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# Power-sharing — CBSE Class 10 Social Science Chapter Test

FREE CHAPTER TEST · CLASS X · SOCIAL SCIENCE (087) · PATTERN OF THE CBSE SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER 2026-27

| TIME ALLOWED | MAXIMUM MARKS | QUESTIONS | NAME / ROLL NO. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1½ hours | 40 | 20 (A 10 · B 4 · C 3 · D 1 · E 2) | |

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. This question paper contains 20 questions. All questions are compulsory.
2. This question paper is divided into five sections: A, B, C, D and E.
3. In Section A, Questions 1 to 8 are multiple choice questions (MCQs) and Questions 9 and 10 are assertion-reason based questions of 1 mark each.
4. In Section B, Q11–14 are very short answer (VSA) type questions, carrying 2 marks each.
5. In Section C, Q15–17 are short answer (SA) type questions, carrying 3 marks each.
6. In Section D, Q18 is a long answer (LA) type question, carrying 5 marks.
7. In Section E, Q19–20 are case study based questions, carrying 4 marks each, with sub-parts of the values of 1, 1 and 2 marks.
8. There is no overall choice. However, an internal choice has been provided in 1 question of Section B, 1 question of Section C, 1 question of Section D and in the 2-mark sub-part of each question of Section E.
9. Answer very short answer questions in about 40 words, short answer questions in about 60 words, long answer questions in about 120 words and case-based questions in about 100 words.
10. This chapter test follows the section structure, question types and marks per question of the CBSE Class X Social Science (087) Sample Question Paper 2026-27, at about half the length of the 80-mark board paper: 40 marks in 1½ hours.
11. The answer key and the marking scheme are at the end of this booklet. Attempt the paper in 1½ hours before you look at them.

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**Chapter:** Power-sharing (Political Science: Democratic Politics – II) · **Topics:** Belgium and Sri Lanka · Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka · Accommodation in Belgium · Why power-sharing is desirable · Prudential and moral reasons · Forms of power-sharing · Checks and balances

## SECTION A

*This section comprises 10 questions of 1 mark each: 8 multiple choice questions (MCQs) and 2 assertion-reason based questions.*

**1.** In Belgium, the largest language community in the country as a whole and the majority in the capital city Brussels are, respectively, 1

(A) French and Dutch
(B) Dutch and French
(C) Dutch and German
(D) German and French

**2.** In 1956, the Sri Lankan government passed an Act to recognise which language as the only official language of the country? 1

(A) Tamil
(B) English
(C) Hindi
(D) Sinhala

**3.** A 'community government' in Belgium is 1

(A) elected by people belonging to one language community, wherever they live
(B) the central government of Belgium
(C) the government of Brussels only
(D) appointed by the king

**4.** Power shared among the legislature, executive and judiciary is called 1

(A) vertical division of power
(B) federal division of power
(C) horizontal distribution of power
(D) community government

**5.** Which of the following is an example of a prudential reason for power-sharing? 1

(A) People have a right to be consulted on how they are to be governed
(B) It reduces the possibility of conflict between social groups
(C) It is the very spirit of democracy
(D) Citizens should have a stake in the system

**6.** Which of the following is NOT one of the changes made to the Constitution of Belgium between 1970 and 1993? 1

(A) The number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers in the central government shall be equal
(B) Many powers of the central government were given to the state governments of the two regions
(C) Brussels has a separate government in which both communities have equal representation
(D) Dutch was declared the only official language of the country

**7.** Interest groups of traders, businessmen, industrialists, farmers and industrial workers get a share in governmental power by 1

(A) taking part in governmental committees or influencing decision-making
(B) appointing the judges of the courts
(C) forming the executive on their own
(D) amending the Constitution

**8.** Sri Lanka became independent in 1

(A) 1956
(B) 1947
(C) 1948
(D) 1971

**9.** **Assertion (A):** The majoritarian measures adopted in Sri Lanka increased the feeling of alienation among Sri Lankan Tamils. 1

**Reason (R):** The Tamils felt that the Constitution and government policies denied them equal political rights and discriminated against them in jobs.

