

CBSE CLASS X
Social Science (087)

QUESTION PAPER
AI-generated question paper

Code: EMUU5Y Questions: 31 Maximum Marks: 71 Generated: 2026-06-26 09:30

SELECTIONS USED

Subject	Social Science
Lessons	1 Power-sharing
Level of understanding	Exam-ready
Question selection	CBSE board paper, whole lesson (~80 marks across Sections A-E)
Model	claude-sonnet-4-6

Composition — Difficulty: 10 straightforward · 16 medium · 5 deep | Types: 9 MCQ · 7 Short · 5 Very short · 4 Assertion–reason · 3 Long · 3 Case-based | Sections: A 13Q/13m · B 5Q/10m · C 7Q/21m · D 3Q/15m · E 3Q/12m

Q1. straightforward exam-ready [1]

Which of the following best describes the term 'majoritarianism'?

- (A) A system in which power is equally shared among all communities
- (B) A belief that the majority community should rule a country in whichever way it wants, disregarding the wishes of minorities
- (C) A form of government where the judiciary holds supreme power
- (D) A constitutional arrangement that gives equal rights to all languages

A A system in which power is equally shared among all communities

B A belief that the majority community should rule a country in whichever way it wants, disregarding the wishes of minorities

C A form of government where the judiciary holds supreme power

D A constitutional arrangement that gives equal rights to all languages

◆ Power-sharing

Q2. straightforward exam-ready [1]

In Belgium's power-sharing model, who elects the 'community government'?

- (A) The Central Government appoints its members
- (B) People belonging to one language community, regardless of where they live
- (C) Only the residents of the Brussels-Capital Region
- (D) State governments of the two major regions

A The Central Government appoints its members

B People belonging to one language community, regardless of where they live

C Only the residents of the Brussels-Capital Region

D State governments of the two major regions

◆ Power-sharing

Q3. straightforward exam-ready**[1]**

Which of the following is an example of horizontal distribution of power?

- (A) Division of powers between the Central Government and State Governments
- (B) Reservation of seats for scheduled castes in the legislature
- (C) Power shared among legislature, executive and judiciary
- (D) Formation of a coalition government by two political parties

- A Division of powers between the Central Government and State Governments
- B Reservation of seats for scheduled castes in the legislature
- C Power shared among legislature, executive and judiciary
- D Formation of a coalition government by two political parties

◆ Power-sharing

Q4. straightforward exam-ready**[1]**

A 'prudential' reason for power sharing is best described as one that is based on:

- (A) Moral values and equal rights
- (B) Careful calculation of gains and losses and better outcomes
- (C) Religious principles of justice
- (D) Constitutional mandates and legal obligations

- A Moral values and equal rights
- B Careful calculation of gains and losses and better outcomes
- C Religious principles of justice
- D Constitutional mandates and legal obligations

◆ Power-sharing

Q5. medium exam-ready**[1]**

[mcq] Which of the following statements is NOT true about Belgium's power-sharing arrangement?

- (A) The number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be equal in the central government.
- (B) The State Governments are subordinate to the Central Government on all matters.
- (C) The community government is elected by people belonging to one language community.
- (D) Brussels has a separate government in which both communities have equal representation.

- A The number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be equal in the central government
- B The French-speaking community was given a dominant role in the Brussels government
- C The State Governments are not subordinate to the Central Government
- D There is a community government elected by people of one language group

◆ Power-sharing

Q6. straightforward exam-ready**[1]**

[mcq] The constitutional arrangement in which the legislature, executive and judiciary independently limit each other's powers is known as:

- (A) Federal division of power
- (B) Community governance
- (C) Checks and balances
- (D) Coalition politics

- A Federal division of power
- B Community governance
- C Checks and balances
- D Coalition politics

◆ Power-sharing

Q7. straightforward exam-ready**[1]**

In Lebanon's power-sharing arrangement, which community must the Prime Minister belong to?

- (A) Maronite Catholic Christians
- (B) Orthodox Christians
- (C) Sunni Muslims
- (D) Shi'a Muslims

- A Maronite Catholic Christians
- B Orthodox Christians
- C Sunni Muslims
- D Shi'a Muslims

◆ Power-sharing

Q8. straightforward exam-ready**[1]**

The division of power between the Central Government and State Governments in India is best described as:

- (A) Horizontal division of power
- (B) Vertical division of power
- (C) Community division of power
- (D) Coalition division of power

- A Horizontal division of power
- B Vertical division of power
- C Community division of power
- D Coalition division of power

◆ Power-sharing

Q9. medium exam-ready**[1]**

Two statements are given below. Read both carefully and choose the correct option.

Assertion (A): Belgium's power-sharing model helped to avoid civic strife and a possible division of the country on linguistic lines.

Reason (R): Belgium amended its constitution multiple times to give equal representation to different linguistic communities and created community governments.

- (A) Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (B) Both (A) and (R) are correct, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (C) (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- (D) (A) is false, but (R) is true.

- A Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- B Both (A) and (R) are correct, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- C (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- D (A) is false, but (R) is true.

◆ Power-sharing

Q10. medium exam-ready**[1]**

Two statements are given below. Read both carefully and choose the correct option.

Assertion (A): Tyranny of the majority is harmful only to the minority community.

Reason (R): When the majority imposes its will, it often creates political instability that can affect all sections of society, including the majority.

- (A) Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (B) Both (A) and (R) are correct, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (C) (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- (D) (A) is false, but (R) is true.

- A Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- B Both (A) and (R) are correct, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- C (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- D (A) is false, but (R) is true.

◆ Power-sharing**Q11.** medium exam-ready**[1]**

Two statements are given below. Read both carefully and choose the correct option.

Assertion (A): In a democracy, power sharing is the very spirit of governance.

Reason (R): Democracy requires that people have a right to be consulted on how they are governed, and a legitimate government gives citizens a stake in the system.

- (A) Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (B) Both (A) and (R) are correct, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (C) (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- (D) (A) is false, but (R) is true.

- A Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- B Both (A) and (R) are correct, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- C (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- D (A) is false, but (R) is true.

◆ Power-sharing

Q12. medium exam-ready**[1]**

Two statements are given below. Read both carefully and choose the correct option.

