

CBSE CLASS X
Social Science (087)

QUESTION PAPER

AI-generated question paper

Code: 7KQ8SF

Questions: 33

Maximum Marks: 103

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SELECTIONS USED

Subject	Social Science
Lessons	1 Power-sharing
Level of understanding	Thorough understanding
Question selection	Curated chapter coverage (~5 questions per section + 8 synthesis)
Model	claude-sonnet-4-6

Composition — Difficulty: 1 straightforward · 19 medium · 13 deep | Types: 19 Short · 8 Long · 4 MCQ · 2 Very short

Q1. deep thorough-understanding § Overview **[3]**

Some people argue that concentrating all power in one place allows a government to make quick decisions and enforce them effectively, while distributing power weakens the system. How does democracy challenge this view? In your answer, explain what principle underlies the sharing of power in a democratic government and why this principle matters.

◆ Power-sharing

Q2. medium thorough-understanding § Belgium and Sri Lanka **[3]**

Brussels was a minority region in Flanders yet had a French-speaking majority within the city. How did this demographic situation make power-sharing between the Dutch-speaking and French-speaking communities especially difficult, and how did Belgium's political arrangements attempt to address it?

◆ Power-sharing

Q3. deep thorough-understanding § Belgium and Sri Lanka **[3]**

The Sri Lankan government's majoritarian policies after 1956 were adopted through democratic elections, yet they caused deep harm to the country's democracy. How is this possible — can a democratically elected government act undemocratically? Use the Sri Lankan example to justify your answer.

◆ Power-sharing

Q4. deep thorough-understanding § Belgium and Sri Lanka **[5]**

Belgium created a 'community government' as a unique power-sharing arrangement to manage its linguistic diversity. Explain what this community government is, why it was considered necessary in Belgium, and how it differs from the majoritarian approach adopted by Sri Lanka.

◆ Power-sharing

Q5. medium thorough-understanding § Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka **[3]**

"The actions of the Sri Lankan government from 1956 onwards gradually pushed the Tamil community towards extreme demands." Analyse this statement by tracing the chain of events that turned a cultural grievance into a demand for a separate state and eventually a civil war.

◆ Power-sharing

Q6. deep thorough-understanding § Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka [3]

Sri Lanka is a democracy where the Sinhala-speaking community forms a clear majority. A student argues: 'In a democracy, the majority should have the right to make decisions for the whole country — so the Sri Lankan government's policies were perfectly democratic.' Do you agree? Justify your answer using the concept of majoritarianism.

◆ Power-sharing

Q7. medium thorough-understanding § Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka [1]

The Sri Lankan Tamils' demands escalated from autonomy and language recognition in the 1950s to a call for a separate state by the 1980s. What does this escalation reveal about the relationship between power-sharing and national unity?

◆ Power-sharing

Q8. medium thorough-understanding § Accommodation in Belgium [3]

In Belgium's power-sharing arrangement, why was it necessary to give the French-speaking minority equal representation in the Brussels government, even though the Dutch-speaking community is the majority nationwide?

◆ Power-sharing

Q9. medium thorough-understanding § Accommodation in Belgium [3]

Belgium introduced a 'community government' as a unique tier of power-sharing that is not based on territory but on linguistic identity. What kinds of issues does such a government handle, and why are these issues better decided at this level rather than by the central or regional governments? Explain with examples.

◆ Power-sharing

Q10. deep thorough-understanding § Accommodation in Belgium [5]

In Belgium, the Dutch-speaking community is the majority nationally, yet the constitution ensures equal numbers of Dutch and French-speaking ministers in the central government. A student argues: 'This is undemocratic because it gives the smaller community disproportionate power.' Do you agree? Justify your answer using the principles of power-sharing.

◆ Power-sharing

Q11. deep thorough-understanding § Accommodation in Belgium [5]

Compare the Belgian and Sri Lankan models of power-sharing. What do these two contrasting approaches reveal about the relationship between political accommodation of diversity and long-term national unity? Which model, in your view, offers a better lesson for a diverse democracy, and why?

