



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: X	Department: SOCIAL SCIENCE	Subject: Political Science
Chapter 1 Question Bank :1	Topic: Power Sharing	Year :2026-27

Q1	What is the ethnic composition of Belgium? OR Describe the ethnic composition of Belgium. Ans: The ethnics composition of Belgium is very complex. a) Of the country's total population, 59 per cent live in the Flemish region and speak Dutch language. b) Another 40 per cent people live in the Wallonia region and speak French. Remaining 1 per cent of the Belgians speak German. c) In the capital city, Brussels, about 80 per cent people speak French while 20 per cent are Dutch-speaking.
02	Describe the tension that existed between the Dutch and the French speaking people in Belgium. OR What were the two main causes of resentment in Belgium in 1960? How was the conflict solved? Ans: a) The economic inequality between the Dutch speaking and French-speaking was the basic cause of tension. b) The French-speaking community who was in minority was relatively rich and powerful whereas the Dutch-speaking community who was in majority was poor. c) This was resented by the Dutch-speaking community who for the benefit of economic development and education much later. d) The tension between the two communities was more acute in Brussels. Brussels presented a special problem: the Dutch speaking people constituted a majority in the country, but a minority in the capital. e) Between 1970 and 1993, the Belgium government amended their constitution four times so as to work out an arrangement that would enable everyone to live together within the same country. ‘
Q3	Describe the ethnic composition of Sri Lanka. Ans: Sri Lanka has a diverse population. a) The Sinhala community forms the majority of the population (74%) with Tamils (18%) who are mostly concentrated in the north and east of the island, forming the largest ethnic minority. b) Among Tamils, there are two sub-groups. The Tamil natives of the country are called ‘Sri Lankan Tamils’ (13 %). The Tamils, who were brought as indentured labourers from India by British colonists to work on estate plantations are called the ‘Indian Origin Tamils’ (5%). c) Most of the Sinhala-speaking people are Buddhists, while most of the Tamils are Hindus or Muslims. There are about 7 percent Christians, who are both Tamil and Sinhala.
Q4	Explain the provisions of the Act of 1956 to establish Sinhala supremacy. OR What were the reasons for the alienation of Sri Lankan Tamils?

	Ans: In 1956, an Act was passed to recognise - Sinhala as the only official language disregarding Tamil. - The governments followed preferential policies that favoured Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs. - A new constitution stipulated that the state shall protect and foster Buddhism.
Q5	“The Sri Lankan Tamils launched parties and struggles.” Explain OR Explain any three major demands of the Sri Lankan Tamils towards the government of Sri Lanka Ans: Sri Lanka emerged as an independent country in 1948. The democratically elected government adopted a series of measures to establish Sinhala supremacy: - 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 the government policies denied them equal political rights which led to increased feeling of alienation among them. - The Sri Lankan Tamils launched parties and struggles for the recognition of Tamil as the official language, for regional autonomy and equality of opportunity in securing education and jobs. - Therefore, the measures adopted by the government to establish Sinhala supremacy led to distrust between the two communities which turned into conflict and into a Civil War.
Q6	Why did civil war break out in Sri Lanka? What were the results of the war? Ans: The distrust between Tamil speaking and the Sinhalese over the Majoritarianism issue resulted in a widespread conflict which soon turned into a civil war. The results of the civil war were as follows: - Thousands of people of both the communities were killed. - Many families were forced to leave the country and many lost their livelihood - Sri Lanka, in general suffered from an economic crisis.
Q7	How were the ethnic problems solved in Belgium? Mention any four steps which were taken by the government to solve the problems? OR How is the political system in Belgium innovative and different from the other countries of the world? Explain any three points. OR Highlight any three measures adopted by the Belgian government to accommodate regional and cultural diversities. Ans: 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. Many powers to state governments: Under the proper power sharing arrangement, many powers of the central government were given to state governments for the two regions of the country. The state governments were not subordinate to the central government. Equal representation in Brussels: A separate government has been set up at Brussels in which both the communities have equal representation. Formation of community government: Apart from the central and the state government, there is a third kind of government, i.e., ‘community government’. This Community government’ is elected by the people belonging to one language community – Dutch, French and German speaking no matter where they live. This government has the powers regarding cultural, educational and language related issues.

Q8	‘Sharing of powers makes a country more powerful and united’. Justify the statement. Ans: - Power sharing ensures that all people have stake in government. - Power sharing ensures maximum participation. It upholds the concept of people’s rule. It always brings better outcomes in democracy. It ensures the political stability in democracy. - Power sharing accommodates diverse groups. It helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.
Q9	Why is Power sharing desirable? OR Why is power sharing necessary in democracy? Explain. Ans: Prudential reasons: - Prudential reasons help to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups. - Prudential reasons are good way to ensure political stability. - Imposing the will of majority community over the minority may look like an attractive option in the short run, but in the long run, it undermines the unity of the nation. Tyranny of the majority is not just oppressive for the minority; it often brings ruin to the majority as well. Moral reasons: - Power sharing is the basic spirit of democracy. A democratic rule involves the sharing of power with those affected by its exercise, and those who have to live with its effects. - A democratic government is chosen by the people. So, they have the right to be consulted on how they are to be governed. A legitimate government is one where groups, through participation, acquire a stake in the system. - Decentralisation of power, i.e., formation of state governments, local governments is an example of moral reason.
Q10	Explain the major forms of power sharing in modern democracies. OR Explain four forms of participation in government under modern democratic system. Ans: Power sharing among the different organs of government: In a democracy, power is shared among the different organs of the government such as the legislature, executive and the judiciary. This is called the horizontal distribution of power because it allows different organs of the government placed at the same level to exercise different powers. Under this kind of power sharing arrangement, one can exercise unlimited powers. Each organ has its own powers, and it can also check the powers of other. So, this results in a balance of power among the various institutions. Power sharing among governments at different levels: Under this, people choose separate governments at separate levels, for example, a general local government for the entire country and local governments at the provincial, sub-national or regional levels. Such a general government for the entire country is usually called a Federal government and also called vertical distribution of powers. Power sharing among different social groups: In a democracy, especially, in a multi-ethnic society, power is also shared among 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 the administration. Power sharing among political parties, pressure groups and movements: In a democracy, power is also shared among different political parties, pressure groups and movements. Democracy provides the 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.
Q11	Differentiate between Horizontal and Vertical forms of Power sharing in modern democracies. Ans: Horizontal a) Power shared among different organs of government such as the legislature, executive and judiciary. b) There is a concept of separation of powers. c) The separation of powers ensures that none of the organs can exercise unlimited power. Each organ checks the others resulting in a balance of power among various institution. d) It ensures the concept of the expansion of democracy. Vertical a) Power shared among different levels of the government like union, state and local level. b) Constitution clearly lays down the powers of different levels of government. c) No such concept of checks and balance because powers are clearly given by the constitution from the higher level to lower level. d) It promotes the concept of deepening of democracy.