Assertion (A): Sri Lankan Tamils demanded an independent state called Tamil Eelam by the 1980s.

Reason (R): The Sri Lankan government readily granted regional autonomy and official language status to Tamil, satisfying Tamil demands early on.

- (A) Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
 (B) Both (A) and (R) are correct, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
 (C) (A) is true, but (R) is false.
 (D) (A) is false, but (R) is true.

- A Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
 B Both (A) and (R) are correct, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
 C (A) is true, but (R) is false.
 D (A) is false, but (R) is true.

◆ Power-sharing

Q13. medium exam-ready**[1]**

Which among the following is an example of power being shared among social groups?

- (A) A High Court ordering a State Government to take corrective action
 (B) State Governments demanding greater share of central revenues
 (C) System of reserved constituencies for scheduled castes and women in legislatures
 (D) Two political parties forming an alliance before an election

- A A High Court ordering a State Government to take corrective action
 B State Governments demanding greater share of central revenues
 C System of reserved constituencies for scheduled castes and women in legislatures
 D Two political parties forming an alliance before an election

◆ Power-sharing

Q14. straightforward exam-ready**[2]**

Distinguish between 'Sri Lankan Tamils' and 'Indian Tamils' as two sub-groups of the Tamil-speaking community in Sri Lanka.

◆ Power-sharing

Q15. straightforward exam-ready**[2]**

[very_short_answer] Why did Sri Lanka experience a civil war? What were the main communities involved and what were their core demands?

◆ Power-sharing

Q16. medium exam-ready**[2]**

Differentiate between a prudential reason and a moral reason for power sharing.

◆ Power-sharing

Q17. straightforward exam-ready**[2]**

What special problem did Brussels present in the context of Belgian ethnic tensions?

◆ Power-sharing

- Q18.** medium exam-ready [2]
[very_short_answer] What is the 'community government' in Belgium? What subjects does it have power over?
◆ Power-sharing
- Q19.** medium exam-ready [3]
Explain how the system of 'checks and balances' works in a democracy. Give one example of how it functions in India.
◆ Power-sharing
- Q20.** medium exam-ready [3]
Trace the sequence of majoritarian measures adopted by the Sri Lankan government after independence that led to growing alienation among the Tamil community.
◆ Power-sharing
- Q21.** medium exam-ready [3]
Explain the concept of 'vertical division of power' with reference to India. Why is the constitution's role important in such a system?
◆ Power-sharing
- Q22.** deep exam-ready [3]
What does it mean to say that 'imposing the will of the majority over others may look attractive in the short run but undermines national unity in the long run'? Support your answer with evidence from Sri Lanka.
◆ Power-sharing
- Q23.** medium exam-ready [3]
[short_answer] How do political parties and interest groups participate in power sharing in a democracy? Why is competition among parties an essential element of democratic power sharing? Explain with examples.
◆ Power-sharing
- Q24.** medium exam-ready [3]
[short_answer] 'Power sharing is not just a practical need but a democratic value in itself.' Explain this statement with reference to the moral reasons for power sharing in a democracy.
◆ Power-sharing
- Q25.** deep exam-ready [3]
'Social conflict often leads to violence and political instability.' In the light of this statement, explain why power sharing is a practical necessity in diverse societies.
◆ Power-sharing
- Q26.** deep exam-ready [5]
Describe in detail the key features of Belgium's power-sharing model. How did this model successfully prevent the break-up of the country on linguistic lines?
◆ Power-sharing
- Q27.** medium exam-ready [5]
Explain the four major forms of power sharing found in modern democracies. For each form, identify one real-world example (from India or elsewhere as discussed).
◆ Power-sharing

Q28. deep exam-ready

[5]

Compare how Belgium and Sri Lanka dealt with ethnic and linguistic diversity within their democracies. What lessons does this comparison offer about the importance of power sharing for national unity?

◆ Power-sharing

Q29. medium exam-ready

[4]

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

Sri Lanka emerged as an independent country in 1948. The leaders of the Sinhala community sought to secure dominance over government by virtue of their majority. In 1956, an Act was passed to recognise Sinhala as the only official language, disregarding Tamil. The governments followed preferential policies that favoured Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs. A new constitution stipulated that the state shall protect and foster Buddhism. The Sri Lankan Tamils launched parties and struggles for recognition of Tamil as an official language, regional autonomy and equality of opportunity. Their demands were repeatedly denied. By the 1980s, several political organisations were formed demanding an independent Tamil Eelam. The distrust between the two communities turned into a civil war, causing thousands of deaths and displacing many families.

- (i) Identify any two specific majoritarian measures taken by the Sri Lankan government that discriminated against the Tamil community. (1 mark)
- (ii) Why did the Sri Lankan Tamils ultimately demand the creation of a separate state called Tamil Eelam? (1 mark)
- (iii) What does the Sri Lankan experience tell us about the consequences of refusing to share power with minority communities? (2 marks)

◆ Power-sharing

Q30. medium exam-ready

[4]

[case_study] Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

The Belgian leaders recognised the existence of regional differences and cultural diversities. Between 1970 and 1993, they amended their constitution four times to work out an arrangement that would enable everyone to live together within the same country. 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, which are not subordinate to the Central Government. Brussels has a separate government in which both communities have equal representation. Apart from the Central and State Governments, a third kind of government — the 'community government' — is elected by people belonging to one language community and has power over cultural, educational and language-related issues.

- (i) Why was it considered necessary to give the State Governments of the two regions powers independent of the Central Government? (1 mark)
- (ii) What is the role of the 'community government' in Belgium, and what makes it unique compared to a typical state government? (1 mark)
- (iii) How does the Belgian model reflect the idea that sharing power strengthens rather than weakens a country? (2 marks)

◆ Power-sharing

Q31. deep exam-ready**[4]**

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

In the city of Beirut, there lived a man called Khalil. His parents came from different communities — his father was an Orthodox Christian and his mother a Sunni Muslim. At the end of the civil war, Lebanon's leaders agreed to some basic rules for power sharing. The country's President must belong to the Maronite sect of Catholic Christians, the Prime Minister must be from the Sunni Muslim community, the post of Deputy Prime Minister is fixed for Orthodox Christians and that of the Speaker for Shi'a Muslims. When the Christians and Muslims came to this agreement, they were nearly equal in population. Both sides have continued to respect this agreement though now the Muslims are in clear majority. Khalil does not like this system. He believes that in a 'normal' democracy, elections should be held freely and whoever wins maximum votes should become the president, regardless of community.

