, executive and judiciary.  
d. Union government, state government and local bodies.

**Q 26. Which one of the following systems of power-sharing is called checks and balances?**

- a. Horizontal distribution of powers.
- b. Federal division of powers.
- c. Separation of powers.
- d. Power shared among different levels of government.

**Q 27. Which of the following is not an element of vertical power-sharing?**

- a. Power-sharing between different levels of government.
- b. Supervision of higher organ over lower organ.
- c. Sharing of power between government and oppositions.
- d. None of the above

**Q 28. Why is power-sharing good for democracies?**

- a. It gives absolute power to the government.
- b. It gives absolute power to the citizens.
- c. It reduces the possibility of conflict between social groups.
- d. It ensures foreign investments.

**Q 29. Match the following:**

Column I	Column II
A. Federal Government	1. Distribution of power among legislature and judiciary
B. Horizontal power-sharing	2. Belgium
C. Community Government	3. India

- |    |   |   |   |
|----|---|---|---|
|    | A | B | C |
| a. | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| b. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| c. | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| d. | 2 | 1 | 3 |

**Q 30. Which of the following is not one of the aspects of federal division of powers?**

- a. Sharing of powers among central provincial and local governments.
- b. Division of powers involving higher and lower levels of government.
- c. The Constitution clearly lays down powers of different levels of government.
- d. There is no vertical division of powers.

**Q 31. Modern democracies maintain check and balance system. Identify the correct option based on the horizontal power-sharing arrangement. (CBSE 2020)**

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

**Q 32. Which of the following features are common to Indian and Belgian form of power-sharing arrangements?**

- (i) Power is shared among governments at different levels.

- (ii) Power is shared among different organs of government.

- (iii) Power is shared among different social groups.

- (iv) Power is shared among different parties and takes the form of competition.

- a. (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv)
- b. (ii), (iii) and (iv)
- c. (i) and (iii)
- d. (i), (iii) and (iv)

**Q 33. Identify the significant reason of power-sharing from the following options. (CBSE SQP 2021 Term-1)**

- a. Reduces socio-economic conflicts.
- b. Provides ethnic-cultural development.
- c. Allows people to enjoy specific rights.
- d. Restricts supremacy of one party.

**Q 34. Why is the power shared amongst different organs of government called as horizontal distribution of power? Identify the correct reason.**

(CBSE SQP 2021 Term-1)

- a. It gives judiciary more power than legislature and executive.
- b. It allows different organs of government to be placed at the same level.
- c. It gives representation to different ideologies at political level.
- d. It influences and coordinates in the decision-making process.

**Q 35. Consider the following statements on power-sharing and select the answer using the codes given below:**

(CBSE SQP 2021 Term-1)

- (i) It is good for democracy.
- (ii) It creates harmony in different groups.
- (iii) It brings transparency in the governance.
- (iv) It brings socio-political competition among parties.

- a. (i), (ii) and (iii)
- b. (ii), (iii) and (iv)
- c. (i), (iii) and (iv)
- d. (i), (ii) and (iv)

**Q 36. Identify 'Horizontal power-sharing' arrangements among the following in modern democracies:**

(CBSE SQP 2021 Term-1)

- a. Different organs of government.
- b. Governments at different levels.
- c. Different social groups.
- d. Different parties, pressure groups and movements.

**Q 37. Read the information given below and answer the question:**

This type of power-sharing allows different organs of government placed at the same level to exercise different powers. Such a separation ensures that none of the organs can exercise unlimited power. Each organ checks the others. This results in a balance of power among different institutions.

Which form of power-sharing arrangement has been discussed here?

- a. Horizontal distribution of power.
- b. Vertical distribution of power.
- c. Unitary division of power.
- d. Constitutional division of power.

**Q 38. Match Column I with Column II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the Column:** (NCERT)

Column I (Forms of Power-Sharing)	Column II (Forms of Government)
A. Power shared among different organs of government.	1. Community Government
B. Power shared among government at different levels.	2. Separation of Powers
C. Power shared by different social groups.	3. Coalition Government
D. Power shared by two or more political parties.	4. Federal Government

- |    |   |   |   |   |
|----|---|---|---|---|
|    | A | B | C | D |
| a. | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| b. | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| c. | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| d. | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 |

**Q 39. Which one of the following languages was declared as the official language of Sri Lanka by an Act passed in 1956?** (CBSE 2023)

- a. Tamil
- b. Sinhala
- c. Hindi
- d. English

**Q 40. Identify the administrative level of Indian Government with the help of the information given in the box and choose the correct option:** (CBSE 2023)

- (i) Power shared between Central to Local Government.
  - (ii) The State Governments are required to share some powers and revenue with them.
  - (iii) It is called a three-tier government.
- a. Dictatorial System
  - b. Unitary Federal System
  - c. Decentralised System
  - d. Imperialistic System

