



BAL BHARATI PUBLIC SCHOOL, PITAMPURA, DELHI – 110034
POLITICAL SCIENCE (CLASS X)

POWER SHARING

Dear students,

This is an E-module of the Political Science Lesson: Power Sharing

This is Part II of the lesson.

Please read the lesson from the NCERT Textbook. //www.ncert.nic.in/NCERTS/l/jess401.pdf

For better understanding of the concept, please watch the You tube video as well.

<https://youtu.be/dj2j7N1Atq4>

Do the Assignment Questions in the History/Political Science Notebook.

(Note: Use only one Notebook for both History and Political Science)

NEED FOR POWER SHARING

PRUDENTIAL REASON

- Power sharing helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.
- It is a good way to ensure stability of political order as social conflict often leads to violence and political instability.

MORAL REASON:

- Power sharing is the very spirit of democracy. The concept of democracy is a system of government of the people, by the people and for the people, which emphasizes on distribution of power among people.
- It involves sharing power with those affected by exercising it and those who have to live with its effects, so that people would be consulted on how they are to be governed.

FORMS OF POWER SHARING:

1.Horizontal Distribution of Power :

- Power is shared among different organs of the government – the legislature, executive, judiciary
- Different organs of government at the same level exercise different powers – separation of power
- Ensures a check over unlimited powers of each organ – balance of power
- It acts as a system of “ checks and balances”

2.Vertical Distribution of Power:

- Power is shared among the government at different levels like union , state and local level -
- Federalism
- Power of different levels of government, is clearly specified – union list, state list, concurrent list
- No concept of checks and balances as powers are clearly given by the constitution

from the higher level to the lower level

3. Among different social groups :

- Power is shared between different religious and linguistic groups e.g. Community government in Belgium
- Reservation for socially weaker sections in legislatures and administration gives space to diverse social groups – gives the marginalised communities a fair share in power.

4. Between Political Parties, Pressure Groups, Movements :

- **Political Parties:** Formation of Coalition governments when no party gets absolute majority in the Legislature. E.g. the current Government of Maharashtra is a coalition government formed by two political parties, namely Shiv Sena and the Congress Party.
- **Pressure groups:** Interest groups such as those of traders, businessmen, industrialists, farmers and industrial workers. They also have a share in governmental power, either through participation in governmental committees or bringing influence on the decision-making process.
- **Movements:** Social movements sometimes bring about changes by forcing the government to change laws e.g. movements against dowry, child marriage, exploitation of women and children.

