

CLASS X CHAPTER1 CIVICS COMPETENCY BASED QUESTIONS.

MCQs (Multiple Choice Questions)

1. The Tamil natives of Sri Lanka are known as
 - (a) Indian Tamils
 - (b) Muslim Tamils
 - (c) Sri Lankan Tamils
 - (d) Christian Tamils
2. Which of the following terms/phrases appropriately describes “Eelam”?
 - (a) A city or a town
 - (b) A Nation/State
 - (c) Bureaucracy
 - (d) Cricket Team
3. Choose the correctly matched pair about the different forms of sharing of power:
 - (I) Vertical power sharing — UK
 - (II) Horizontal power sharing — India
 - (III) Federal division of power — Sri Lanka
 - (a) (I) only
 - (b) (II) only
 - (c) (III) only
 - (d) (I), (II) & (III)
4. With respect to the concept of power-sharing, which statement is **not** correct about democracy?

- (a) People rule themselves through representatives and institutions of self-governance
- (b) People are the source of all political power and this power must be shared among them
- (c) Democratic countries believe in giving respect to ethnically diverse groups and views
- (d) Democracy does not allow citizens to participate in the political process because power is only shared among representatives

5. Modern democracies maintain a system of checks and balances. Identify correct example of horizontal power sharing:

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

6. By 1980s, political organizations in Sri Lanka were demanding an independent Tamil Eelam in which parts?

- (a) Northern parts
- (b) Eastern parts
- (c) Western parts
- (d) Northern and Eastern parts

7. Belgium is located in which continent?

- (a) Asia

- (b) Europe
- (c) North America
- (d) None of these

8. Which are the major ethnic groups of Sri Lanka?

- (a) Christian and Tamil
- (b) Buddhist and Hindu
- (c) Sinhalese and Tamil
- (d) Sinhalese and Christian

9. The constitutionally defined division of powers between levels of government is called:

- (a) Unitary division of power
- (b) Federal division of power
- (c) Constitutional division of power
- (d) None of these

10. 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

11. Which one describes a special problem that Brussels presented in the Belgian arrangement?

- (a) The Dutch-speaking people constituted a majority in the country, but minority in the capital

- (b) The French-speaking people constituted a majority in the country, but minority in the capital
- (c) The Dutch-speaking people constituted a majority in both country and capital
- (d) None of these

12. Power-sharing is considered good because it helps reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups. This is an example of which reason?

- (a) Prudential
- (b) Moral
- (c) Both prudential and moral
- (d) None of these

13. Sri Lanka gained independence in which year?

- (a) 1946
- (b) 1947
- (c) 1948
- (d) 1949

14. Approximately what percent of Sri Lanka's population speaks Sinhala?

- (a) 64%
- (b) 70%
- (c) 72%
- (d) 74%

15. Most of the Sinhala-speaking people are:
- (a) Hindus
 - (b) Muslims
 - (c) Buddhists
 - (d) Christians
16. In 1956, an Act was passed in Sri Lanka which recognized Sinhala as the only official language. This act discriminated against which community?
- (a) Tamils
 - (b) Muslims
 - (c) Christians
 - (d) Buddhists
17. Brussels has a separate government in which both language communities have:
- (a) Unequal representation
 - (b) Equal representation
 - (c) No representation
 - (d) None of the above
18. Apart from central and state governments, Belgium has a third kind called:
- (a) Community government
 - (b) People's government
 - (c) Women's government
 - (d) None of the above

19. A country in which the principle of majoritarianism (i.e. dominance of majority) led to civil war is:
- (a) Belgium
 - (b) Sri Lanka
 - (c) Netherlands
 - (d) Germany
20. Which one of the following is **not** a principle of democracy (based on this chapter)?
- (a) People are the source of all political power
 - (b) People rule themselves through institutions of self-governance
 - (c) Everyone has a voice in the shaping of public policy
 - (d) State governments are not as powerful as the central government and work under its thumb
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10 Case-based / Source-based Questions

(Each case or source is followed by sub-questions.)

Case 1

Read this scenario:

“In the city of Beirut, Khalil’s parents came from different religious communities. The country’s leaders agreed that the President must be Maronite Christian, the Prime Minister should be Sunni Muslim, the Deputy PM an Orthodox Christian,

and the Speaker a Shi'a Muslim. This arrangement continues even though now Muslims are the majority."

(a) Why can't Lebanon be a "normal democracy" in the way many countries are?

(b) What name is given to this system of allocating top posts by religious group?

(c) Which type of diversity is involved in this example?