**Q 41. Consider the following statements on power-sharing and choose the correct option:** (CBSE 2023)

- (i) Majoritarianism is the real spirit of democracy.
  - (ii) It creates balance and harmony in different groups.
  - (iii) It reduces the possibility of conflict among social groups.
  - (iv) Power-sharing is the essence of democracy.
- a. (i), (ii) and (iii)
  - b. (ii), (iii) and (iv)
  - c. (i), (iii) and (iv)
  - d. (i), (ii) and (iv)

**Q 42. Which of the following statements accurately distinguishes between Majoritarianism and power-sharing?** (CBSE SQP 2023-24)

- a. Majoritarianism emphasises the dominance of the majority community, while power-sharing emphasises the sharing of power among different groups.
- b. Majoritarianism emphasises the need for consensus building, while power-sharing emphasises the exclusion of minority groups.
- c. Majoritarianism emphasises the importance of accommodating minority interests, while power-sharing emphasises the need for majority rule.
- d. Majoritarianism emphasises the need for peaceful resolution of conflicts, while power-sharing emphasises the use of force to impose the majority's will.

**Q 43. You are a citizen of a country that has a democratic form of government. You want to ensure that the system of power-sharing in your country is effective and that no one branch of government has absolute power. Which of the following measures would best meet this goal?** (CBSE SQP 2023-24)

- a. All power is concentrated in the hands of the Central Government, which has the final say in all matters.
- b. Power is divided between the Central Government and the states or provinces, with each level having its own sphere of influence.
- c. Power is separated among the legislative, executive and judicial branches, with each branch having its own responsibilities and powers.
- d. Power is shared among different levels of government, such as the national, regional and local governments, with each level having some degree of autonomy.

**Q 44. Read the following statements carefully and choose the correct option:**

**Statement (I):** Horizontal distribution of power allows different organs of the government placed at same level to exercise different powers.

**Statement (II):** The separation ensures that different organs can exercise unlimited power.

- a. Statement (I) is correct and (II) is incorrect.
- b. Statement (I) is incorrect and (II) is correct.
- c. Both statements are incorrect.
- d. Both statements are correct.

**Q 45. Read the following statements carefully and choose the correct option:**

**Statement (I):** Sri Lanka emerged as an independent country in 1949.

**Statement (II):** The leaders of the Sinhala community sought to secure dominance over government by virtue of their majority.

- a. Statement (I) is correct and (II) is incorrect.
- b. Statement (I) is incorrect and (II) is correct.
- c. Both statements are incorrect.
- d. Both statements are correct.

## **Assertion & Reason** Type Questions

**Directions (Q.Nos. 46-56):** In the following questions given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

- Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
- Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

**Q 46. Assertion (A):** The Belgian leaders recognised the existence of regional differences and cultural diversities.

**Reason (R):** 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.

**Q 47. Assertion (A):** Community government in Belgium is elected by one language community.

**Reason (R):** Community government helped in resolving conflict between different linguistic groups.

### **TiP**

Community government is elected by people of one language community, i.e., French, Dutch and German-speaking. Such a government has power related to culture, education and language issues. It helps in resolving conflicts between different ethnic groups by safeguarding the interest of its group.

**Q 48. Assertion (A):** French-speaking community in Belgium was rich and powerful.

**Reason (R):** Belgian Government favoured French-speaking community.

### **TiP**

There was ethnic tension between French-speaking and Dutch-speaking communities in Belgium. For resolving, the government adopted a power-sharing arrangement where all the communities got equal representation.

**Q 49. Assertion (A):** Majority community is dominant in a few democratic states.

**Reason (R):** Dominance can undermine the unity of the country. (CBSE SQP 2021 Term-1)

**Q 50. Assertion (A):** The Belgian Constitution was amended by its leaders four times.

**Reason (R):** It was amended so as to work out an arrangement that would enable everyone to live together within the same country.

**Q 51. Assertion (A):** The distrust between Sinhalese and Tamil communities turned into widespread conflict in Sri Lanka.

**Reason (R):** 1956 Act recognised Sinhala as the only official language. (CBSE 2021 Term-1)

**Q 52. Assertion (A):** Sri Lanka adopted Sinhala as the only official language of the state.

**Reason (R):** The government of Sri Lanka wanted to foster their culture, language and religion.

(CBSE 2021 Term-1)

### **TiP**

The government of Sri Lanka passed an Act in 1956 to recognise Sinhala as the only official language of Sri Lanka. The government also formulated preferential policies to favour Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs. All this was done to establish supremacy of Sinhala community.

**Q 53. Assertion (A):** There was a feeling of alienation among Sri Lankan Tamils.

**Reason (R):** The Sri Lankan Government denied them equal political rights and discriminated against them in getting jobs and other opportunities.

### **TiP**

An act was passed in 1956 to recognise Sinhala as an official language. The government of Sri Lanka favoured people from Sinhala community for higher education and government jobs. It led to resentment among Sri Lankan Tamils as government was not sensitive to their culture and language.