◆ Power-sharing

Q12. medium thorough-understanding § Why power sharing is desirable? [3]

A country's ruling majority community argues: 'We won the election fairly, so we have the right to govern entirely on our own terms.' Using the concept of majoritarianism, explain why this argument is flawed and what long-term danger it poses to the country.

◆ Power-sharing

Q13. medium thorough-understanding § Why power sharing is desirable? [3]

Power sharing is described as the 'very spirit of democracy.' Do you agree? Justify your answer by distinguishing between the moral and prudential reasons for power sharing.

◆ Power-sharing

Q14. deep thorough-understanding § Why power sharing is desirable?

[5]

Two students debate power sharing:

Riya says: 'A country should share power only when there is a real risk of ethnic or communal conflict. Otherwise, it just slows things down.'

Arjun says: 'Even a completely peaceful and homogeneous society needs power sharing.'

Whose position is better supported, and why? Use both the prudential and moral reasons for power sharing in your answer.

◆ Power-sharing

Q15. medium thorough-understanding § Why power sharing is desirable?

[1]

Imposing the will of the majority may seem beneficial in the short run, but can harm the majority itself in the long run. Which of the following best explains this idea?

- (A) The majority community loses its cultural identity when it shares power with minorities.
- (B) Tyranny of the majority creates political instability and conflict that ultimately damages the entire nation, including the majority.
- (C) The majority loses electoral advantage once minorities are given equal representation.
- (D) Sharing power forces the majority to adopt the language and customs of minority groups.

A The majority community loses its cultural identity when it shares power with minorities.

B Tyranny of the majority creates political instability and conflict that ultimately damages the entire nation, including the majority.

C The majority loses electoral advantage once minorities are given equal representation.

D Sharing power forces the majority to adopt the language and customs of minority groups.

◆ Power-sharing

Q16. medium thorough-understanding § Khalil's dilemma

[3]

Lebanon distributes its top government posts permanently among its major religious communities. Critically examine this power-sharing arrangement: does permanently fixing offices by religion strengthen or weaken democratic principles? Support your answer with a reasoned argument.

◆ Power-sharing

Q17. deep thorough-understanding § Khalil's dilemma

[3]

Khalil argues that Lebanon should simply hold open elections where anyone, regardless of religion, can become president. His elders, who lived through civil war, disagree. Whose position is better supported by the prudential reasoning for power sharing discussed in this chapter? Justify your answer.

◆ Power-sharing

Q18. medium thorough-understanding § Khalil's dilemma [1]

The Muslim community in Lebanon has grown into a clear majority, yet the original power-sharing pact giving equal representation to Christians remains largely intact. Which of the following best explains why this is consistent with the spirit of power sharing in a democracy?

- (A) Majority communities are legally bound by international law to share power with minorities.
- (B) Maintaining the agreement prevents renewed conflict and ensures the stability that benefits all communities, including the majority.
- (C) In a democracy, the majority community always has less political power than the minority.
- (D) Power sharing is a temporary arrangement that applies only until one community becomes a clear majority.

◆ Power-sharing

Q19. deep thorough-understanding § Khalil's dilemma [5]

Lebanon's power-sharing arrangement permanently assigns key government offices to specific religious communities, even as the population balance between those communities has shifted over time. Belgium, on the other hand, uses a negotiated federal structure with constitutionally defined representation. Compare these two approaches to power sharing, discussing how each deals with changing demographic realities and the long-term challenges each model may face in sustaining inter-community harmony.

◆ Power-sharing

Q20. medium thorough-understanding § Forms of power-sharing [3]

In a democracy, the legislature makes laws, but judges can strike down laws that violate the constitution, even though judges are appointed by the executive. Which principle of power-sharing does this illustrate, and why is it necessary in a democracy?

