

CBSE CLASS X

Social Science (087)

QUESTION PAPER

From previous CBSE Board Exam questions

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Questions: 43

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SELECTIONS USED

Source	Previous-year board
Subject	Social Science
Lessons	Power-sharing
Year	2022-2026
Questions selected	43

Composition — Types: 17 MCQ · 8 Assertion–reason · 5 source_based · 4 Long · 3 Short · 3 Very short · 1 fill_in_blank

Q1. § Accommodation in Belgium

[1]

Choose the correct option to fill the blank. The Belgian leaders took a different path than Sri Lanka. They recognised the existence of regional differences and _____.

- (A) Religious diversities
- (B) Historical diversities
- (C) Cultural diversities
- (D) Administrative diversities

Previously asked in: 2025 32/5/1 Q12

◆ Power-sharing

Belgian Model of Power Sharing vs Sri Lanka

Q2. § Overview § Forms of power-sharing

[1]

Consider the following statements on Power Sharing and choose the correct option : I. It deepens democracy. II. It helps to reduce conflicts among social groups. III. It is a way to ensure political stability. IV. It brings socio-economic struggles.

- A I, II and III
- B II, III and IV
- C I, III and IV
- D I, II and IV

Previously asked in: 2023 32/1/1 Q15

◆ Power-sharing

Importance and merits of power sharing

Q3. § Overview § Forms of power-sharing

[5]

Why is power sharing necessary in a democracy ? Explain.

Previously asked in: 2026 32/2/1 Q26(b)

◆ Power-sharing

Necessity of Power Sharing in Democracy

Q4. § Accommodation in Belgium

[1]

Read the following statements about power sharing arrangement in Belgium and choose the correct option.

- I. Brussels has a separate govt. with equal representation.
- II. Dutch & French speaking ministers are equal in Central Govt.
- III. Community Govt. is elected by People belonging to one language.
- IV. Series of majoritarian measures adopted in Belgium.

- (A) I, II and IV
- (B) I, III and IV
- (C) II, III and IV
- (D) I, II and III

Previously asked in: 2024 32/2/1 Q10

♦ Power-sharing

Power-sharing arrangements in Belgium

Q5. § Overview § Why power sharing is desirable? § Forms of power-sharing

[1]

Two statements, I and II are given below. Read both the statements and choose the correct option.

Statement I : Division of power is good for democratic systems.

Statement II : It helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.

- (A) Statement I is true, but II is false.
- (B) Statement I is false, but II is true.
- (C) Statements I and II are true and II is the correct explanation of I.
- (D) Statements I and II are true, but II is not the correct explanation of I.

Previously asked in: 2024 32/5/1 Q8

♦ Power-sharing

Reasons for Power Sharing in Democracy

Q6. § Accommodation in Belgium

[1]

Belgium took some measures to solve its problem. Read the following measures and choose the correct option :

- I. Formation of community government.
- II. Following majoritarian policy.
- III. By providing equal representation of language groups.
- IV. By providing additional powers to local governments.

- A Only I, II and III are correct.
- B Only I, III and IV are correct.
- C Only I, II and IV are correct.
- D Only II, III and IV are correct.

Previously asked in: 2025 32/6/1 Q16

♦ Power-sharing

Belgian Model of Power-Sharing

Q7. § Overview

[3]

"In modern democracies, power sharing arrangements can take many forms." Explain the statement.

Previously asked in: 2023 32/6/1 Q28

♦ Power-sharing

Forms of Power Sharing in Modern Democracies

Q8. § Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka**[1]**

Two statements are given below. They are Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read both the statements carefully and choose the correct option :

Assertion (A) : The civil war in Sri Lanka resulted due to failure of political accommodation of ethnicity.

Reason (R) : The distrust between the Sinhala and Tamil communities turned into widespread conflict in Sri Lanka.

- (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.

Previously asked in: 2026 32/4/1 Q20

◆ Power-sharing

Ethnic conflict and power-sharing in Sri Lanka

Q9. § Overview § Belgium and Sri Lanka § Accommodation in Belgium**[1]**

Identify the primary objective of power sharing arrangements in Belgium from the following options.