**Q 54. Assertion (A):** Power-sharing is good.

**Reason (R):** It helps to reduce the possibility of conflicts between social groups. (CBSE 2021 Term-1)

**Q 55. Assertion (A):** In a democracy, everyone has voice in the shaping of public policies.

**Reason (R):** India has federal system.

### **TiP**

In a democracy, people elect the representatives who participate in the decision-making process. Due respect and proper representation is given to diverse groups in a democratic system. Hence, in democracy everyone has voice in the shaping of public policies.

**Q 56. Assertion (A):** Sri Lanka adopted 'Tamil' as the official language of the state.

**Reason (R):** The Government of Sri Lanka adopted a series of majoritarian measures. (CBSE 2023)



- a. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- b. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- c. Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
- d. Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

### Answers

1. (a)   2. (a)   3. (d)   4. (a)   5. (b)   6. (b)

## Source 2

*Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:*

The Belgian leaders took a different path. They recognised the existence of regional differences and cultural diversities. Here are some of the elements of the Belgian model:

- 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 majority of members from each linguistic group. Thus, no single community can make decisions unilaterally.
- 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.
- Brussels has a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation. The French-speaking people accepted equal representation in Brussels because the Dutch-speaking community has accepted equal representation in the Central Government.
- Apart from the Central and the State Government, there is a third kind of government. This 'community government' is elected by people, belonging to one language community—Dutch, French and German-speaking—no matter where they live.

- Q 1. The Belgian leaders worked out an arrangement which would make their country a better place to live for all. For this they recognised two things, i.e., ..... and .....**
- a. Cultural diversities, size of the different regions
  - b. Regional differences, cultural diversities
  - c. Regional differences, three tier administration
  - d. None of the above

- Q 2. Why any single community in Belgium cannot make decision about the administration?**

- a. Parliament there are both Dutch and French-speaking ministers.
- b. Some special laws are introduced.
- c. Some special laws require the support of majority of members from each linguistic groups.
- d. Both a. and c.

- Q 3. Brussels has a separate government in which both the ..... have equal representation.**

- a. Dutch-speaking and French-speaking
- b. Dutch-speaking and German-speaking
- c. French-speaking and German-speaking
- d. None of the above

- Q 4. What is the name of third kind of government in Belgium?**

- a. Community Government
- b. Third Tier Government
- c. Special Government
- d. None of the above

- Q 5. The community government in Belgium is elected by .....**

- a. people belonging to one language community—Dutch, French and German
- b. all the citizens
- c. all the community leaders
- d. all the leaders

- Q 6. Under which of the following is power shared in the 'community government' of Belgium?**

- a. Different social groups.
- b. Different organs of government.
- c. Central and State Government.
- d. State Government and Community Government.

### Answers

1. (b)   2. (c)   3. (a)   4. (a)   5. (a)   6. (a)

## Source 3

*Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow:*

Majoritarianism is a concept which signifies a belief that the majority community should be able to rule a country in whichever way it wants, by disregarding the wishes and needs of the minority.

When Sri Lanka became independent in 1948, the leaders of the Sinhala community established dominance over government by virtue of their majority.

In 1956, an act was passed to recognise Sinhala as the only official language, thus disregarding Tamil.

The government followed preferential policies that favoured Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs. A new Constitution stipulated that the state shall protect and promote Buddhism. All these government measures gradually increased the feeling of alienation among Sri Lankan Tamils. They felt that none of the major political parties led by the Buddhist Sinhala leaders were sensitive to their language and culture. The relation between the Sinhala and Tamil communities became strained over time.

**Q 1. What does the concept of majoritarianism signify?**

**Ans.** The concept of majoritarianism signifies that the majority community of a country should be able to rule a country in whichever way it wants.

**Q 2. What was the outcome of the Act passed in 1956?**

**Ans.** The Act passed in 1956 recognised Sinhala as the only official language in Sri Lanka.

**Q 3. Why did the relation between the Sinhala and Tamil communities become strained?**

**Ans.** The relation between the Sinhala and Tamil communities became strained because the Tamil community felt themselves alienated.



### **Very Short Answer** Type Questions ↘

**Q 1. Define Majoritarianism.** (CBSE SQP 2020)

**Ans.** A belief that the majority community should be able to rule a country in whichever way it wants, by disregarding the wishes and needs of the minority is called as majoritarianism.

**Q 2. State any one step taken in Belgium to rule out the problem of regional differences and cultural diversities.** (CBSE 2020)

**Ans.** The step taken in Belgium is related to the Constitution of Belgium that prescribes equal number of French and Dutch-speaking people in Central Government so that single community cannot make decisions.

**Q 3. Why was there an acute problem in Brussels during 1950s and 1960s between the two communities?**

**Ans.** The acute problem in Brussels was that the Dutch-speaking people constituted majority in the country but minority in the capital.