(A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).

(B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).

(C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.

(D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

**10.** **Assertion (A):** In a democracy, power is shared only among the legislature, executive and judiciary. 1

**Reason (R):** Power-sharing helps to ensure the political stability of a democracy.

(A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).

(B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).

(C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.

(D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

## SECTION B

*This section comprises 4 very short answer (VSA) type questions of 2 marks each.*

**11.** (a) Give two measures adopted by the Sri Lankan government in favour of the Sinhala community after independence. 2

**OR**

(b) Give two elements of the Belgian model of power-sharing.

**12.** Distinguish between horizontal and vertical distribution of power. 2

**13.** What is meant by a system of 'checks and balances'? 2

**14.** What is a civil war? Which country in the chapter suffered one, and what was its cause? 2

## SECTION C

*This section comprises 3 short answer (SA) type questions of 3 marks each.*

**15.** (a) Describe the ethnic composition of Belgium and explain why it led to tension. 3

**OR**

(b) Describe the ethnic composition of Sri Lanka.

**16.** Compare the ways in which Belgium and Sri Lanka dealt with the question of diversity, and the results. 3

**17.** Explain how power is shared among different social groups and among political parties, pressure groups and movements, with one example each. 3

## SECTION D

*This section comprises 1 long answer (LA) type questions of 5 marks each.*

**18.** (a) Why is power-sharing desirable? Explain both the prudential and the moral reasons, and name the four forms of power-sharing in modern democracies. 5

**OR**

(b) Explain the arrangements made by Belgium to accommodate its linguistic diversity. Why are they described as innovative?

## SECTION E

*This section comprises 2 case study based questions of 4 marks each, with sub-parts of 1, 1 and 2 marks.*

**19.** A series of majoritarian measures was adopted in Sri Lanka after 1948. Sri Lankan Tamils launched parties and struggles for the recognition of Tamil as an official language, for regional autonomy and equality of opportunity in securing education and jobs. Their demand for more autonomy to provinces populated by the Tamils was repeatedly denied.

**(i)** What is meant by majoritarianism? [1]

**(ii)** By the 1980s, what demand was raised by several political organisations of Sri Lankan Tamils? [1]

**(iii)** How did the distrust between the two communities affect Sri Lanka? [2]

**OR**

**(iii)** What lesson does the experience of Sri Lanka teach about the relation between majority rule and the unity of a country? [2]

**20.** In modern democracies, power-sharing arrangements can take many forms. In India, the legislature, executive and judiciary share power; there are governments at the Union, State and local levels; some constituencies are reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and coalition governments have been formed at the Centre.

**(i)** Which form of power-sharing is shown by governments at the Union, State and local levels? [1]

**(ii)** Which form of power-sharing is shown by reserved constituencies? [1]

**(iii)** How does a coalition government show power-sharing among political parties? Why does competition among parties also count as sharing power? [2]

**OR**

**(iii)** Explain with an example how the judiciary can check the other organs of government. [2]

**END OF THE QUESTION PAPER**

## ANSWER KEY — SECTION A

| Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q5 | Q6 | Q7 | Q8 | Q9 | Q10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (B) | (D) | (A) | (C) | (B) | (D) | (A) | (C) | (A) | (D) |

## MARKING SCHEME AND WORKED SOLUTIONS

*Marks for each step are shown in brackets, as in the CBSE marking scheme. Any correct alternative method earns full marks.*

**Q1. Answer (B).** 59 per cent of Belgians live in the Flemish region and speak Dutch; in Brussels, 80 per cent of the people speak French.

**Q2. Answer (D).** The Act of 1956 recognised Sinhala as the only official language, disregarding Tamil; this was one of the majoritarian measures.

**Q3. Answer (A).** It is elected by the Dutch, French and German-speaking communities and has power over cultural, educational and language-related issues.

**Q4. Answer (C).** The organs of government at the same level share power: horizontal distribution, which allows each organ to check the others.