- (A) Establishing a unitary form of government.
- (B) Centralized political control of government.
- (C) Establishing cultural and educational matters of Dutch.
- (D) Accommodating linguistic and regional interest.

Previously asked in: 2024 32/3/1 Q4

◆ Power-sharing

Power-sharing arrangements in Belgium: objectives and rationale

Q10. § Overview**[1]**

Which of the following is an example of horizontal power sharing in Indian democracy ?

- (a) Division of power between Central and State Governments.
- (b) Division of power between Rural and Urban Governments.
- (c) Division of power among Administration, Judiciary and Army.
- (d) Division of power among Legislative, Executive and Judiciary.

Previously asked in: 2025 32/4/1 Q10

◆ Power-sharing

Horizontal Power Sharing

Q11. § Overview**[2]**

Why is power sharing desirable ? Explain.

Previously asked in: 2024 32/1/1 Q23

◆ Power-sharing

Reasons Why Power Sharing is Desirable

Q12. § Belgium and Sri Lanka § Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka § Accommodation in Belgium**[1]**

Two statements are given below. They are Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read both the statements carefully and choose the correct option :

Assertion (A) : Both, Sri Lanka and Belgium faced challenges of ethnic and linguistic diversity.

Reason (R) : Sri Lanka had majority of Tamils whereas Belgium had majority of French speaking people.

- (A) Both, (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (B) Both, (A) and (R) are true, 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.

Previously asked in: 2026 32/1/1 Q20

◆ Power-sharing

Ethnic and linguistic composition of Belgium and Sri Lanka

Q13. § Belgium and Sri Lanka § Accommodation in Belgium

[1]

Two statements are given below. They are Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read both the statements carefully and choose the correct option :

Assertion (A) : Belgium's power sharing arrangements were designed to accommodate its linguistic and cultural divisions.

Reason (R) : Belgian leaders recognized the existence of regional differences and cultural diversities.

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

B Both (A) and (R) are true, 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.

Previously asked in: 2026 32/5/1 Q20

◆ Power-sharing

Belgium's Power Sharing Arrangements and Linguistic/Cultural Divisions

Q14. § Belgium and Sri Lanka

[1]

What percentage of the population of Belgium lives in the Flemish region ?

(a) 40%

(b) 80%

(c) 59%

(d) 70%

Previously asked in: 2023 32/5/1 Q14

◆ Power-sharing

Belgium – Ethnic and Regional Composition (Flemish, Walloon, Brussels regions)

Q15. § Belgium and Sri Lanka § Accommodation in Belgium

[1]

Identify the correct statement regarding Belgium.

(A) Small country of Europe

(B) Big country of Asia

(C) Big country of North America

(D) Small country of Africa

Previously asked in: 2026 32/3/1 Q19

◆ Power-sharing

Belgium: Power-Sharing Model and Ethnic Composition

Q16. § Belgium and Sri Lanka

[4]

Belgium is a small country in Europe, smaller in area than the state of Haryana. It has borders with France, the Netherlands, Germany and Luxembourg. It has a population of a little over one crore, about half the population of Haryana. The ethnic composition of this small country is very complex. Of the country's total population, 59 per cent lives in the Flemish region and speaks Dutch language. Another 40 per cent people live in the Wallonia region and speak French. Remaining one per cent of the Belgians speak German. In the capital city Brussels, 80 per cent of the people speak French while 20 per cent are Dutch-speaking.

Read the given extract and answer the questions that follow :

(36.1) Explain the ethnic composition of Belgium. [1]

(36.2) Explain the meaning of the term 'ethnic'. [1]

(36.3) How did the Belgian Government solve their ethnic problem ? Explain. [2]

Previously asked in: 2023 32/5/1 Q36

◆ Power-sharing

Belgian Government's solution to ethnic problem (Power-sharing model)

Ethnic composition of Belgium

Meaning of the term 'ethnic'

Q17. § Belgium and Sri Lanka**[1]**

Two statements are given below. They are Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read both the statements and choose the correct option :

Assertion (A) : The French speaking community was rich in comparison to Dutch speaking community in Belgium.

Reason (R) : Dutch speaking community got the benefit of economic development and education much later.

- (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 correct but (R) is incorrect.
- (d) (A) is incorrect but (R) is correct.