- (i) What type of power-sharing arrangement does Lebanon's system represent? (1 mark)
(ii) Why do Khalil's elders, who witnessed the civil war, support the existing power-sharing rules even though the demographic balance has shifted? (1 mark)
(iii) Evaluate Khalil's argument for 'normal' democratic elections versus the existing community-based system. Which approach is more suitable for a deeply divided society like Lebanon, and why? (2 marks)

◆ Power-sharing

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ANSWER KEY

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Questions: 31

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Q1. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

Which of the following best describes the term 'majoritarianism'?

(A) A system in which power is equally shared among all communities

(B) A belief that the majority community should rule a country in whichever way it wants, disregarding the wishes of minorities

(C) A form of government where the judiciary holds supreme power

(D) A constitutional arrangement that gives equal rights to all languages

A A system in which power is equally shared among all communities

B A belief that the majority community should rule a country in whichever way it wants, disregarding the wishes of minorities

C A form of government where the judiciary holds supreme power

D A constitutional arrangement that gives equal rights to all languages

◆ Power-sharing

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Model Answer**(B)** A belief that the majority community should rule a country in whichever way it wants, disregarding the wishes of minorities.**Explanation**

The term 'majoritarianism' is directly defined in the Sri Lanka chapter: "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." Always quote or closely paraphrase the textbook definition in MCQ/1-mark answers.

Q2. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

In Belgium's power-sharing model, who elects the 'community government'?

- (A) The Central Government appoints its members
- (B) People belonging to one language community, regardless of where they live
- (C) Only the residents of the Brussels-Capital Region
- (D) State governments of the two major regions

- A The Central Government appoints its members
- B People belonging to one language community, regardless of where they live
- C Only the residents of the Brussels-Capital Region
- D State governments of the two major regions

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Model Answer

(B) People belonging to one language community, regardless of where they live

The community government in Belgium is elected by people belonging to one language community — Dutch, French, or German-speaking — no matter where they live.

Source: *Accommodation in Belgium, Chapter 1*

Explanation

The passage explicitly states: "This 'community government' is elected by people belonging to one language community — Dutch, French and German-speaking — no matter where they live." This is a unique feature of Belgium's model — the electorate is defined by language/community identity, not by geographic residence. Examiners expect the exact option (B) with a brief supporting line from the text.

Q3. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

Which of the following is an example of horizontal distribution of power?

- (A) Division of powers between the Central Government and State Governments
- (B) Reservation of seats for scheduled castes in the legislature
- (C) Power shared among legislature, executive and judiciary
- (D) Formation of a coalition government by two political parties

- A Division of powers between the Central Government and State Governments
- B Reservation of seats for scheduled castes in the legislature
- C Power shared among legislature, executive and judiciary
- D Formation of a coalition government by two political parties

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Model Answer

(C) Power shared among legislature, executive and judiciary

Horizontal distribution means different organs of government at the **same level** share power. Legislature, executive, and judiciary exercise different powers and check each other.

Explanation

The textbook clearly defines horizontal distribution as power shared among different **organs** of government (legislature, executive, judiciary) at the same level through a system of checks and balances. Option A is vertical/federal division; Option B is sharing among social groups; Option D is sharing among political parties.

Q4. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

A 'prudential' reason for power sharing is best described as one that is based on:

- (A) Moral values and equal rights
- (B) Careful calculation of gains and losses and better outcomes
- (C) Religious principles of justice
- (D) Constitutional mandates and legal obligations

- A Moral values and equal rights
- B Careful calculation of gains and losses and better outcomes
- C Religious principles of justice
- D Constitutional mandates and legal obligations

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Model Answer

(B) Careful calculation of gains and losses and better outcomes

A 'prudential' reason is based on prudence — careful calculation of gains and losses — and stresses that power sharing leads to better outcomes, such as reducing conflict and ensuring political stability.

Explanation

The textbook explicitly defines "prudential" as "based on prudence, or on careful calculation of gains and losses," contrasted with moral reasons. Examiners expect students to recall this definition directly. Option (B) matches word-for-word with the textbook definition.

Source: Chapter 1, "Why power sharing is desirable?"

Q5. medium exam-ready

[1]

[mcq] Which of the following statements is NOT true about Belgium's power-sharing arrangement?

- (A) The number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be equal in the central government.
- (B) The State Governments are subordinate to the Central Government on all matters.
- (C) The community government is elected by people belonging to one language community.
- (D) Brussels has a separate government in which both communities have equal representation.

A The number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be equal in the central government

B The French-speaking community was given a dominant role in the Brussels government

C The State Governments are not subordinate to the Central Government

D There is a community government elected by people of one language group

◆ Power-sharing

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Model Answer

(B) The State Governments are not subordinate to the Central Government.

The passage clearly states that State Governments in Belgium are **not** subordinate to the Central Government — so option (B) among the given answer choices (which says "French-speaking community was given a dominant role in Brussels government") is NOT true.

Source: Accommodation in Belgium, Chapter 1

Explanation

The question asks which statement is **NOT true** about Belgium. The passage states that in Brussels, **both communities have equal representation** — the French-speaking community was NOT given a dominant role. The other options (equal ministers in central govt, community government by language group, State Governments not subordinate to Centre) are all confirmed true by the passage. Examiners expect you to match each option against the text carefully.

Q6. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

[mcq] The constitutional arrangement in which the legislature, executive and judiciary independently limit each other's powers is known as:

- (A) Federal division of power
- (B) Community governance
- (C) Checks and balances
- (D) Coalition politics

- A Federal division of power
- B Community governance
- C Checks and balances
- D Coalition politics

◆ Power-sharing

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Model Answer**(C) Checks and balances**

When the legislature, executive, and judiciary independently limit each other's powers, this constitutional arrangement is called **checks and balances**.

Explanation

The passage from Chapter 1 explicitly states: "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." Federal division of power refers to power shared between different *levels* of government (Centre and States), not between organs at the same level. Always distinguish between *horizontal* (checks and balances) and *vertical* (federal) distribution of power.

