

## Previous Years' and Important Questions

1 MARK

**Q.1. Define the term civil war ?**

**Ans.** • The term civil war simply refers to war within the country.  
• It also means a violent conflict between different groups within the country and their intensity looks like a war activity.

**Q.2. Name the three types of Government practised in Belgium.** [K]

**Ans.** (i) The central government (ii) The state government (iii) The community government.

**Q.3. How can you say that power sharing is a good way to ensure the stability of political order ?** [U]

**Ans.** Social conflict leads to violence and political instability. On the other hand, power sharing leads to mutual understanding, adjustment quality and social harmony. Power sharing leads to mutual benefit of all communities and thus ensures political stability.

**Q.4. Name the concept used/practised in Sri Lanka for Power Sharing.** [K & U]

**Ans.** Majoritarianism.

**Q.5. When did Sri Lanka get independence ?** [K & U]

**Ans.** Sri Lanka got independence in 1948.

**Q.6. Give reasons why the Sri Lankan government adopted Majoritarian policy.** [K & U]

**Ans.** When Sri Lanka got independence in 1948, the leaders of Sinhala community wanted to secure dominance of government by virtue of their majority. Therefore, to establish Sinhala supremacy they adopted Majoritarian policy.

**Q.7. Which Act favoured Sinhala community and disregarded Tamil community in Sri Lanka ?** [K & U]

**Ans.** The Sri Lankan government passed an Act in 1956 which recognised Sinhala as the only official language.

By the Preference policy, the government favoured Sinhala applicants for government jobs and university positions.

3 MARKS

**Q.1. How is a community government elected ? Mention its power.** [U]

**Ans.** The community government is elected by people belonging to one language community, i.e., the Dutch, French and German speaking people. It does not matter in which region they live.

The power of community government encompasses cultural, educational and language-related issues.

**Q.2. Is power sharing desirable? Support your answer.**

[U]

Or

[NCERT]

**Why is power sharing desirable?**

**Ans.** Yes, power sharing is desirable because of the following reasons:

- (i) Power sharing helps to reduce the possibility of conflict/war between social groups.
- (ii) It ensures political stability.
- (iii) It reduces violence and linguistic problems.
- (iv) It also ensures political, economic, social and cultural stability of a nation.
- (v) Power sharing is the basic spirit of democracy.

**Q.3. "Power sharing is the very spirit of democracy." Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.** [A]

**Ans.** Yes, Power sharing is the very spirit of democracy.

Reasons:

- (i) Democracy is simply the people's government. A democratic rule involves sharing of power between various communities based on language, religion, culture, etc.
- (ii) People have a right to be informed and consulted. It means they want to know how they are governed.
- (iii) A democratic government is legitimate, accountable and responsive.

**Q.4. Explain how power sharing consists of both prudential and moral reasons?**

[NCERT, U]

**Ans.** Prudential reasons are based on careful calculation of gains and losses.

For example, power sharing is good because it helps to reduce (or) prevent the conflict between social groups. It lays stress on outcome of democracy. Moral reason is based on why power sharing is good for democracies (which is right or wrong?)

For example, power sharing leads to legitimate and responsible government. It emphasises values of democracy.

**Q.5. "Power is shared among different organs of government." Explain.**

[U]

Or

**"This arrangement is called a system of checks and balances." Which arrangement it refers to? Explain.** [HOTS]

**Ans.** (i) In a democratic government there are three main organs, namely are Legislature, Executive and Judiciary.

(ii) When power is shared among these organs, it is called as "horizontal division of power". It is because all the organs are placed at the same level.

(iii) It ensures (or) enables no organ can exercise unlimited power.

(iv) Each organ has the power to check the other and it is called as a system of checks and balances.

For example, Ministers and Government Officials are responsible to the parliament.

Judges of High Courts and Supreme Court are appointed by the Executive but they can check the functions of Executives.

**Q.6. "Power is shared among different levels of government." Explain.**

[U]

Or

**Power sharing in a federal system is called as 'vertical division of power'. Explain.**

**Ans.** In a country there are two or more than two the governments at various levels like central government for the entire country or regional (state/provincial) government at the next level.

In India, we follow a three tier system such as the centre, state and village (Panchayat and the Municipality) government and power sharing between them varies from each other.

The power decreases from the central to state and other levels. This kind of power sharing also called as "vertical division of power".

**Q.7. "Power is shared among different social groups." Explain this statement with an example.** [A]

Or

**"Community government" is a special feature in Belgium. Comment.** [HOTS]

**Ans.** (i) In a Community Government power is shared among different social groups such as religious or linguistic groups.