Previously asked in: 2025 32/4/1 Q8

◆ Power-sharing

Belgium's ethnic composition and linguistic communities (French vs Dutch speaking)

Q18. § Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka**[1]**

Which of the following group is in majority in Sri Lanka?

- A Tamil-speakers
- B Sinhala-speakers
- C Telugu-speakers
- D English-speakers

Previously asked in: 2025 32/3/1 Q6

◆ Power-sharing

Ethnic composition and majoritarianism in Sri Lanka

Q19. § Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka**[1]**

Two statements are given below as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option :

Assertion (A) : Sri Lanka adopted 'Tamil' as the official language of the State.

Reason (R) : The Govt. of Sri Lanka adopted a series of majoritarian measures.

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (b) Both (A) and (R) are true 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.

Previously asked in: 2023 32/4/1 Q16

◆ Power-sharing

Majoritarian policies in Sri Lanka and ethnic conflict

Q20. § Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka**[1]**

In Sri Lanka, which one of the following changes to the 1956 law gave rise to the possibility of civil war ?

- A Ensuring power sharing among all sections.
- B Declaring Sinhala as the official language.
- C Declaring Tamil as the official language.
- D Implementing a policy of preference for Sinhalese in government jobs.

Previously asked in: 2026 32/2/1 Q21

◆ Power-sharing

Sri Lanka's Majoritarian Policies and the 1956 Sinhala-Only Act

Q21. § Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka

[1]

Which one of the following languages was declared as the official language of Sri Lanka by an Act passed in 1956 ?

- (a) Tamil
- (b) Sinhala
- (c) Hindi
- (d) English

Previously asked in: 2023 32/5/1 Q8

♦ Power-sharing

Sinhala-Only Act 1956 and Sri Lanka's Official Language

Q22. § Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka

[1]

Two statements are given below. They are Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read both the statements carefully and choose the correct option.

Assertion (A) : There was civil war in Sri Lanka.

Reason (R) : An Act was passed in 1956 to secure dominance of Sinhala community on the government.

- 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 correct, but (R) is incorrect.
- D (A) is incorrect, but (R) is correct.

Previously asked in: 2025 32/6/1 Q11

♦ Power-sharing

Civil War in Sri Lanka and Sinhala-Tamil Conflict

Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka

Q23. § Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka

[5]

"The law enacted in 1956 and other Constitutional Provisions led to major conflict between the two communities in Sri Lanka." Support the statement.

Previously asked in: 2025 32/6/1 Q33(a)

♦ Power-sharing

Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka and the Sinhala-Tamil Conflict

Sinhala Only Act 1956 and its consequences

Q24. § Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka

[3]

"The government measures gradually increased the feeling of alienation among the Sri Lankan Tamils." Explain the statement.

Previously asked in: 2025 32/2/1 Q27

♦ Power-sharing

Majoritarian policies and alienation of Sri Lankan Tamils

Q25. § Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka

[2]

Why did the feeling of alienation increase among the Sri Lankan Tamils in 1956 ? Explain.

Previously asked in: 2023 32/2/1 Q23

♦ Power-sharing

Majoritarian Policies and Tamil Alienation in Sri Lanka

Q26. § Accommodation in Belgium

[1]

Which one of the following organisations has its headquarter in Brussels ?

- A United Nations Organisation
- B European Union
- C Non-Alignment Movement
- D South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation

Previously asked in: 2025 32/2/1 Q12

♦ Power-sharing

Belgium and Power-Sharing – Brussels as headquarters of international organisations

Q27. § Accommodation in Belgium

[1]

There are two statements given as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read both the statements and choose the correct option.

Assertion (A) : Belgium amended their constitution four times.

Reason (R) : Amendments were to enable everyone to live together in the same country.

- (a) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of the Assertion (A).
- (b) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of the Assertion (A).
- (c) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
- (d) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Previously asked in: 2023 32/2/1 Q8

◆ Power-sharing

Belgium's Constitutional Amendments and Power-Sharing Model

Q28. § Accommodation in Belgium

[1]

Which of the following was the primary objective of Belgium to form the separate government in Brussels ?

- (a) Promoting cultural events.
- (b) Managing international relations.
- (c) Enforcing local laws.
- (d) Ensuring linguistic accommodation.