**Q5. Answer (B).** Prudential reasons stress that power-sharing brings better outcomes, such as reducing conflict; the others are moral reasons about its intrinsic worth.

**Q6. Answer (D).** The amendments built in equality and sharing between communities; no single language was made the only official language.

**Q7. Answer (A).** Such groups share power through participation in governmental committees or by bringing influence on the decision-making process.

**Q8. Answer (C).** Sri Lanka emerged as an independent country in 1948; the Sinhala-dominated governments then adopted majoritarian measures.

**Q9. Answer (A).** Both true, and R explains A: their demands for autonomy were repeatedly denied, which led to civil war. Answer (A).

**Q10. Answer (D).** A is false: power is also shared among levels of government, social groups and parties, pressure groups and movements. R is true. Answer (D).

**Q11. (2 marks)** Answer: (a) Sinhala only official language 1956; preferences in universities and jobs, Buddhism protected; (b) equal ministers; regional powers, Brussels, community government.
**(a)** In 1956 an Act was passed to recognise Sinhala as the only official language, disregarding Tamil. [1]
The governments followed preferential policies favouring Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs; the Constitution provided that the state shall protect and foster Buddhism. [1]
**OR (b)** The number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers in the central government shall be equal; some special laws require the support of the majority of members from each linguistic group. [1]
Many powers of the central government were given to the state governments of the two regions; Brussels has a separate government with equal representation of both communities; and there is a third kind of government, the community government. [1]

**Q12. (2 marks)** Answer: Horizontal: organs at the same level; vertical: levels of government.
Horizontal distribution: power is shared among different organs of government — legislature, executive and judiciary — placed at the same level, each checking the others (checks and balances). [1]
Vertical distribution: power is shared among governments at different levels — a general government for the entire country and governments at the provincial or regional level, and local government. [1]

**Q13. (2 marks)** Answer: Each organ checks the others, giving a balance of power.
In horizontal power-sharing, none of the organs of government can exercise unlimited power; each organ checks the others. [1]
This results in a balance of power among the organs: e.g. ministers are answerable to the legislature, and judges, though appointed by the executive, can check the functioning of the executive and the laws made by the legislature. [1]

**Q14. (2 marks)** Answer: Violent internal conflict like a war; Sri Lanka, Sinhala–Tamil distrust.
A civil war is a violent conflict between opposing groups within a country that becomes so intense that it appears like a war. [1]
Sri Lanka: the distrust between the Sinhala and Tamil communities, caused by majoritarian measures and the denial of Tamil demands, turned into a civil war. [1]

**Q15. (3 marks)** Answer: (a) Dutch 59%, French 40%, German 1%; Brussels 80% French; richer French minority resented, Dutch a minority in Brussels; (b) Sinhala 74%, Tamil 18% (Sri Lankan 13%, Indian Tamils); religions.
**(a)** Of the country's total population, 59 per cent lives in the Flemish region and speaks Dutch, 40 per cent lives in the Wallonia region and speaks French, and the remaining one per cent speaks German. [1]
In the capital city Brussels, 80 per cent of the people speak French while 20 per cent are Dutch-speaking. [1]
The minority French-speaking community was relatively rich and powerful, which the Dutch-speaking community, who got the benefit of economic development and education much later, resented; the Dutch speakers were a majority in the country but a minority in Brussels, which led to tensions in the 1950s and 1960s. [1]
**OR (b)** Sri Lanka has a diverse population: the major social groups are the Sinhala-speakers (74 per cent) and the Tamil-speakers (18 per cent). [1]
Among the Tamils there are two subgroups: Tamil natives of the country, called 'Sri Lankan Tamils' (13 per cent), and 'Indian Tamils', whose forefathers came from India as plantation workers during the colonial period. [1]
Most of the Sinhala-speaking people are Buddhists, while most of the Tamils are Hindus or Muslims; about 7 per cent are Christians, both Tamil and Sinhala. [1]