**Q 4. Name the historical language of Southern Belgium.**

**Ans.** Walloon, a language very closely related to French mainly used in rural regions, is the historical language of Southern Belgium.

**Q 5. What type of policy was constitutionally adopted by the Government of Belgium to honour the diversities?**

**Ans.** The Government of Belgium adopted the policy of power-sharing among different social groups, i.e., Dutch-speaking and French-speaking people.

**Q 6. What is the language spoken by the people residing in the Wallonia region of Belgium?**

**Ans.** The people residing in the Wallonia region of Belgium speak French language.

**Q 7. Identify the form of power-sharing represented by the community government in Belgium.**

**Ans.** The community government in Belgium represents the power-sharing among different social groups like the religious and linguistic groups.

**Q 8. How is community government elected in Belgium?** (CBSE 2019)

**Ans.** In Belgium, the community government is elected by people belonging to one language community, i.e., Dutch, French or German.

**Q 9. Define Ethnicity.** (CBSE SQP 2020)

**Ans.** A social division based on shared culture/people belonging to same ethnic group believes in their common descent is referred to as ethnicity.

**Q 10. Explain the meaning of 'Majoritarianism' as practised in Sri Lanka.**

**Ans.** In Sri Lanka, the leaders of the Sinhala community sought to secure dominance over the government by virtue of their majority and so, the democratically elected government adopted a series of majoritarian measures in order to establish Sinhala supremacy that followed majoritarianism.

**Q 11. Explain the main reason for the alienation of Tamils in Sri Lanka.** (CBSE 2020)

**OR**

**How did the feeling of alienation develop among the Sri Lankan Tamils?** (CBSE 2019)

**Ans.** The feeling of alienation developed among Sri Lankan Tamils because of the majoritarian measures adopted by the Sri Lankan Government, i.e., the leaders of the Sinhala community sought to secure dominance over government by virtue of their majority.



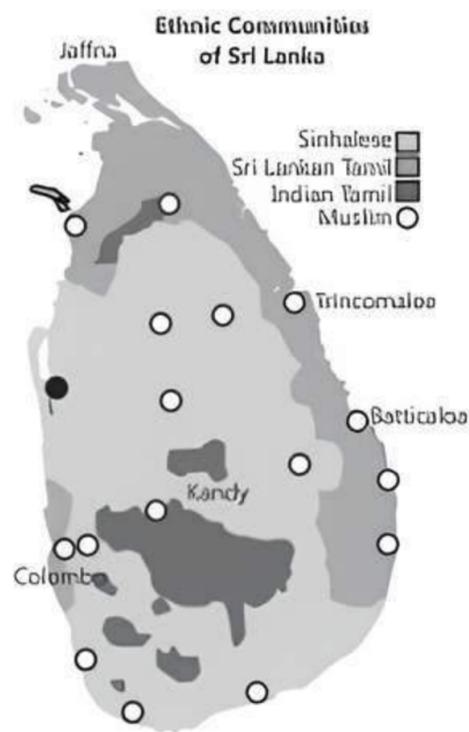
### **TIP**

*Students could mention any of the other majoritarian measures adopted such as Sinhala became the only official language/Sinhala applicants were preferred in university positions and government jobs.*

**Q 12. An independent Tamil Eelam was one of the main demands of the Tamils in Sri Lanka. What is meant by Eelam here?**

**Ans.** Eelam is a separate state exclusively meant for Tamils.

Q 13. The map of Sri Lanka is given below:



Which community is in majority in Sri Lanka?

Ans. In Sri Lanka, the Sinhala community also known as Indo-Aryan community is in majority.

Q 14. State the measures adopted by the democratically elected government of Sri Lanka to establish Sinhala supremacy.

Ans. The measures adopted were:

- (i) An Act passed by the Sri Lankan Government in 1956 recognised Sinhala as the only official language.
- (ii) Government followed the preferential policies favouring Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs.

Q 15. After independence, Sri Lanka witnessed the supremacy of which community?

Ans. Sri Lanka emerged as an independent country in 1948 and the democratically elected government adopted a series of measures to establish Sinhala supremacy.

Q 16. Why is power-sharing desirable? Give any one reason.

Ans. Power-sharing is desirable because it helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.

Q 17. What is meant by horizontal distribution of power?