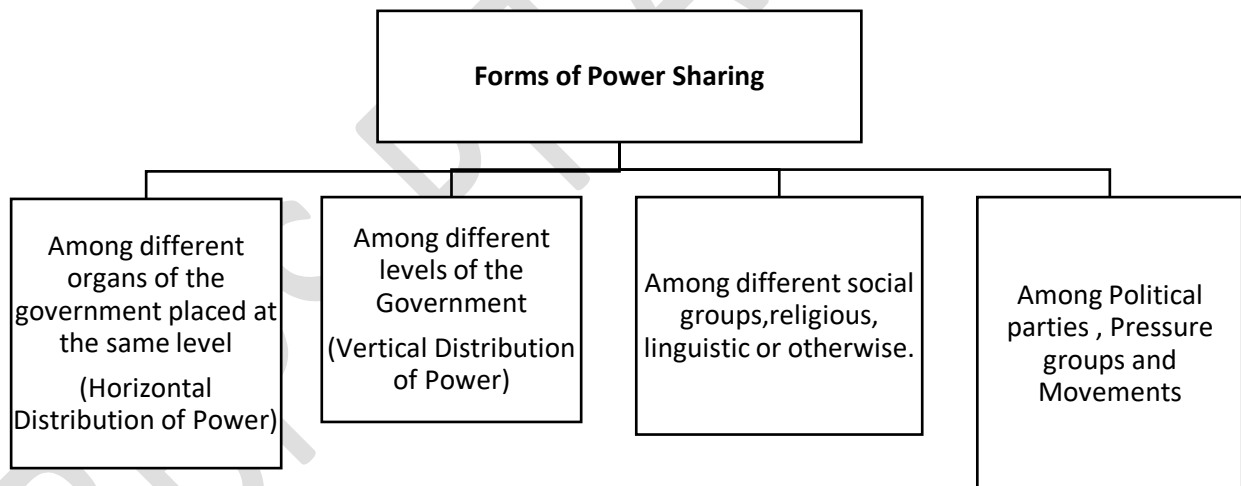
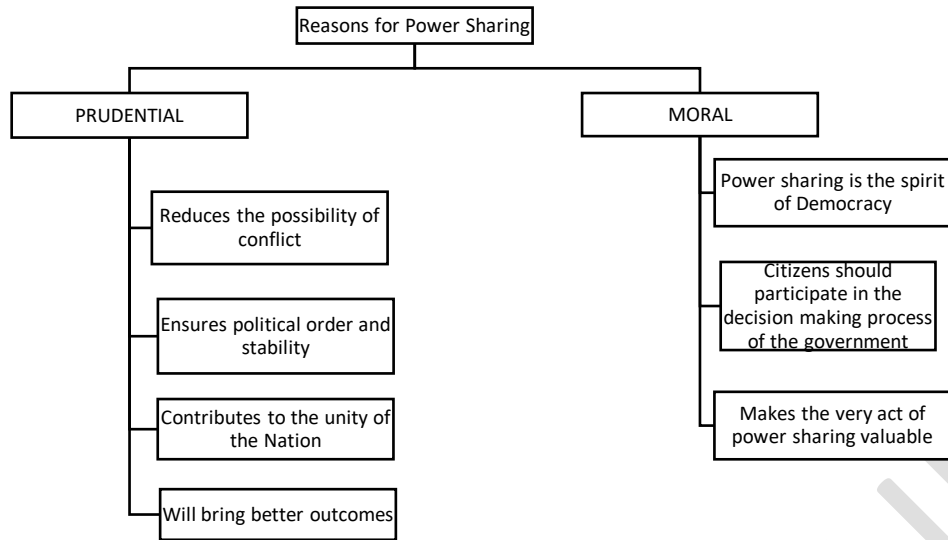
KEY WORDS:

Ethnic: A social division based on shared culture. People belonging to the same ethnic group believe in their common descent because of similarities of physical type or of culture or both. They need not always have the same religion or nationality.

Majoritarianism: 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.

Prudential: Based on prudence, or on careful calculation of gains and losses. Prudential decisions are usually contrasted with decisions based purely on moral considerations.

Civil war: A violent conflict between opposing groups within a country that becomes so intense that it appears like a war.





OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS

(1 MK)

Q1 Most of the Sinhala-speaking people are

- a) Buddhists (b) Hindus (c) Muslims (d) Christians

Q2. Which is the capital city of Belgium?

- (a) Wallonia (b) Brussels (c) Bonn (d) Paris

Q3. Which language is spoken by the majority of Belgians?

- (a) German (b) French (c) Dutch (d) English

Q4. Which language was declared as the only official language of Sri Lanka by an Act passed in 1956?

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

Q5. Which of the following statements about power-sharing arrangements in Belgium are correct?

(i) Constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be equal in the central government.

(ii) The state governments are not subordinate to the central government

(iii) Brussels has a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation.

(iv) The 'community government' is elected by people belonging to one linguistic community.

- (a) 1, 2, 4 (b) 1, 2, 3, 4 (c) 1, 3, 4 (d) 1, 2, 3

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

(3MKS)

Q6. Sharing of power makes a country more powerful and united. Do you agree with the statement?

Q7. 'Horizontal distribution of power is often referred to as a system of checks and balances'. Analyse.

Q8. List and explain the ways in which Belgium was able to resolve its ethnic conflict .

Q9. Explain the various forms of power sharing with examples.

Q10 Compare and contrast the ethnic conflict of Belgium and Sri Lanka .Which country offered the most effective solution to resolve this conflict. Justify giving examples.

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