Case 2

Read:

"Sri Lankan Tamils demanded recognition of Tamil as official language, regional autonomy, and equality in jobs and education. But successive governments refused. By 1980s, Tamil parties demanded a separate Tamil Eelam state in north and east."

(a) What is meant by "majoritarian measures" here?

(b) Which type of power-sharing were the Tamils asking for?

(c) Why did the refusal lead to conflict?

Case 3

Read:

"Belgium is a state where power is shared on linguistic basis. It has central, regional, and community governments. The

community governments handle culture, education, language. Even in Brussels, both linguistic groups have representation.”

- (a) Which three levels/tiers of government exist in Belgium?
 - (b) What powers do the community governments have?
 - (c) How does this help avoid conflict between linguistic communities?
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Case 4

Read:

“A municipality passed a law banning the use of French language in public schools in a Flemish region, arguing it helps integration. However, many French speakers felt discriminated.”

- (a) Is this measure consistent with Belgium’s power-sharing spirit?
 - (b) What negative outcome may it produce?
 - (c) Which principle of democracy is at stake here?
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Case 5

Read:

“In a democracy, the executive appoints judges. Yet judges have the power to invalidate laws of the legislature or actions of the executive.”

- (a) Which power-sharing mechanism is illustrated here?
 - (b) Why is this separation and checking mechanism important?
 - (c) What would happen if judges were fully under executive control?
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Case 6

Read:

“Power-sharing is defined as the dispersal of political authority to as many people and institutions as possible.”

- (a) Explain in your own words why this is desirable in a democracy.
 - (b) Give one real example (from India or elsewhere) of power-sharing in horizontal dimension.
 - (c) Give one real example of power-sharing in vertical dimension.
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Case 7

Read:

“Social conflict often leads to instability and violence. If a majority community imposes its will over minorities, the unity of nation is undermined.”

- (a) Which type of reasoning (prudential or moral) is being used?
- (b) Explain the link between social conflict and instability.

(c) Mention one historical example (from the chapter) illustrating this.

Case 8

Read:

“A small country is linguistically homogeneous but still practices checks and balances among executive, legislature and judiciary.”

- (a) Is power-sharing relevant even in a homogeneous society? Why or why not?
 - (b) Which forms of power-sharing would be operative?
 - (c) Name an example (real or hypothetical) of such a case.
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Case 9

Read:

“The leaders in Belgium amended their constitution multiple times to accommodate linguistic groups and adjust powers.”

- (a) Why would constitutional amendments be necessary in a power-sharing arrangement?
 - (b) How does this flexibility help maintain unity?
 - (c) What challenge does frequent amendment pose?
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Case 10

Read:

“The central government in a country imposes a policy uniformly across all states, ignoring regional differences in language, culture and needs.”

- (a) What kind of power-sharing is being violated?
- (b) What might regional groups demand as remedy?
- (c) How might ignoring diversity lead to demands for separation?

10 Assertion-Reason Questions

For each, select

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

1. Assertion (A): In a democracy, people are the source of all political power.

Reason (R): This is because democracy is the rule of the people, for the people, by the people.

2. Assertion (A): Although judges are appointed by the executive, they can check the functioning of the executive or laws made by legislatures.

Reason (R): Judges are superior and more experienced than the executive.

3. Assertion (A): Social conflict often leads to violence and political instability.

Reason (R): It brings disharmony among social groups and destroys peace.

4. Assertion (A): Imposing the will of the majority over minorities undermines national unity.

Reason (R): It divides even the majority community itself.

5. Assertion (A): In Belgium, both linguistic communities have representation even in the capital region, Brussels.

Reason (R): This ensures that the minority group does not feel excluded.

6. Assertion (A): Power-sharing among different levels of government is called vertical power-sharing.

Reason (R): It helps reconcile regional diversities by giving autonomy to local units.

7. Assertion (A): Power-sharing among legislature, executive, and judiciary is horizontal power-sharing.

Reason (R): This prevents concentration of power in one organ and ensures checks and balances.

8. Assertion (A): Majoritarianism was a cause of the Sri Lankan conflict between Sinhalese majority and Tamil minority.

Reason (R): The Sinhalese governments passed laws favoring Sinhala-speaking community while neglecting Tamil interests.

9. Assertion (A): Every society, even homogeneous ones, requires some degree of power-sharing.

Reason (R): Because concentration of power in one person or group always leads to abuse.

10. Assertion (A): Constitutional amendments in Belgium have been used to adjust power-sharing arrangements.

Reason (R): These adjustments are necessary to respond to changing linguistic and regional demands.