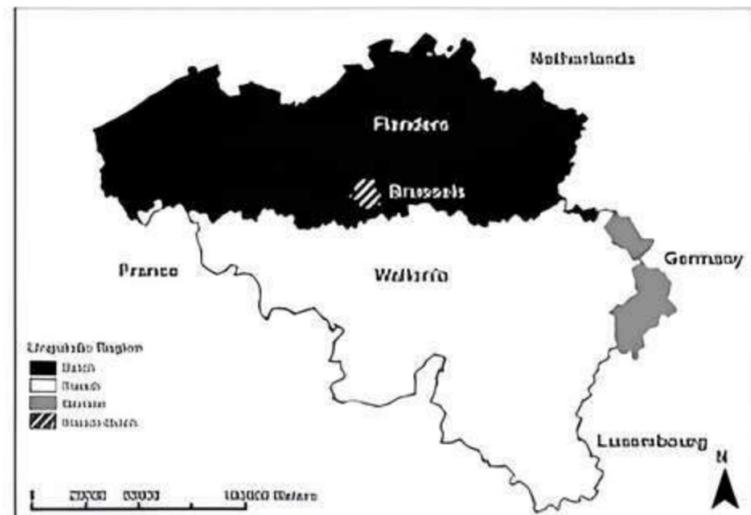
Ans. When power is shared among different organs of government such as the legislature, the executive and the judiciary, then it is referred to as horizontal distribution of power.

Q 18. What is a coalition government?

Ans. When two or more parties form an alliance to contest elections and on winning form a government, then it is known as coalition government.

Q 19. Study the map thoroughly and mention the languages that are dominantly spoken in Belgium.

(CBSE SQP 2023-24)



Ans. The languages that are dominantly spoken in Belgium are Dutch and French.

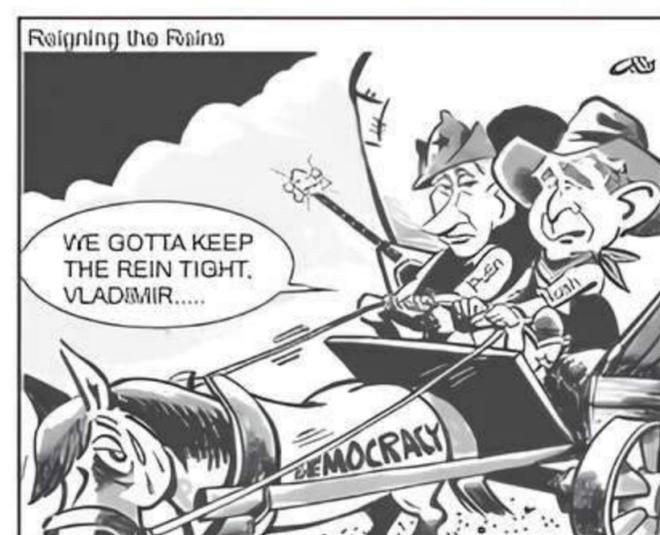
Q 20. Observe the image given below and answer the question that follow:



Which disadvantage of coalition governments is the above image highlighting?

Ans. A coalition government may not agree on policy decisions that can affect a country's progress.

Q 21. What, according to this cartoon, is the relationship between democracy and concentration of power?



Ans. The above cartoon signifies that democracy increases instability and divisiveness. It opposes the idea of concentration of powers.



## Short Answer Type Questions

**Q 1. How is the ethnic composition of Belgium very complex? Explain.** (CBSE 2016)

**Ans.** The ethnic composition of Belgium is very complex in the following ways:

- (i) Out of the country's total population, 59 per cent lives in the Flemish region and speaks Dutch language.
- (ii) Another 40 per cent live in the Wallonia region and speak French while the remaining 1 per cent speak German.
- (iii) In the capital city Brussels, 80 per cent people speak French while 20 per cent speak Dutch.

**Q 2. What were the major causes of tension between the Dutch-speaking and French-speaking communities during the 1950s and 1960s?**

OR

**Describe the tension that exists between the Dutch and the French-speaking people in Belgium.**

(CBSE 2015)

**Ans.** The major causes of tension were:

- (i) The minority French-speaking community was relatively rich and powerful.
- (ii) This was resented by the Dutch-speaking community who got the benefit of economic development and education much later.

**Q 3. Describe the elements of the Belgian model for accommodating diversities.** (CBSE 2020)

OR

**Highlight any three measures adopted by the Belgium Government to accommodate regional and cultural diversities.**

OR

**Explain any three elements of Belgian model of accommodation.**

**Ans.** To accommodate diverse regional and cultural considerations, Belgium Government adopted the following measures:

- (i) Constitution prescribed that the number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be equal in the Central Government.
- (ii) Many powers of the Central Government were given to State Governments of the two regions of the country.
- (iii) Brussels, the capital of Belgium, was given a separate government in which both the communities had equal representation.

- (iv) A third kind of government called the community government has the power regarding cultural, educational and language related issues.

(Any three)

**Q 4. Describe the ethnic composition of Sri Lanka.**

**Ans.** Sri Lanka comprises of various communities and diverse population which signifies its complex ethnicity. Its ethnic composition is as follows:

- (i) Sinhala-speaking community accounts for 74% of the total population who enjoy majoritarian status in the country.
- (ii) Another community is Tamil-speaking which has two sub-groups— the Sri Lankan Tamils and the Indian Tamils. The Sri Lankan Tamils account for 13% of the population and are the native of Sri Lanka. The Indian Tamils account for 5% of the population and are of Indian origin.
- (iii) There are about 7% Christians who are both Tamil and Sinhala while the rest 1% are Muslims.