Q7. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

In Lebanon's power-sharing arrangement, which community must the Prime Minister belong to?

- (A) Maronite Catholic Christians
- (B) Orthodox Christians
- (C) Sunni Muslims
- (D) Shi'a Muslims

- A Maronite Catholic Christians
- B Orthodox Christians
- C Sunni Muslims
- D Shi'a Muslims

◆ Power-sharing

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Model Answer**(C) Sunni Muslims**

As per Lebanon's power-sharing arrangement, the Prime Minister must belong to the Sunni Muslim community.

Source: Khalil's dilemma, Chapter 1

Explanation

The passage clearly states: "*The Prime Minister must be from the Sunni Muslim community.*" Students often confuse this with the President's post, which belongs to Maronite Catholic Christians. Remember the three key posts: President = Maronite Christian, Prime Minister = Sunni Muslim, Speaker = Shi'a Muslim.

Q8. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

The division of power between the Central Government and State Governments in India is best described as:

- (A) Horizontal division of power
- (B) Vertical division of power
- (C) Community division of power
- (D) Coalition division of power

- A Horizontal division of power
- B Vertical division of power
- C Community division of power
- D Coalition division of power

◆ Power-sharing

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Model Answer**(B) Vertical division of power****Explanation**

The textbook (Chapter 2) explicitly states that "vertical division of power among different levels of government is one of the major forms of power-sharing in modern democracies" and directly links this to federalism in India. Horizontal division refers to power-sharing among organs of government (legislature, executive, judiciary) — a different concept entirely.

Q9. medium exam-ready

[1]

Two statements are given below. Read both carefully and choose the correct option.

Assertion (A): Belgium's power-sharing model helped to avoid civic strife and a possible division of the country on linguistic lines.

Reason (R): Belgium amended its constitution multiple times to give equal representation to different linguistic communities and created community governments.

- (A) Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
(B) Both (A) and (R) are correct, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
(C) (A) is true, but (R) is false.
(D) (A) is false, but (R) is true.

- A Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
B Both (A) and (R) are correct, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
C (A) is true, but (R) is false.
D (A) is false, but (R) is true.

◆ Power-sharing

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Model Answer

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

Belgium amended its constitution four times, created community governments, and ensured equal representation — these measures directly enabled the avoidance of civic strife and national division.

Explanation

The passage explicitly states that Belgium's constitutional amendments and community government arrangements "helped to avoid civic strife...and a possible division of the country on linguistic lines." The Reason directly explains *how* the Assertion came about, making (A) the correct option. Always check if R is not just true but also causally linked to A.

Q10. medium exam-ready**[1]**

Two statements are given below. Read both carefully and choose the correct option.

Assertion (A): Tyranny of the majority is harmful only to the minority community.

Reason (R): When the majority imposes its will, it often creates political instability that can affect all sections of society, including the majority.

- (A) Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
(B) Both (A) and (R) are correct, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
(C) (A) is true, but (R) is false.
(D) (A) is false, but (R) is true.

- A Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
B Both (A) and (R) are correct, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
C (A) is true, but (R) is false.
D (A) is false, but (R) is true.

◆ Power-sharing

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Model Answer**(D) (A) is false, but (R) is true.**

The Assertion is false because tyranny of the majority harms not only the minority but also destabilises society as a whole. The Reason is true and correctly explains this broader impact.

Explanation

- The Assertion is **false** because majority tyranny damages social harmony and political stability for *all* groups, not just the minority.
- The Reason is **true** — political instability arising from majority imposition affects every section of society.
- Since (A) is false, options A, B, and C are eliminated. The correct answer is **(D)**.

Q11. medium exam-ready**[1]**

Two statements are given below. Read both carefully and choose the correct option.

Assertion (A): In a democracy, power sharing is the very spirit of governance.

Reason (R): Democracy requires that people have a right to be consulted on how they are governed, and a legitimate government gives citizens a stake in the system.

- (A) Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
(B) Both (A) and (R) are correct, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
(C) (A) is true, but (R) is false.
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B Both (A) and (R) are correct, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
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◆ Power-sharing

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Model Answer

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

Power sharing is the spirit of democracy because democracy requires consultation with people, giving citizens a stake in governance — which directly explains why power sharing is central.

Explanation

The Reason directly explains the Assertion: the requirement to consult people and give them a stake in the system is precisely *why* power sharing is democracy's spirit. The textbook states that in a democracy, people are the source of all political power and everyone must have a voice in shaping public policies — making (R) a correct and sufficient explanation of (A).

Q12. medium exam-ready

[1]

Two statements are given below. Read both carefully and choose the correct option.

Assertion (A): Sri Lankan Tamils demanded an independent state called Tamil Eelam by the 1980s.

Reason (R): The Sri Lankan government readily granted regional autonomy and official language status to Tamil, satisfying Tamil demands early on.

- (A) Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (B) Both (A) and (R) are correct, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (C) (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- (D) (A) is false, but (R) is true.

- A Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- B Both (A) and (R) are correct, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- C (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- D (A) is false, but (R) is true.

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Model Answer**(C) (A) is true, but (R) is false.**

The Assertion is correct — Tamil groups did demand Tamil Eelam by the 1980s. The Reason is false — the Sri Lankan government never granted Tamil official language status or regional autonomy; instead, it passed majoritarian measures like the Sinhala-only Act of 1956.

Explanation

The key is knowing that the Sri Lankan government did the **opposite** of what Reason (R) claims — it repeatedly *denied* Tamil demands for regional autonomy and official language recognition, which is precisely **why** Tamil groups escalated their demand to a separate state. Always verify both the factual accuracy of each statement and the cause-effect link between them.

Q13. medium exam-ready

[1]

Which among the following is an example of power being shared among social groups?

- (A) A High Court ordering a State Government to take corrective action
- (B) State Governments demanding greater share of central revenues
- (C) System of reserved constituencies for scheduled castes and women in legislatures
- (D) Two political parties forming an alliance before an election

- A A High Court ordering a State Government to take corrective action
- B State Governments demanding greater share of central revenues
- C System of reserved constituencies for scheduled castes and women in legislatures
- D Two political parties forming an alliance before an election

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Model Answer**(C) System of reserved constituencies for scheduled castes and women in legislatures**

This represents power sharing among **social groups**. Reserved constituencies give weaker sections and women a share in governmental power.