(ii) Belgium is a good example of community government where the Dutch and French communities agreed on equal power sharing based on their languages.

(iii) The French speaking people accepted equal representation in Brussels (the capital) and Dutch-speaking community has accepted equal representation in the central government in the rest of the country.

**Q.8. "Power sharing arrangements can be seen in the form of political parties, pressure groups and movement." Comment.** [A]

**Ans.** • In contemporary democracies power sharing takes place in the form of competition among different parties.

• This system ensures power will not be in one hand and in the long run power is shared among different political parties.

• A coalition government like UPA (United Progressive Alliance) clearly shows the participation of many political parties.

• Interest groups such as traders, businessmen, industrialists, farmers, workers, are also seen in a democracy sharing power through their committees, unions, etc.

• They also influence the govt. directly or indirectly in the decision making process.

#### 4 MARKS

**Q.1. "Sri Lanka has a diverse population". Explain.**

[A]

**Ans.** • Like other nations in South Asia, Sri Lanka has a diverse population.

• There are two main social groups based on their languages like Sinhala and Tamil.

• Sinhalas are the majority group of about 74 per cent and the Tamils constitute 18 per cent of the total population.

• Sinhalas are majority community and follow Majoritarianism policy.

There are two sub-groups among Tamils majority, the Sri Lankan Tamils (Tamil Natives of the country) and Indian Tamils (whose forefathers came to Sri Lanka during British colonial period as plantation workers.)

• Most of the Sinhalas follow Buddhism and the Tamils are Hindus or Muslims.

• Apart from this, there are about 7 per cent Christians who are both Tamils and Sinhalas.

**Q.2. Write a short note on Sri Lankan Tamils and their struggle.**

[K & U]

Or

**What steps were taken by the Sri Lankan Tamils in demanding power sharing in Sri Lanka?**

- Ans.**
- The Sri Lankan government adopted the policy of Majoritarianism and discouraged the demands of the Tamils.
  - Against the dominance of Sinhalese, the Tamils launched political parties, organisations and military groups (like LTTE).
  - They launched struggles for the recognition of Tamil as an official language.
  - The Tamils demand regional autonomy, equality of opportunity in education and government jobs.
  - Several political parties were formed in 1980s and demanded an independent state called Tamil Eelam.

**Q.3. The Belgian leaders took a different path in accommodating cultures with reference to power sharing. Comment. [A]**

- Ans.**
- The Belgian leaders recognised the existence of regional differences and cultural diversities.
  - They wanted to ensure that everyone should live together peacefully.
  - Between 1970 and 1993, the Belgian leaders amended the constitution to bring the so-called "Belgian model", which is innovative and different from that of other countries.
  - The constitution states that the number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be equal in the central government.
  - Many powers of central government have been given to state governments of the two regions of the country.
  - The capital Brussels has a separate government in which both communities have equal representation.
  - The power is shared among different social groups and thus it is called as "community government" in Belgium.

**Q.4. What do you know about "Belgian model" ? Do you think it is good for democracy ? Support your answer with examples. [K & A]**

- Ans.**
- Belgian model of government refers to "community Government" which is different from that of other countries.
  - The main idea behind the Belgian model is to accommodate different religious and cultural groups into a single community and to share equality power.
  - The constitution clearly prescribes that the number of Dutch and French speaking ministers shall be equal in the central Government.
  - No single community can take decisions on their own and some special laws were to be followed.
  - The state government is not subordinate to the central government because many powers of the central government have been given to the state.
  - The French speaking people accepted equal representation and the Dutch speaking community in the central government.

**Q.5. "The idea of power sharing has emerged in opposition to the notions of undivided political power." Explain the statement with examples. [HOTS]**

- Ans.**
- Power sharing is the very spirit of democracy. Democracy means government run by the people. Political parties with agreed policies and programmes for the collective good of the society are formed.

- In earlier times it was believed that all power of a government must reside in one person or group of persons of a place.
- It is also believed that when power is dispersed, a decision can not be taken quickly.
- One of the basic principles of democracy is that people are the source of political power.
- A good democratic government always considers diverse groups and their views to make a better society. Thus political power should be distributed among as many citizens as possible.

**Q.6. Analyse the measures which gradually increased the feeling of alienation among the Sri Lankan Tamils. [A]**

- Ans.**
- The Sri Lankan government passed an Act in 1956 which recognised Sinhala as the only official language.
  - The preferential policy favoured Sinhala applicants for government jobs and university positions.
  - A new Constitution mentioned that the state shall protect and promote Buddhism.
  - All the above factors gradually created the feeling of alienation among the Sri Lankan Tamils.