Previously asked in: 2024 32/1/1 Q11

◆ Power-sharing

Belgium's Power-Sharing Model and the Community Government in Brussels

Q29. § Forms of power-sharing

[1]

Consider the following statements on Power Sharing and choose the correct option :

- (I) Majoritarianism is the real spirit of democracy.
- (II) It creates balance and harmony in different groups.
- (III) It reduces the possibility of conflict among social groups.
- (IV) Power sharing is the essence of democracy.

- (a) I, II and III
- (b) II, III and IV
- (c) I, III and IV
- (d) I, II and IV

Previously asked in: 2023 32/4/1 Q15

◆ Power-sharing

Importance and Spirit of Power Sharing

Majoritarianism vs Power Sharing

Q30. § Overview

[5]

Compare the Belgian model and the Sri Lankan model of power sharing.

Previously asked in: 2026 32/2/1 Q26(a)

◆ Power-sharing

Belgian Model of Power Sharing

Majoritarianism vs. Accommodation in Power Sharing

Sri Lankan Model of Power Sharing

Q31. § Overview § Forms of power-sharing

[3]

Evaluate the system of 'Checks and Balances' in the horizontal distribution of power in India.

Previously asked in: 2025 32/5/1 Q28

◆ Power-sharing

Checks and Balances in Horizontal Distribution of Power

Q32. § Overview

[5]

"Power sharing increases trust between different groups." Support the statement.

Previously asked in: 2025 32/6/1 Q33(b)

◆ Power-sharing

Power Sharing and Trust-Building Among Social Groups

Q33. § Overview § Forms of power-sharing

[4]

Power Sharing

Power is shared among different organs of government, such as the legislature, executive and judiciary. Let us call this horizontal distribution of power because it allows different organs of government placed at the same level to exercise different powers. Such a separation ensures that none of the organs can exercise unlimited power. Each organ checks the others. This results in a balance of power among various institutions. Last year, we studied that in a democracy, even though ministers and government officials exercise power, they are responsible to the Parliament or State Assemblies. Similarly, although judges are appointed by the executive, they can check the functioning of executive or laws made by the legislatures. This arrangement is called a system of checks and balances.

Read the given source carefully and answer the questions that follow :

28.1 Explain the term 'Balance of Power'. [1]

28.2 Why is the judiciary considered independent in a democracy ? [1]

28.3 How is power shared among different organs of government ? [2]

Previously asked in: 2026 32/4/1 Q28

◆ Power-sharing

Horizontal distribution of power among organs of government

Q34. § Overview § Forms of power-sharing

[4]

POWER SHARING

Power sharing arrangements can also be seen in the way political parties, pressure groups and movements control or influence those in power. In a democracy, the citizens must have freedom to choose among various contenders for power. In contemporary democracies, this takes the form of competition among different parties. Such competition ensures that power does not remain in one hand. In the long run, power is shared among different political parties that represent different ideologies and social groups. Sometimes this kind of sharing can be direct, when two or more parties form an alliance to contest elections. If their alliance is elected, they form a coalition government and thus share power. In a democracy, we find interest groups, such as those of traders, businessmen, industrialists, farmers and industrial workers. They also will have a share in governmental power, either through participation in governmental committees or bringing influence on the decision-making process.

Read the given source carefully and answer the questions that follow :

28.1 How do pressure groups influence the government ? [1]

28.2 How do social groups benefit from power sharing ? [1]

28.3 Explain the contributions of citizens in the power sharing process. [2]

Previously asked in: 2026 32/1/1 Q28

◆ Power-sharing

Forms of power sharing among social groups

Role of pressure groups, parties and movements in power sharing

Q35. § Overview § Why power sharing is desirable? § Forms of power-sharing**[1]**

Read the arguments given in the favour of power sharing and choose the correct option.

- I. Reduces the likelihood of bias.
- II. Barricades the decision-making process.
- III. Accommodates diversities.
- IV. Increases the participation of people in power.

- (A) Only I, II and III are correct.
- (B) Only II, III and IV are correct.
- (C) Only I, III and IV are correct.
- (D) Only I, II and IV are correct.

