

SOCIAL SCIENCE SIMPLIFIED

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Class -10th (Political Science) Subjective Practice Sheet

Chapter- 'Power Sharing'

Note: The key points of answer key is given. Students need to elaborate the given points

Q1. Give an account of ethnic composition of Belgium and Sri Lanka. [3 Marks]

Belgium

- 59% Dutch-speaking (Flemish region)
- 40% French-speaking (Wallonia region)
- 1% German-speaking
- Brussels: 80% French, 20% Dutch

Sri Lanka

- 74% Sinhala-speaking (mostly Buddhists)
- 18% Tamil-speaking (Sri Lankan Tamils + Indian Tamils)
- 7% Christians (both Sinhala & Tamil)

Q2. Majoritarian steps in Sri Lanka [3 Marks]

1. 1956: Sinhala declared the only official language.
2. Preferential policies for Sinhala in jobs & universities.
3. Constitution gave special protection to Buddhism.
4. Result: Alienation of Tamils, demand for autonomy.

Q3. Conflict resolution in Belgium / Power-sharing model [5 Marks]

1. Equal number of Dutch & French ministers in central government.
2. Separate government for Brussels with equal representation.
3. Community government for Dutch, French, German groups (cultural, language, education).
4. Federal division of power between central & state governments.

Q4. Need for power sharing [3 Marks]

1. Prevents conflict among social groups.
2. Ensures political stability and unity of nation.
3. Reflects spirit of democracy — people have a stake in governance.
4. Example: Belgium avoided division by accommodating all communities.

Q5. Forms of power sharing in modern democracies [5 Marks]

1. **Horizontal division** – Legislature, Executive, Judiciary (checks & balances).
2. **Vertical division** – Central, State, Local governments (federal system).
3. **Social groups** – Community government, reserved constituencies.
4. **Political parties/pressure groups** – Coalition governments, interest groups influencing decisions.

Q6. Handling of social conflict: Belgium vs Sri Lanka [3 Marks]

- **Belgium** – Adopted accommodation, equal representation, federal system → avoided division.
- **Sri Lanka** – Adopted majoritarianism, ignored Tamil demands → led to civil war.

Q7. Differentiate between horizontal & vertical power sharing [3 Marks]

- **Horizontal:**
 - Among organs of government (Legislature, Executive, Judiciary).
 - Ensures checks & balances.
- **Vertical:**
 - Among different levels of government (Central, State, Local).
 - Ensures division of powers across levels.

Q8. Definitions [3 Marks]

1. **Ethnic** – Social division based on shared culture, descent, or language.
2. **Majoritarianism** – Rule by majority community, disregarding minority needs.
3. **Civil War** – Violent conflict between groups within a country.
4. **Prudential** – Based on careful calculation of gains & losses; practical reasoning.