

CHAPTER 1 ANSWERS

1A. The two different sets of reasons given for power sharing are prudential and moral. While prudential reasons stress that power sharing will bring out better outcomes, moral reasons emphasize the very act of power sharing as valuable.

2A. French- 80% Dutch- 20%

Belgium government is a good example of Community government. Belgium Legislature is represented by all communities. Dutch and French form the major communities and minor community group is German community.

3A. Dutch and French form the major communities and minor community group is German community.

59% of Belgium population speaks Dutch

1% of Belgium population speaks German.

Rest of them speaks French.

Capital city of Brussels consists of

French- 80%

Dutch- 20%

4A. Dutch is spoken in parts of Belgium. Sinhala is the major social group in Sri Lanka. Tamil natives of the country are called 'Sri Lankan Tamils'. The rest, whose forefathers came from India as plantation workers during colonial period, are called 'Indian Tamils'.

5A. 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. Power can be shared among governments at different levels – a general government for the entire country and governments at the provincial or regional level. Power may also be shared among different social groups, such as the religious and linguistic groups

6A. 0.1 Of Belgium's total population, 59 per cent lives in the Flemish region and speaks Dutch language. Another 40 per cent people live in the Wallonia region and speak French. Remaining 1 per cent of the Belgians speak German.

7A. When many countries of Europe came together to form the European Union, Brussels, the capital of Belgium, was chosen as its headquarters.

8A. French-Speaking and Dutch- Speaking

9A. Majoritarian 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. As a result, the Sinhala and Tamil communities strained over time. The distrust between the two communities turned into widespread conflict. It soon turned into a Civil War.

10A. 1. Between 1970 and 1993, the Belgians amended their constitution four times so as to work out an arrangement that would enable everyone to live together within the same country.

2. Here are some of the elements of the Belgian model of accommodation:

The Constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be equal in the central government.

Many powers of the central government have been given to state governments of the two regions of the country.

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

Apart from the Central and State Government, there is a third kind of government called Community government which is elected by people belonging to one language community no matter where they live. This government has the power regarding cultural, educational and language-related issues.

11A . 1.The horizontal distribution of power ensures that power is shared among different organs of

government the legislature, executive and judiciary.

2. It allows different organs of government placed at the same level to exercise different powers.

3. Such a separation ensures that none of the organs can exercise unlimited power.

4. Each organ checks the others. This results in a balance of power among various institutions. This

arrangement is called a system of checks and balances

12A. A community government is one in which different social groups are given the power to handle the affairs related to their communities. They are expected to work jointly for the benefit of the common masses without undermining any one community. Community government is an elected body by people belonging to one language, one culture or any

common property no matter where they live. This government has the power regarding cultural, educational and language related issues.

13A. Majority rule creates problems for the majority itself as too much of power in one hand is always negative. Power sharing is good because it helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups. Since social conflict often leads to violence and political instability, power sharing is a good way to ensure the stability of political order. Imposing the will of majority community over others may look like an attractive option in the short run, but in the long run it undermines the unity of the nation.

14A.1. The democratically elected government of Sri Lanka adopted a series of majoritarian measures to establish Sinhala supremacy.

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

3. The Governments followed preferential policies that favoured Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs.

4. A new constitution stipulated that the state shall protect and foster Buddhism.

15A.1. A democratic rule involves sharing power with those affected by its exercise, and who have to live with its effects.

2. People have a right to be consulted on how they are to be governed.

3. A legitimate government is one where citizens, through participation, acquire a stake in the system.

4. These are the moral reasons for power-sharing.

5. Hence, I fully agree with the statement that power-sharing is the very spirit of democracy.