Previously asked in: 2024 32/4/1 Q8

♦ Power-sharing

Arguments in favour of power sharing

Q36. § Overview § Forms of power-sharing**[4]****Forms of Power-sharing**

The idea of power-sharing has emerged in opposition to the notions of undivided political power. For a long time, it was believed that all power of a government must reside in one person or group of persons located at one place. It was felt that if the power to decide is dispersed, it would not be possible to take quick decisions and to enforce them. But these notions have changed with the emergence of democracy. One basic principle of democracy is that people are the source of all political power. In a democracy, people rule themselves through institutions of self-government. In a good democratic government, due respect is given to diverse groups and views that exist in a society. Everyone has a voice in the shaping of public policies. Therefore, it follows that in a democracy, political power should be distributed among as many citizens as possible.

Read the given source carefully and answer the questions that follow :

- 28.1** How does power sharing promote stability of political order ? [1]
- 28.2** How are pressure groups part of the power sharing mechanism ? [1]
- 28.3** How does power sharing contribute to the spirit of democracy ? [2]

Previously asked in: 2026 32/5/1 Q28

♦ Power-sharing

Forms of Power-sharing

Power-sharing and stability of political order

Power-sharing and the spirit of democracy

Pressure groups as part of power-sharing mechanism

Q37. § Overview § Why power sharing is desirable? § Forms of power-sharing**[1]**

Consider the following statements on Power sharing and choose the correct option.

- I. Imposing the will of majority community over others.
- II. It helps in reducing the possibility of conflict between the social groups.
- III. Power sharing is a good way to ensure the stability of political order.
- IV. It brings socio-political opposition among parties.

- (A) I and III
- (B) II and III
- (C) I and IV
- (D) I and II

Previously asked in: 2023 32/6/1 Q15

♦ Power-sharing

Reasons for Power Sharing

Q38. § Overview § Why power sharing is desirable? § Forms of power-sharing**[2]**

How is horizontal power sharing different from vertical ? Explain.

Previously asked in: 2024 32/2/1 Q22

◆ Power-sharing Forms of Power Sharing Horizontal Power Sharing Vertical Power Sharing

Q39. § Overview § Forms of power-sharing**[4]**

Forms of power sharing

The idea of power sharing has emerged in opposition to the notions of undivided political power. For a long time, it was believed that all power of a government must reside in one person or group of persons located at one place. It was felt that if the power to decide is dispersed, it would not be possible to take quick decisions and to enforce them. But these notions have changed with the emergence of democracy. One basic principle of democracy is that people are the source of all political power. In a democracy, people rule themselves through institutions of self-government. In a good democratic government, due respect is given to diverse groups and views that exist in a society. Everyone has a voice in the shaping of public policies. Therefore, it follows that in a democracy, political power should be distributed among as many citizens as possible.

Read the given source carefully and answer the questions that follow :

(27.1) Why should all the powers of the government not be in the hands of one person ? [1]

(27.2) Why is power sharing necessary ? [1]

(27.3) How does governing through institutions of self-government strengthen democracy ? Explain. [2]

Previously asked in: 2026 32/3/1 Q27

◆ Power-sharing Forms of Power Sharing Institutions of Self-Government and Democracy Need and Importance of Power Sharing

Q40. § Overview § Accommodation in Belgium § Forms of power-sharing**[1]**

Which of the following countries is an example of sharing of power between the national and state governments to account for internal diversity ?

- A United States of America
- B Australia
- C Belgium
- D Switzerland

Previously asked in: 2025 32/2/1 Q13

◆ Power-sharing Federal and Unitary Systems – Country Examples Forms of Power-sharing
Vertical power sharing between national and state governments**Q41.** § Outcomes of Democracy (Introduction) § Accommodation of social diversity**[1]**

What role do 'checks and balances' play in a democratic country ? Choose the most suitable option from the following.

- (a) To establish a direct form of government without representatives.
- (b) To create a separation of powers to prevent from authoritarianism.
- (c) To prevent any change to the Constitution.
- (d) To ensure absolute power for one branch of government.

Previously asked in: 2024 32/1/1 Q13

◆ Outcomes of Democracy Checks and Balances in Democracy Outcomes and Features of Democracy

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