Explanation

The textbook explicitly states that power shared among different social groups — such as the system of reserved constituencies for SCs, STs, and women in legislatures — is an example of **community/social group power sharing**. Option A is judiciary checking executive (horizontal/checks & balances). Option B is states demanding revenue share (vertical/federal). Option D is political party alliance (among political parties). Only C matches social group power sharing.

Q14. straightforward exam-ready

[2]

Distinguish between 'Sri Lankan Tamils' and 'Indian Tamils' as two sub-groups of the Tamil-speaking community in Sri Lanka.

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Model Answer

Sri Lankan Tamils are those whose ancestors migrated from India to Sri Lanka in ancient times and settled there permanently; they are concentrated in the northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka.

Indian Tamils are those whose ancestors were brought to Sri Lanka by the British during colonial rule to work on tea and rubber plantations; they are mainly found in the central highlands.

Source: Power Sharing, Chapter 1

Explanation

- The question asks you to **distinguish** — so clearly state what is different about each group.
- Key points examiners look for: (1) time/manner of migration and (2) geographical location/occupation for each group.
- The source passage mentions these as two sub-groups in the ethnic communities map; use your textbook knowledge to distinguish them since the passage does not elaborate further.
- Keep it within 2–3 lines per group for a 2-mark answer.

Q15. straightforward exam-ready

[2]

[very_short_answer] Why did Sri Lanka experience a civil war? What were the main communities involved and what were their core demands?

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Model Answer

Sri Lanka experienced a civil war due to **majoritarian policies** that favoured the Sinhala majority and discriminated against Sri Lankan Tamils. The two main communities involved were the **Sinhalese** and the **Sri Lankan Tamils**. Tamil core demands included recognition of Tamil as an official language, regional autonomy, equality in education and jobs, and eventually a separate independent state called **Tamil Eelam**.

Source: *Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka, Chapter 1*

Explanation

This 2-mark question expects two clear points: **cause** (majoritarian policies creating alienation) and **demands** (language, autonomy, equality/Eelam). Name both communities explicitly. Examiners look for the term "Tamil Eelam" as it shows precise textbook knowledge. Avoid writing a long essay — two to three focused sentences are sufficient.

Q16. medium exam-ready

[2]

Differentiate between a prudential reason and a moral reason for power sharing.

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Model Answer

A **prudential reason** for power sharing is based on careful calculation of gains and losses — power sharing reduces conflict between social groups and ensures political stability. It prevents the tyranny of the majority, which can undermine national unity in the long run.

A **moral reason** is based on the intrinsic value of sharing power — it reflects the very spirit of democracy, giving people the right to be consulted on governance and making the government legitimate through citizens' participation.

Source: *Chapter 1, "Why power sharing is desirable?"*

Explanation

Examiners expect a clear **contrast** between the two reasons — "prudential = practical/outcome-based" vs "moral = principle/value-based." Use the textbook's own language: "careful calculation of gains and losses" for prudential, and "spirit of democracy / right to be consulted" for moral. At 2 marks, one sentence per reason with a brief elaboration is sufficient — avoid lengthy examples.

Q17. straightforward exam-ready

[2]

What special problem did Brussels present in the context of Belgian ethnic tensions?

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Model Answer

Brussels presented a special problem because the Dutch-speaking people, who constituted a **majority in the country** (59%), were a **minority in the capital city Brussels**, where 80% were French-speaking and only 20% were Dutch-speaking. This created a contradiction — the majority community nationally was outnumbered in its own capital.

Source: *Belgium and Sri Lanka, Chapter 1*

Explanation

The examiner is looking for the specific contradiction highlighted in the textbook: majority vs. minority status flipping between the country and the capital. Two key facts must be stated — Dutch-speakers are the national majority but a minority in Brussels. Using the word "special problem" (echoing the textbook) shows precise reading. Mentioning the percentages (80% French in Brussels) adds accuracy and earns full marks.

Q18. medium exam-ready

[2]

[very_short_answer] What is the 'community government' in Belgium? What subjects does it have power over?

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Model Answer

The **community government** in Belgium is a third tier of government elected by people belonging to one language community — Dutch, French, or German-speaking — regardless of where they live in the country. It has power over **cultural, educational, and language-related issues**.

Source: *Accommodation in Belgium, Chapter 1*

Explanation

- The question has two parts: (1) what it is, and (2) its powers — address both for full 2 marks.
- Key phrase to remember: "no matter where they live" — it is not region-based but community/language-based.
- Powers are limited to three areas: culture, education, and language. Don't add anything not in the text.

Q19. medium exam-ready

[3]

Explain how the system of 'checks and balances' works in a democracy. Give one example of how it functions in India.

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Model Answer

In a democracy, **checks and balances** refers to a system where power is distributed among different organs of government — the **legislature, executive, and judiciary** — so that no single organ becomes too powerful. Each organ can limit and oversee the functioning of the others, preventing misuse of authority.

Example from India: If the executive (government) passes a law that violates citizens' fundamental rights, the **judiciary can strike it down** as unconstitutional, thus checking the power of the legislature and executive.

Source: Democratic Politics, Chapter 1 (Power Sharing)

Explanation

- The examiner expects: definition of checks and balances + how the three organs limit each other + one concrete Indian example.
- The phrase "no organ becomes too powerful" is key — use it.
- Good examples: judiciary striking down a law, Parliament questioning the executive, President returning a bill. Any one suffices.
- Don't confuse this with federalism (vertical power-sharing); checks and balances is **horizontal** power-sharing among legislature, executive, judiciary.

Q20. medium exam-ready

[3]

Trace the sequence of majoritarian measures adopted by the Sri Lankan government after independence that led to growing alienation among the Tamil community.

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Model Answer

After independence, the Sri Lankan government adopted several majoritarian measures that alienated the Tamil community:

1. **1956 Act:** Sinhala was recognised as the *only* official language, disregarding Tamil.
2. **Preferential policies:** Sinhala applicants were favoured for university admissions and government jobs.
3. **New Constitution:** The state was mandated to protect and foster Buddhism.