**Q16. (3 marks)** Answer: Belgium accommodated diversity; Sri Lanka imposed majoritarianism; peace vs civil war.
Belgium recognised the existence of regional differences and cultural diversities and amended its Constitution four times between 1970 and 1993 to work out an arrangement that would enable everyone to live together. [1]
Sri Lanka adopted majoritarian measures to establish Sinhala supremacy, which increased the feeling of alienation among Sri Lankan Tamils. [1]
Belgium's arrangements helped to avoid civic strife and a possible division of the country on linguistic lines; in Sri Lanka, distrust turned into a civil war that caused many deaths. [1]

**Q17. (3 marks)** Answer: Social groups: community government, reserved constituencies; parties: competition, coalitions; pressure groups: committees and influence.
Power may be shared among different social groups such as religious and linguistic groups, as with the 'community government' in Belgium; in some countries there are constitutional and legal arrangements by which socially weaker sections and women are represented in legislatures, such as reserved constituencies in India. [1]
Political parties compete for power, which ensures that power does not remain in one hand; when two or more parties form an alliance and form a coalition government, they share power directly. [1]
Interest groups such as those of traders, businessmen, industrialists, farmers and industrial workers also have a share in governmental power, either through participation in governmental committees or by bringing influence on the decision-making process. [1]

**Q18. (5 marks)** Answer: (a) reduces conflict, ensures stability; spirit of democracy, legitimacy; four forms; (b) four amendments; equal ministers and special laws; regional powers; Brussels; community government.
**(a)** Prudential: power-sharing is good because it helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups. [1]
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 the majority community may look attractive in the short run but undermines the unity of the nation in the long run. [1]
Moral: power-sharing is the very spirit of democracy; people have a right to be consulted on how they are to be governed, and a legitimate government gives citizens a stake in the system. [1]
Forms: among different organs of government (horizontal); among governments at different levels (vertical, federal); [1] among different social groups; and among political parties, pressure groups and movements. [1]
**OR (b)** Belgium's leaders recognised regional differences and cultural diversities, and amended the Constitution four times between 1970 and 1993. [1]
The number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers in the central government shall be equal; some special laws require the support of a majority of members from each linguistic group, so no single community can make decisions unilaterally. [1]
Many powers of the central government were given to state governments of the two regions; the state governments are not subordinate to the central government. [1]
Brussels has a separate government in which both communities have equal representation; the French-speaking people accepted equal representation in Brussels because the Dutch-speaking community accepted equal representation in the central government. [1]
A third kind of government, the community government, is elected by people of one language community and has power over cultural, educational and language-related issues. [1]

**Q19. (4 marks)** Answer: (i) majority rules disregarding minorities; (ii) Tamil Eelam; (iii)(a) civil war, deaths, refugees, setback to life; (b) majoritarianism threatens unity, power-sharing keeps it.
**(i)** 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. [1]
**(ii)** An independent Tamil Eelam (state) in the northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka. [1]
**(iii)(a)** The distrust turned into widespread conflict and soon into a civil war; thousands of people of both communities were killed and many families were forced to leave the country as refugees. [1]
Many more lost their livelihoods, and the civil war caused a terrible setback to the social, cultural and economic life of the country. [1]
**OR (iii)(b)** If a majority community wants to force its dominance over others and refuses to share power, it can undermine the unity of the country. [1]
Accommodating the needs and wishes of minorities through power-sharing keeps a country united and politically stable. [1]

**Q20. (4 marks)** Answer: (i) vertical; (ii) among social groups; (iii)(a) coalition shares power directly; competition stops concentration; (b) judges check executive and laws.
**(i)** Vertical division of power (federal division, among governments at different levels). [1]
**(ii)** Power-sharing among different social groups. [1]
**(iii)(a)** When two or more parties form an alliance to contest elections and, if elected, form a coalition government, they share power directly. [1]
Competition ensures that power does not remain in one hand; over time it is shared among different parties representing different ideologies and social groups. [1]
**OR (iii)(b)** Though judges are appointed by the executive, they can check the functioning of the executive. [1]
They can also check laws made by the legislature, for example by examining whether a law is in keeping with the Constitution. [1]

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