◆ Power-sharing

Q21. straightforward thorough-understanding § Forms of power-sharing [1]

[mcq] In Belgium, a government body has jurisdiction over cultural and educational matters for people of a particular language community, regardless of where they reside in the country. This arrangement is best described as — (A) Federal division of power between central and state governments (B) Horizontal distribution of power among different organs of government (C) Power-sharing among different social groups through community government (D) Power-sharing among political parties through coalition government

- A Power shared among different organs of government
- B Power shared among governments at different levels (federal division)
- C Power shared among different social groups
- D Power shared among political parties through a coalition

◆ Power-sharing

Q22. medium thorough-understanding § Forms of power-sharing [3]

India has a system of reserved constituencies for weaker sections and women in legislatures. How does this arrangement relate to the broader purpose of power-sharing in a democracy?

◆ Power-sharing

Q23. deep thorough-understanding § Forms of power-sharing [3]

A student argues: 'Coalition governments are unstable and inefficient, so they weaken democracy.' Using your understanding of how political parties and alliances share power, explain why this view is incomplete.

◆ Power-sharing

- Q24.** medium thorough-understanding § Forms of power-sharing [3]
[short answer] Power-sharing is sometimes justified on prudential grounds and sometimes on moral grounds. Using the argument that 'concentrating power leads to conflict and instability,' explain which justification this represents and how it supports the case for power-sharing in a democracy.
◆ Power-sharing
- Q25.** medium thorough-understanding § Forms of power-sharing [2]
Pressure groups representing farmers or industrialists are not elected to office, yet they are considered part of power-sharing arrangements in a democracy. Explain how this is possible.
◆ Power-sharing
- Q26.** deep thorough-understanding § Forms of power-sharing [5]
Sri Lanka's majoritarian policies denied provincial autonomy to Tamil-dominated regions, while Belgium transferred significant powers to its regional State Governments. Using these two cases, analyse how the federal division of power can either prevent or contribute to national disintegration.
◆ Power-sharing
- Q27.** medium thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis) [5]
Belgium and Sri Lanka were both democracies facing ethnic tensions, yet their outcomes were starkly different. What was the fundamental difference in the approach their leaders took, and how did that difference determine whether the country moved toward stability or civil war?
◆ Power-sharing
- Q28.** medium thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis) [3]
The Belgian constitution guarantees equal representation of Dutch and French-speaking ministers in the central government, equal representation of both communities in Brussels, and a separate 'community government' for cultural matters. Identify which of the four forms of power-sharing each of these three arrangements represents, and justify your answer briefly.
◆ Power-sharing
- Q29.** medium thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis) [3]
Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka began as a series of government policies but ended in a civil war. Trace this process, explaining why each step made the next one more likely.
◆ Power-sharing
- Q30.** deep thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis) [5]
A student argues: 'Prudential reasons for power sharing are more practical and therefore more important than moral reasons.' Do you agree? Use examples from Belgium and Sri Lanka to support your answer.
◆ Power-sharing

Q31. medium thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis)

[1]

Which of the following correctly pairs a Sri Lankan government measure with the specific right or interest of Tamil citizens that it violated?

- (A) Making Sinhala the only official language — denied Tamils equal opportunity in government jobs and public life
- (B) Preferential policies for Sinhala university applicants — denied Tamils equal opportunity in higher education
- (C) Constitutional protection of Buddhism — denied official recognition to the religious identity of Tamil communities
- (D) Refusing regional autonomy to Tamil-majority areas — denied Tamils a share in political self-governance

[Correct answer: A]

- A Making Sinhala the only official language — denied equal political rights
- B Preferential policies for Sinhala applicants — denied equal opportunity in jobs and education
- C Constitutional protection of Buddhism — recognised Tamil as a minority religion
- D Denying regional autonomy — forced Tamils to seek union with India

◆ Power-sharing

Q32. deep thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis)

[3]

The chapter argues that 'tyranny of the majority is not just oppressive for the minority; it often affects the majority adversely as well.' Using Sri Lanka as evidence, explain what this statement means.

◆ Power-sharing

Q33. medium thorough-understanding § (whole-chapter synthesis)

[2]

Power sharing between the legislature, executive, and judiciary is described as 'horizontal', while power sharing between the central government, state governments, and local bodies is described as 'vertical'. What essential feature of each arrangement does its metaphor capture? Explain with examples from India.

◆ Power-sharing

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