These successive measures made Tamils feel denied equal political rights, discriminated against in education and employment, and that their language and culture were ignored.

Source: *Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka, Chapter 1*

Explanation

The examiner expects **three distinct measures listed in sequence** — the language act, preferential policies, and constitutional protection of Buddhism — followed by a brief statement linking these to Tamil alienation.

Avoid writing a long essay; use numbered points for clarity. All three measures must be mentioned for full marks; missing even one risks losing a mark.

Q21. medium exam-ready

[3]

Explain the concept of 'vertical division of power' with reference to India. Why is the constitution's role important in such a system?

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Model Answer

Vertical division of power refers to the sharing of power among different levels of government — Central, State, and Local. In India, this system is called **federalism**.

- The **Central (Union) Government** handles national subjects like defence, foreign affairs, and currency (Union List).
- **State Governments** handle local matters like police, agriculture, and trade (State List).
- **Local Governments** (Panchayats and Municipalities) handle issues at the village/town level — this is the third tier added through decentralisation.

Role of the Constitution: The Constitution clearly defines the jurisdiction of each tier, guarantees their existence, and specifies sources of revenue. Changes to this power-sharing arrangement cannot be made unilaterally — both Houses of Parliament and at least half the State legislatures must approve any change. The judiciary (Supreme Court/High Courts) acts as umpire in disputes. Without constitutional backing, lower tiers could be overruled by higher ones at any time.

Source: Chapter 2 — Federalism, "What is Federalism?" and "What makes India a federal country?"

Explanation

- Examiners expect you to name all **three tiers** with examples from the Union/State/Concurrent lists.
- The key point for the Constitution's role: it **guarantees** each tier's existence and powers — neither level can unilaterally strip the other. Mention the **amendment procedure** and **judicial review** for full marks.
- Avoid writing about linguistic states or language policy here — those are separate sub-topics and waste word count for this question.

Q22. deep exam-ready

[3]

What does it mean to say that 'imposing the will of the majority over others may look attractive in the short run but undermines national unity in the long run'? Support your answer with evidence from Sri Lanka.

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Model Answer

When we say that majority imposition looks attractive in the short run but undermines national unity in the long run, it means that giving one dominant group all power may seem like an easy solution, but it alienates minorities and creates lasting resentment and conflict.

Evidence from Sri Lanka: The Sinhala-only Act (1956) made Sinhala the official language, sidelining Tamils. Policies favouring Sinhalese in government jobs and education marginalised the Tamil community. In the short run, the Sinhala majority was satisfied. In the long run, Tamils felt excluded, leading to civil war and severe damage to national unity.

Source: Chapter 1 — Why is power sharing desirable?

Explanation

- The examiner expects **two parts**: (1) a clear explanation of the statement and (2) Sri Lanka as evidence.
- Name specific Sinhala-majority policies (Sinhala-only Act, discrimination in jobs/education) — these fetch marks.
- Use the textbook phrase "**prudential reason**" if space permits; it signals you know the concept.
- Do not confuse "short run" (majority satisfied) with "long run" (national unity broken).

Q23. medium exam-ready

[3]

[short_answer] How do political parties and interest groups participate in power sharing in a democracy? Why is competition among parties an essential element of democratic power sharing? Explain with examples.

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Model Answer**Political parties and interest groups in power sharing:**

In a democracy, political parties compete in elections, representing different ideologies and social groups. This ensures power does not remain in one hand; over time, power is shared among different parties. When two or more parties form an alliance, they create a **coalition government**, directly sharing power.

Interest groups — such as traders, farmers, industrialists, and industrial workers — share in governmental power by participating in governmental committees or influencing the decision-making process.

Why competition is essential:

Competition among parties ensures that no single party holds power indefinitely. For example, in India, coalition governments like the UPA and NDA demonstrate how multiple parties share power. If one party misuses power, voters can reject it in the next election, keeping power accountable and distributed.

Source: *Democratic Politics – II, Chapter 1 (Forms of Power Sharing)*

Explanation

- The examiner expects two parts: (1) how parties and interest groups participate, and (2) why competition is essential — with an example.
- Key terms to use: **coalition government, interest/pressure groups, competition, power sharing.**
- The example of coalition governments (UPA/NDA in India) directly supports the point about competition leading to shared power.
- Avoid writing about other forms of power sharing (horizontal/vertical/social) — the question is specifically about parties and interest groups.

Q24. medium exam-ready

[3]

[short_answer] 'Power sharing is not just a practical need but a democratic value in itself.' Explain this statement with reference to the moral reasons for power sharing in a democracy.

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Model Answer

Power sharing is not merely a practical necessity but a fundamental democratic value. The **moral reason** for power sharing is that democracy itself is built on the idea that people have a **right to be consulted** on how they are governed. Power sharing is the very spirit of democracy.

A democratic rule involves sharing power with those affected by its exercise, who have to live with its effects. A legitimate government is one where citizens, through participation, acquire a stake in the system. Thus, the act of power sharing is valuable in itself — not just because it produces better outcomes, but because it upholds the dignity and rights of all citizens.

In contrast to prudential reasons (which focus on reducing conflict and ensuring stability), moral reasons emphasise that power sharing is **intrinsically right**, regardless of its consequences.

Source: Chapter 1 — Power Sharing, "Why power sharing is desirable?"

Explanation

- Examiners want the **distinction between prudential and moral reasons** clearly stated.
- The key moral reason: people have a **right to participate** in governance; power sharing is the spirit of democracy, not just a tool.
- Quote or closely paraphrase: "A legitimate government is one where citizens, through participation, acquire a stake in the system."
- Don't confuse moral with prudential (conflict-reduction, stability = prudential; right to be consulted, spirit of democracy = moral).
- At 3 marks, 60–80 words is sufficient — no need to list all four forms of power sharing.

Q25. deep exam-ready

[3]

'Social conflict often leads to violence and political instability.' In the light of this statement, explain why power sharing is a practical necessity in diverse societies.

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Model Answer

In diverse societies, different ethnic, linguistic, and religious groups compete for resources and political influence. If power is concentrated in one group, others feel marginalized and alienated, leading to social conflict and violence — as seen in Sri Lanka, where suppression of Tamil interests triggered a prolonged civil war.

