

Class X

Competency based questions

Subject civics (Power sharing)

Q 1 Read the given extract and answer the following questions.

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

All these government measures, coming one after the other, gradually increased the feeling of alienation among the Sri Lankan Tamils. They felt that none of the major political parties led by the Buddhist Sinhala leaders was sensitive to their language and culture. They felt that the constitution and government policies denied them equal political rights, discriminated against them in getting jobs and other opportunities and ignored their interests.

- i) Which language was recognised as the only official language of Sri Lanka in 1956? (1)
- ii) Name one group that felt alienated due to Sri Lanka's government measures after 1956. (1)
- iii) Give two reasons why Sri Lankan Tamils felt alienated after 1956. (2)

Q 2 Read the given extract and answer the following questions.

There is a second, deeper reason why power sharing is good for democracies. 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 effects. People have a right to be consulted on how they are to be governed. A legitimate government is one where citizens, through participation, acquire a stake in the system.

- i) What is one reason why power sharing is considered good for political stability? (1)
- ii) What is meant by "tyranny of the majority"? (1)
- iii) How does power sharing reflect the spirit of democracy? (2)

Q 3 Read the source below and answer the questions that follow:

Belgium is a small country in Europe with a complex ethnic composition. The country's population consists of 59% Dutch-speaking people in the Flemish region, 40% French-speaking people in the Wallonia region, and 1% German-speaking people. In Brussels, the capital city, 80% speak French, while 20% speak Dutch. The French-speaking community was wealthier, which caused resentment among the Dutch-speaking population. To accommodate these differences and prevent conflicts, Belgium introduced a unique power-sharing model, ensuring equal representation for both communities in governance

- I) What were the two main linguistic groups in Belgium (1)
- II) Why did the Dutch-speaking community resent the French-speaking community? (1)
- III) How did Belgium's government ensure power-sharing among different communities? (2)

Q.4 Assertion (A): In Belgium, the tension between Dutch-speaking and French-speaking communities was mainly because of economic differences.

Reason (R): The French-speaking community in Belgium was relatively rich and powerful compared to the Dutch-speaking community.

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

Q 5 Assertion (A): The majoritarian policies adopted by the Sinhala leaders in Sri Lanka led to the alienation of the Tamil community.

Reason (R): Sinhala was declared the only official language, and government policies favored the Sinhala community.

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

Q6 Assertion (A): The Belgian leaders successfully avoided civil war by sharing power among different communities.

Reason (R): The Belgian Constitution guaranteed equal representation for Dutch and French-speaking communities in the central government.

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

Q7 Assertion (A): Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka protected the interests of all communities equally.

Reason (R): The Sinhala community used its majority to promote its own language, religion, and culture over others.

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

Q8 Assertion (A): Power sharing reduces social conflicts and ensures the stability of political order.

Reason (R): Imposing the will of the majority over the minority strengthens national unity in the long run.

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

Q 9 Assertion (A): Prudential reasons for power sharing focus on achieving better outcomes like political stability.

Reason (R): Moral reasons focus on the idea that sharing power is valuable in itself because it upholds democratic principles.

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

Q 10 Assertion (A): In a democracy, horizontal distribution of power ensures that no organ of government has unlimited power.

Reason (R): This system allows the legislature, executive, and judiciary to check each other and maintain a balance of power.

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

Q 11 Assertion (A): In a democracy, judges, although appointed by the executive, can check the actions of the executive.

Reason (R): This power of the judiciary ensures a system of **checks and balances** and prevents misuse of power by the executive.

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

Q 12 Assertion (A): In Belgium, the Constitution prescribes equal number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers in the central government.

Reason (R): This arrangement was made to ensure that no single community could dominate decision-making.

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

Q 13 Identify the Country-

- Emerged as an Independent country in 1948.
- Neighboring country of India.
- 74% of population speaks Sinhala while 18% of population are Tamil speakers.
- In 1956, an Act was passed to recognize Sinhala as the only official language of this country.

Select the appropriate option from the following.

- a. Germany
- b. Belgium
- c. Sri Lanka
- d. India.

Q 14 Identify the incorrect option from the following:

- a. Belgium has a population of slightly over one crore.
- b. Belgium shares borders with Germany, France, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands.
- c. Belgium is a large country in North America.
- d. None of the Above.

Q 15 What is one key reason in favor of power sharing?

- a. It ensures the dominance of the majority community.
- b. It helps avoid civic strife and potential division of the country.
- c. It guarantees stability through authoritative rule.
- d. It establishes a single language as the official language