### TIP

Students are advised to remember the percentage composition of each and every community residing in Sri Lanka.

**Q 5. Explain any three consequences of the majoritarian policies adopted by the Sri Lankan Government.**

(CBSE 2016)

**Ans.** The following are the consequences of the majoritarian policies adopted by the Sri Lankan Government:

- (i) These policies increased the feelings of alienation among the Sri Lankan Tamils.
- (ii) They felt that none of the major political parties led by the Buddhist Sinhala leaders was sensitive to their language and culture.
- (iii) They felt that the government was practising religious discrimination as well as discrimination in getting jobs and education.
- (iv) The Sri Lankan Tamils launched parties and struggles for the recognition of Tamil as an official language, for regional autonomy and for equal opportunities.
- (v) A Civil War broke out in which thousands of people lost their lives.

### COMMON ERROR

Students do not mention the discrimination in different spheres against Tamils.

**Q 6. Highlight the reasons for the increase in the feeling of alienation among Sri Lankan Tamils after independence.** (CBSE 2016)

**Ans.** A series of majoritarian measures were adopted by the democratically elected government in Sri Lanka after its independence in 1948 to establish Sinhala supremacy. This increased the feelings of alienation among Sri Lankan Tamils.

The following majoritarian measures were taken in Sri Lanka:

- (i) In 1956, an Act was passed which recognised Sinhala as the only official language, thus disregarding Tamil language.
- (ii) Preferences were given to Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs, etc.
- (iii) State promoted Buddhism, which was the religion followed by the Sinhala-speaking community.
- (iv) Sri Lankan Tamils felt that none of the major political parties led by the Buddhist Sinhala leaders was sensitive to their language and culture.

**Q 7. Explain the difference between horizontal power-sharing and vertical power-sharing.**

OR

**What is the difference between horizontal and vertical distribution of power? Mention any two advantages of horizontal distribution.** (CBSE 2017)

**Ans.** Difference between horizontal power-sharing and vertical power-sharing are:

S.No.	Basis of Difference	Horizontal Power-sharing	Vertical Power-sharing
(i)	Concept	Power is shared among the different organs of the government such as the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary.	Power is shared among the different levels of the government. <i>i.e.</i> , the Central Government and the State Government.
(ii)	Distribution of powers	The organs of the government are placed at the same level to exercise different powers.	The vertical division of power involves greater power to the Central Government.
(iii)	Hierarchical authority	Each organ checks the other one.	The lower organs work under the higher organs.

Advantages of horizontal distribution of power.

- (i) It allows different organs of government that are placed at the same level to exercise different powers.
- (ii) It ensures that none of the organs can exercise unlimited power. Each organ checks the others resulting in a balance of power among various institutions.



**TIP**

Students should properly differentiate between horizontal and vertical power-sharing.

**Q 8. Evaluate the power-sharing system in India.**

(CBSE 2019)

**Ans.** The following examples show the power-sharing in India:

- (i) Seats in Lok Sabha are reserved for SC/ST candidates. This provides an equal opportunity even to depressed classes.
- (ii) There was reservation of seats for women in local government. This leads to women empowerment.
- (iii) The Constitution of India provides a three fold distribution of legislative powers between the Union and the State governments. It strengthens the spirit of democracy.

**Q 9. Give reasons why power-sharing is desirable?**

(CBSE 2015)

OR

**State one prudential reason and one moral reason for power-sharing with an example from the Indian context.** (NCERT)

**Ans.** Power-sharing is desirable in democracy because of the following reasons:

**(i) Prudential Reasons:**

- (a) It helps to reduce the possibility of conflict among social groups that leads to violence and political instability.
- (b) It is a good way to ensure the stability of political order. For example, in India, we have reserved constituencies for women and minorities in the Parliament and the State Assemblies. This is an apt example of prudential reason for power-sharing.

**(ii) Moral Reasons:**

- (a) 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 effect.
- (b) People have the right to be consulted on how they are to be governed. For example, the division of power among different units in India is a suitable example of moral reason for power-sharing.



## Long Answer Type Questions

**Q 1. Explain how Belgium was able to resolve her ethnic problems?**

**OR**

**Explain with examples the accommodative experience of Belgium for peace and harmony.**

(CBSE SQP 2020)

**Ans.** The Belgian leaders recognised the existence of regional differences and cultural diversities. 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.

The following measures were adopted by them:

**(i) Equal Number of Ministers for both the Groups:**

The Belgian 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 majority of members from each linguistic group. Thus, no single community can take decisions unilaterally.

**(ii) More Powers to State Government:** Many powers of the Central Government have been given to the State Governments of the two regions of the country. The State Governments were not required to work as subordinate to the Central Government.

**(iii) Equal Representation at the State and the Central Level:** A separate government was set up at Brussels in which both the communities have equal representation.