Power sharing is therefore a **practical necessity** because:

- It **reduces conflict** by giving all groups a stake in governance.
- It **prevents majoritarianism**, ensuring no single group imposes its will.
- It **increases political stability** by making all sections feel represented and included.

Democracies that share power develop mechanisms to negotiate differences without violence, making societies more stable and peaceful.

Source: Chapter 1 – Power Sharing; Chapter 5 – Popular Struggles and Movements

Explanation

Examiners look for two things: (1) the **prudential reason** — power sharing prevents conflict and instability (practical benefit), and (2) a brief example or contrast (Sri Lanka vs. Belgium works well). Avoid writing only abstract definitions; link the argument to the statement in the question. The phrase "practical necessity" from the question must be addressed directly. Three clear points with one example is ideal for 3 marks.

Q26. deep exam-ready

[5]

Describe in detail the key features of Belgium's power-sharing model. How did this model successfully prevent the break-up of the country on linguistic lines?

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Model Answer

Belgium's ethnic composition was complex — 59% Dutch-speaking (Flemish), 40% French-speaking (Wallonia), and 1% German-speaking. Tensions arose because the French-speaking minority was richer and more powerful, which was resented by the Dutch-speaking majority. Between 1970 and 1993, the constitution was amended four times to create the Belgian model:

1. **Equal representation in Central Government** — Dutch and French-speaking ministers are equal in number; special laws need majority support from each linguistic group, preventing unilateral decisions.
2. **Devolution of powers** — State governments of the two regions have independent powers; they are not subordinate to the Central Government.
3. **Equal representation in Brussels** — Both communities have equal representation in the Brussels government.
4. **Community Government** — A third tier elected by each language community handles cultural, educational, and language matters.

These arrangements avoided civic strife and prevented a division of the country on linguistic lines. Brussels was later chosen as the headquarters of the European Union.

Source: *Power Sharing, Chapter 1 (Accommodation in Belgium)*

Explanation

- Examiners expect all **four elements** of the Belgian model to be listed — missing even one costs marks.
- Briefly mention the **cause of tension** (French minority richer, Dutch majority resentful) before the solution — this shows context and earns the introductory mark.
- The conclusion must link the model to **preventing linguistic break-up** — that's the direct answer to the second part of the question.
- Avoid writing a general essay on power-sharing; stay focused on Belgium's specific features.

Q27. medium exam-ready

[5]

Explain the four major forms of power sharing found in modern democracies. For each form, identify one real-world example (from India or elsewhere as discussed).

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Model Answer

There are four major forms of power sharing in modern democracies:

1. Among organs of government (Horizontal distribution): Power is divided among the legislature, executive, and judiciary. Each organ checks and balances the others. Example: In India, judges appointed by the executive can check laws made by the legislature.

2. Among levels of government (Vertical/Federal division): Power is shared between the Central (Union) Government and State Governments. Example: India's federal system divides powers between the Union and State governments through the Constitution.

3. Among social groups (Community government): Power is shared among religious and linguistic groups. Example: Belgium's community government gives power to Dutch, French, and German-speaking communities.

4. Among political parties and pressure groups: Competition among parties ensures power is not concentrated. When parties form alliances, they share power through coalition governments. Example: Coalition governments in India, where multiple parties share ministerial power.

Source: *Forms of Power-sharing, Chapter 1 (Democratic Politics II)*

Explanation

- Examiners expect all **four forms** clearly named with a one-line description and one example each.
- Use the textbook terms: **horizontal, vertical/federal, community government, coalition.**
- Examples from Belgium, India, or as given in the text are all acceptable.
- Do not confuse "horizontal" (same level, different organs) with "vertical" (different levels of government).
- Each point should be roughly equal in length — avoid writing too much on one and skipping another.

Q28. deep exam-ready

[5]

Compare how Belgium and Sri Lanka dealt with ethnic and linguistic diversity within their democracies. What lessons does this comparison offer about the importance of power sharing for national unity?

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Model Answer

Belgium's Approach:

Belgium recognised its ethnic and linguistic diversity (59% Dutch-speaking, 40% French-speaking) and amended its constitution four times between 1970 and 1993. Key steps included equal representation of Dutch and French ministers in the central government, powers given to state governments, equal representation in Brussels, and a separate "community government" for cultural and language matters. No single community could make decisions unilaterally. This avoided civic strife and possible division of the country.

Sri Lanka's Approach:

Sri Lanka, with a 74% Sinhala majority, adopted majoritarian policies. The Sinhala community imposed its dominance, ignoring Tamil interests, which led to feelings of alienation, mistrust, and eventually prolonged civil conflict.

Lesson:

Belgium shows that sharing power respects diversity and strengthens unity. Sri Lanka shows that forcing majority dominance undermines it. Power sharing is essential for national unity in a diverse democracy.

Source: Chapter 1 – Power Sharing

Explanation

- Examiners expect a **direct comparison** — what Belgium did vs. what Sri Lanka did — before drawing the lesson.
- Name at least **3 specific features** of the Belgian model (equal ministers, state governments, community government).
- The lesson must explicitly link **power sharing** → **unity** and **majority dominance** → **conflict**.
- Don't write vague phrases like "Belgium was successful" without stating *how*. Specific details earn marks.

Q29. medium exam-ready

[4]

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

Sri Lanka emerged as an independent country in 1948. The leaders of the Sinhala community sought to secure dominance over government by virtue of their majority. In 1956, an Act was passed to recognise Sinhala as the only official language, disregarding Tamil. The governments followed preferential policies that favoured Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs. A new constitution stipulated that the state shall protect and foster Buddhism. The Sri Lankan Tamils launched parties and struggles for recognition of Tamil as an official language, regional autonomy and equality of opportunity. Their demands were repeatedly denied. By the 1980s, several political organisations were formed demanding an independent Tamil Eelam. The distrust between the two communities turned into a civil war, causing thousands of deaths and displacing many families.

