



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: X	Department: SOCIAL SCIENCE	Date of submission:
QUESTION BANK	Topic: Power Sharing (Civics)	Year:2021-22

1. Define the term 'Ethnic'.

Ans:

Ethnic means a social division based on shared culture and common descent. People belonging to an ethnic group need not have the same religion or nationality.

2. Why is the ethnic composition of Belgium very complex?

Ans:

- Belgium is a small country in Europe, having a population of a little over one crore.
- 59 per cent of the country's total population lives in the Flemish region and speak Dutch language.
- Another 40 per cent people lives in Wallonia region and speak French. Remaining one per cent of the Belgians speak German.
- Whereas in the Belgian capital, Brussels, 80 per cent of the population is French-speaking and 20 per cent is Dutch-speaking.

3. What is Majoritarianism? Is it wrong if a majority community in a country rules? Give reasons to justify your answer.

Ans:

- A belief that the majority community should be able to rule a country in whichever way it wants, by disregarding the wishes and needs of the minority is Majoritarianism. Yes, it is wrong if a majority community in a country rules.
- The very idea of power-sharing has emerged in opposition to the notions of undivided political power.
- A positive attitude towards diversity and willingness to accommodate it, is good for democracy.
- Power in the hands of one community will make the other community feel marginalized, deprived and discriminated.
- The struggle against such inequalities sometimes takes the path of conflict and defiance of State power as in Sri Lanka.

4. Mention the measures adopted by the government to establish Sinhala supremacy. Analyze how Majoritarianism has increased the feeling of alienation among the Sri Lankan Tamils?

Ans:

- Sri Lanka emerged as an independent country in 1948. The democratically elected government adopted a series of measures to establish Sinhala supremacy:
 - In 1956, an Act was passed to make Sinhala as the official language.
 - The government followed preferential policies favouring Sinhala applicants for University positions and government jobs.
 - The Constitution provided for State protection and fostering of Buddhism.

- 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, for regional autonomy and equality of opportunity in every field.
- Therefore, the measures adopted by the government to establish Sinhala supremacy led to distrust between the two communities which turned the widespread conflict into a Civil War.

5. "Power sharing is good for democracy" Give suitable arguments

OR

Why is power sharing desirable?

Ans:

Two set of reasons have been listed out which support power sharing. They are:

PRUDENTIAL REASON

- Power sharing helps to reduce the possibility of conflicts between different social groups.
- Social conflicts can turn into violence and thereby political instability, so power sharing is a good way to ensure political stability.
- Imposing the will of majority over minority can affect the unity of the country, so power sharing is very important for the promotion of national unity.

MORAL REASON

- It is a very deeper reason of power sharing and keeps the spirit of democracy
- It implies maximum popular participation so that people would be consulted on how they are to be governed.
- Power sharing is desirable to produce a responsible and legitimate government.

6. Differentiate between Horizontal and Vertical forms of Power sharing in modern democracies

Ans:

HORIZONTAL DISTRIBUTION OF POWER

- 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) It specifies the concept of checks and balances in order to check the exercises of unlimited powers of the organs
- d) It ensures the concept of the expansion of democracy

VERTICAL DISTRIBUTION OF POWER

- a) Power shared among governments at different levels 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

7. "The arrangement that the Belgians made was very innovative and a model to other European countries "Do you agree? Justify your Answer. (Refer Page no.4 and 5)

8. What are the major forms of power sharing?

(For Answer Refer Page No, 8 and 9) All the main points should Explain in details