**(iv) Formation of Community Government:** Apart from the Central and the State Government, there is a third kind of government. This community government is elected by the people belonging to one language community, i.e., Dutch, French and German-speaking; no matter where they live.

### Knowledge BOOSTER

*Community government has the power regarding cultural, educational and language-related issues.*

**Q 2. What was the reason of Civil War in Sri Lanka? What was its impact on the country?**

**Ans.** The Sinhala Community in Sri Lanka enjoyed great advantages. On the other hand, the Sri Lankan Tamils suffered a lot. The Constitution and government policies denied them equal political rights. Sri Lankan Tamils demanded recognition of Tamil as an official

language and regional autonomy and equality of opportunity in security, education and jobs. But all their demands were denied.

As a result, their relations with the Sinhala community got strained. The distrust between the two communities finally turned into a Civil War.

Impact of the Civil War was as follows:

- (i) Many families were forced to leave the country as refugees and many more lost their livelihoods.
- (ii) It caused a terrible setback to the social, cultural and economic status of the country.
- (iii) Thousands of people of both the communities were killed.

**Q 3. Compare the situation of Belgium and Sri Lanka considering their location, size and cultural aspects.**

(CBSE 2019)

**Ans.** The situation of Belgium and Sri Lanka can be compared as follows:

- (i) Belgium is located in Europe whereas Sri Lanka is located in South Asia.
- (ii) Belgium has a population of over one crore whereas Sri Lanka has population of two crores.
- (iii) In Belgium, French-speaking community is relatively rich and powerful. In Sri Lanka, Sinhalese-speaking people are Buddhists and are powerful.
- (iv) In Belgium, Dutch-speaking people are in numeric majority whereas in Sri Lanka, Sinhalese-speaking population is in majority.
- (v) In Belgium, 59 per cent people living in Flemish region speak Dutch language, 40 per cent people living in Wallonia region speak French and remaining 1 per cent Belgian people speak German. In Sri Lanka, 74 per cent population is Sinhalese-speakers and 18 per cent is Tamil-speakers.

### COMMON ERROR

*Students don't make comparison according to their location on globe, their size and cultural aspects.*

**Q 4. 'Power-sharing is the essence of a democratic government.' Examine the statement.**

(CBSE SQP 2020)

**Ans.** The given statement can be examined in the following ways:

- (i) Power is shared among different organs of government, such as the legislature, executive and judiciary also called as horizontal power-sharing. Example: India.

- (ii) Power can be shared among governments at different levels. i.e., a general government for the entire country and governments at the provincial or regional levels. Example: India (Union Government and State Government).
- (iii) There is a third kind of government called the community government. Power may also be shared among different social groups such as the religious and linguistic groups. Example: Belgium.
- (iv) Power-sharing can be done between political parties, pressure groups and movements. Such a competition ensures that power does not remain in one hand.
- (v) In the long run, power is shared among different political parties that represent different ideologies and social groups.

**Q 5. What are the different forms of power-sharing in modern democracies? Give an example of each of these.** (NCERT)

**Ans.** In modern democracies, power-sharing arrangements have taken different forms which are as follows:

- (i) **Horizontal Division of Power:** Power is shared among different organs of the government, such as the legislature, the executive and the judiciary. This ensures that none of the organs can exercise unlimited power. Each organ checks the other and thus, the balance of power among various institutions is maintained. Ministers and government officials are responsible to the Parliament or State Assemblies. Similarly, judges though appointed by the executives, keep a check on the functioning of executives or laws made by the legislatures. So, this results in a balance of power among the various institutions.
- (ii) **Vertical Division of Power:** Under this, people choose separate governments at separate levels, e.g., Central Government for the entire country and local governments at the provincial, sub-national or regional levels. In India, vertical division of power takes place in the following manner:



- (iii) **Division of Power among Social Groups:** The countries having community government share power among different social groups, such as religious and linguistic groups. This method is

used to give minority communities a fair share in power.

- (iv) **Division of Power among Political Parties, Pressure Groups and Movements:** In a democracy, power is also distributed among different political parties, pressure groups and movements. Democracy provides 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.

### Knowledge BOOSTER

 Central Government for the entire country is usually called a Federal Government.

**Q 6. How is the idea of power-sharing emerged? Explain different forms that have common arrangements of power-sharing.** (CBSE 2019)

**Ans.** The idea of power-sharing emerged in opposition to the notions of undivided political power. It was believed traditionally that power should be concentrated on one hand because if power is divided, then it would be difficult to take rapid decisions and apply them. But the development of the concept of democracy has changed this notion of power concentration in one hand. This is so because democracy believes in the distribution of power among people as people are the source of authority. Power can be divided among the various forms of government, two sets of government—Central and the State, community government, etc.