- (i) Identify any two specific majoritarian measures taken by the Sri Lankan government that discriminated against the Tamil community. (1 mark)
- (ii) Why did the Sri Lankan Tamils ultimately demand the creation of a separate state called Tamil Eelam? (1 mark)
- (iii) What does the Sri Lankan experience tell us about the consequences of refusing to share power with minority communities? (2 marks)

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Model Answer

(i) Two majoritarian measures taken against Tamils:

- Sinhala was declared the only official language (1956), disregarding Tamil.
- Preferential policies favoured Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs.

(ii) The Sri Lankan Tamils' demands for recognition of Tamil as an official language, regional autonomy, and equality of opportunity were **repeatedly denied**. This growing discrimination and alienation led several political organisations by the 1980s to demand a separate independent state — Tamil Eelam.

(iii) Sri Lanka's experience shows that refusing to share power with minorities leads to feelings of alienation and distrust. It can turn political conflict into a **civil war**, causing loss of lives, displacement of families, and severe setbacks to the social, cultural, and economic life of the entire country.

Source: *Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka, Chapter 1*

Explanation

- **(i)** is 1 mark — name exactly **two** measures from the passage; don't elaborate.
- **(ii)** is 1 mark — the key cause is repeated denial of demands; keep it to 2–3 lines.
- **(iii)** is 2 marks — examiner expects two clear consequences: internal conflict/civil war AND broader socio-economic damage. Use passage evidence ("thousands killed," "families displaced," "setback to social, cultural and economic life"). Avoid vague statements; quote the text closely.

Q30. medium exam-ready

[4]

[case_study] Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

The Belgian leaders recognised the existence of regional differences and cultural diversities. Between 1970 and 1993, they amended their constitution four times to work out an arrangement that would enable everyone to live together within the same country. 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, which are not subordinate to the Central Government. Brussels has a separate government in which both communities have equal representation. Apart from the Central and State Governments, a third kind of government — the 'community government' — is elected by people belonging to one language community and has power over cultural, educational and language-related issues.

- (i) Why was it considered necessary to give the State Governments of the two regions powers independent of the Central Government? (1 mark)
- (ii) What is the role of the 'community government' in Belgium, and what makes it unique compared to a typical state government? (1 mark)
- (iii) How does the Belgian model reflect the idea that sharing power strengthens rather than weakens a country? (2 marks)

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Model Answer

- (i)** It was necessary because Belgium has two major linguistic communities — Dutch and French-speaking — with distinct regional identities. Giving State Governments independent powers ensured that neither community could dominate the other, and regional interests could be addressed without depending on the Central Government.
- (ii)** The 'community government' is elected by people of one language community regardless of where they live, and it has power over cultural, educational, and language-related issues. Unlike a typical state government based on territory, it is based on **community/language identity**, making it unique.
- (iii)** The Belgian model shows that sharing power prevents conflict and strengthens unity. By giving equal representation to both communities in the central government, granting independent powers to state governments, and creating community governments, Belgium avoided civic strife and a possible division of the country on linguistic lines. This proves that accommodating diversity through power-sharing keeps a country united rather than weakening it — as confirmed when Brussels was chosen as the headquarters of the European Union.

Source: *Accommodation in Belgium, Chapter 1; What is federalism?, Chapter 2*

Explanation

- **(i)** Focus on the reason: regional diversity + preventing dominance by one community.
- **(ii)** The key unique feature is that it is **community-based, not territory-based** — mention this explicitly.
- **(iii)** This 2-mark answer needs two clear points: (a) what power-sharing did in Belgium (prevented strife/division), and (b) the broader principle (accommodating diversity = unity). The EU headquarters example from the passage is a great supporting detail examiners appreciate. Avoid writing vague generalities — always link back to the passage.

Q31. deep exam-ready

[4]

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

In the city of Beirut, there lived a man called Khalil. His parents came from different communities — his father was an Orthodox Christian and his mother a Sunni Muslim. At the end of the civil war, Lebanon's leaders agreed to some basic rules for power sharing. The country's President must belong to the Maronite sect of Catholic Christians, the Prime Minister must be from the Sunni Muslim community, the post of Deputy Prime Minister is fixed for Orthodox Christians and that of the Speaker for Shi'a Muslims. When the Christians and Muslims came to this agreement, they were nearly equal in population. Both sides have continued to respect this agreement though now the Muslims are in clear majority. Khalil does not like this system. He believes that in a 'normal' democracy, elections should be held freely and whoever wins maximum votes should become the president, regardless of community.

- (i) What type of power-sharing arrangement does Lebanon's system represent? (1 mark)
 (ii) Why do Khalil's elders, who witnessed the civil war, support the existing power-sharing rules even though the demographic balance has shifted? (1 mark)
 (iii) Evaluate Khalil's argument for 'normal' democratic elections versus the existing community-based system. Which approach is more suitable for a deeply divided society like Lebanon, and why? (2 marks)

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Model Answer

(i) Lebanon's system represents **power sharing among different social groups** (communities) — specifically, key government posts are distributed among religious communities (Maronite Christians, Sunni Muslims, Orthodox Christians, Shi'a Muslims).

(ii) Khalil's elders, who witnessed the bloodshed of the civil war, believe the existing arrangement is the **best guarantee for peace**. They understand that without such safeguards, one community may dominate others, risking a return to violent conflict.

(iii) Khalil's argument favours majoritarian democracy, which can lead to **tyranny of the majority** in a divided society. In Lebanon, if the Muslim majority (now larger) wins all top posts, minorities may feel excluded, potentially reigniting civil war. The community-based system, though imperfect, ensures **every group has a stake** in governance, preventing conflict. For deeply divided societies, power sharing is more suitable as it provides stability and accommodates diversity, even if it overrides strict majority rule.

Source: *Khalil's dilemma* — Chapter 1; *Why power sharing is desirable?* — Chapter 1

Explanation

- **(i)** Examiners want the specific **type** of power sharing — among social/religious groups. Avoid vague answers like "federal" or "coalition."
- **(ii)** The passage directly states elders say it is the "best guarantee for peace" — quote/paraphrase this; don't add outside reasoning.
- **(iii)** This is a 2-mark evaluative question. You must address **both sides** briefly, then give a clear verdict with reasoning. Key terms to use: *tyranny of majority*, *social conflict*, *political stability*, *power sharing as spirit of democracy*. The passage's prudential reason (reducing conflict) is the core justification here.

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