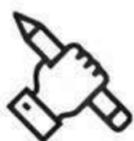
The different forms that have common arrangements of power-sharing are:

- (i) **Horizontal Form of Power-sharing:** It allows different organs of government placed at the same level to exercise different powers. Each organ checks the others which results in a balance of power among various institutions.
- (ii) **Vertical Form of Power-sharing:** It allows the sharing of power among governments at a provincial or regional level. Such a general government for the entire country is usually called the federal government which is referred to as the Central or Union Government in India. The governments at the provincial or regional level are called State Governments in India. Both Central and State Governments have their distinct areas to exercise power.



### TIP

*Discuss the aspects of power-sharing carefully and do not ignore the first part of the question.*



## Chapter Test

### Multiple Choice Questions

**Q 1. How did the Belgium Government try to solve the ethnic problem?**

- a. Through joint meeting with opposition leaders.
- b. By respecting the feeling and interests of different communities and regions.
- c. By holding referendum.
- d. None of the above

**Q 2. Which of the following step was not taken by the Belgium leader to accommodate social difference?**

- a. Equal representation was given to Dutch and French-speaking ministers in the Central Government.
- b. Many powers of the Central Government were given to State Government.
- c. Community government was formed.
- d. Principle of majoritarianism was followed.

**Q 3. Which one of the following was not included originally in the demand of Sri Lankan Tamils?**

- a. Regional autonomy.
- b. Demand for Tamil as official language.
- c. Equality in job and education.
- d. Creation of Eelam State.

**Q 4. Which of the following is not one of the aspects of federal division of powers?**

- a. Sharing of powers among central provincial and local governments.
- b. Division of powers involving higher and lower levels of government.
- c. The Constitution clearly lays down powers of different levels of government.
- d. There is no vertical division of powers.

**Q 5. Prudential reasons of power-sharing stress on the facts that:**

- (i) It ensures the stability of political order.
- (ii) It reduces the possibility of conflict between social groups.
- (iii) It gives a fair share to minority.
- (iv) It is the very spirit of democracy.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

- a. (i) and (ii)
- b. (i), (iii) and (iv)
- c. (i), (ii) and (iii)
- d. All are correct

### Assertion and Reason Type Questions

**Directions (Q. Nos. 6-7):** In the following questions given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

- a. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).

b. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).

c. Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.

d. Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

**Q 6. Assertion (A): The Belgian leaders recognised the existence of regional differences and cultural diversities.**

**Reason (R):** 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.

**Q 7. Assertion (A): Sharing of powers makes a country more powerful and united.**

**Reason (R):** Power-sharing is a good way to ensure the stability of political order.

### Source Based Question

**Q 8.** Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

In modern democracies, power-sharing arrangements can take many forms. 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 to exercise different powers. Such a separation ensures that none of the organs can exercise unlimited power. Each organ checks the other. This results in a balance of power among various institutions 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. Power can be shared among governments at different levels, a general government for the entire country and governments at the provincial or regional level. 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.

Power may also be shared among different 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 administration. Power-sharing arrangements can also be seen in the way political parties, pressure groups and movements control or influence those in power. In a democracy, the citizens must have freedom to choose among various contenders for power. In contemporary democracies, this takes the form of competition among different parties.

- (i) **When power is shared among legislature, executive and judiciary in democracy, it is known as .....**
- Separation of powers
  - Horizontal distribution of powers
  - Vertical distribution of powers
  - None of the above
- (ii) **Ministers and government officials exercise power and judges check the functioning of executive or laws made by the legislature, this is known as:**
- Separation of powers
  - Checks and balances
  - Horizontal distribution of powers
  - None of the above
- (iii) **When power is shared among different social group, it is known as .....**
- third-tier government
  - special government
  - community government
  - None of the above
- (iv) **Power-sharing arrangements in democracy are enjoyed by:**
- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| a. Political parties | b. Pressure groups |
| c. Movements         | d. All of these    |

(v) **Match Column I with Column II and Choose the correct option:**

Column I	Column II
A. Power shared among different organs of government.	1. Community Government
B. Power shared among governments at different levels.	2. Separation of Powers
C. Power shared by different social groups.	3. Coalition Government
D. Power shared by two or more political parties.	4. Federal Government

- |    |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |
|----|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|
|    | A | B | C | D |  | A | B | C | D |
| a. | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 |  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| c. | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 |  | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 |

### Very Short Answer Type Questions

- Q 9. Suggest the prudential reason why power-sharing is good for democracy.
- Q 10. How many times between 1970 and 1993 was the Belgium Constitution amended?

### Short Answer Type Questions

- Q 11. Explain any three consequences of the majoritarian policies adopted by the Sri Lankan Government.
- Q 12. "Sharing of powers makes a country more powerful and united." Do you agree with this statement and why?
- Q 13. Describe the tensions that existed between the Dutch and the French-speaking people in Belgium.

### Long Answer Type Questions

- Q 14. How majoritarianism has increased the feeling of alienation among the Sri Lankan Tamils? Explain.
- Q 15. Compare the ways in which the Belgium and the Sri Lankans have dealt with cultural diversity.