Power Sharing: CBSE Class 10 Civics Lesson Slides (India)

Ages 15–16 · Civics

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

A Key terms: match each term to its meaning

Write the letter of the correct meaning in the box next to each term.

1 Power sharing	☐	**A** The belief that the majority community should rule a country in whatever way it wants, disregarding the wishes of minorities.
2 Majoritarianism	☐	**B** A government formed by two or more political parties coming together.
3 Community government	☐	**C** An arrangement in which each organ of government can limit the others, so none has unlimited power.
4 Prudential reason	☐	**D** Dividing power among organs of government, levels of government, social groups and political parties or groups.
5 Horizontal distribution of power	☐	**E** A reason based on careful calculation of gains and losses, such as reducing conflict.
6 Checks and balances	☐	**F** In Belgium, a government elected by people of one language community, wherever they live, dealing with cultural, educational and language matters.
7 Coalition government	☐	**G** Sharing of power among organs of government at the same level: legislature, executive and judiciary.

B Quick quiz

Circle the best answer, write its letter, then explain your choice in a few words.

1 In which part of Belgium do the Dutch-speaking people form a minority?

a) The Flemish region **b)** Brussels
c) Wallonia **d)** The whole country

Answer: _____ Why? _____

2 What did the 1956 Act in Sri Lanka do?

a) Made Tamil an official language **b)** Created a federal system
c) Recognised Sinhala as the only official language **d)** Gave Belgium independence

Answer: _____ Why? _____

3 Which of these is a prudential reason for power sharing?

a) People have a right to be consulted **b)** It is the very spirit of democracy
c) Citizens gain a stake in the system **d)** It reduces the chance of conflict between groups

Answer: _____ Why? _____

4 Sharing power among the legislature, executive and judiciary is called:

a) Horizontal distribution of power **b)** Vertical division of power
c) Community government **d)** Coalition government

Answer: _____ Why? _____

5 Power shared among the Union, State and local governments in India is an example of:

a) Checks and balances **b)** Majoritarianism
c) Vertical (federal) division of power **d)** Power shared among social groups

Answer: _____ Why? _____

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Answer key for teachers · Ages 15–16 · Civics

A Key terms

1 **Power sharing**	**D**	Dividing power among organs of government, levels of government, social groups and political parties or groups.
2 **Majoritarianism**	**A**	The belief that the majority community should rule a country in whatever way it wants, disregarding the wishes of minorities.
3 **Community government**	**F**	In Belgium, a government elected by people of one language community, wherever they live, dealing with cultural, educational and language matters.
4 **Prudential reason**	**E**	A reason based on careful calculation of gains and losses, such as reducing conflict.
5 **Horizontal distribution of power**	**G**	Sharing of power among organs of government at the same level: legislature, executive and judiciary.
6 **Checks and balances**	**C**	An arrangement in which each organ of government can limit the others, so none has unlimited power.
7 **Coalition government**	**B**	A government formed by two or more political parties coming together.

B Quick quiz

1 b) Brussels

About 59% of Belgians speak Dutch, but in the capital, Brussels, about 80% speak French and only about 20% speak Dutch.

2 c) Recognised Sinhala as the only official language

The 1956 Act recognised Sinhala as the only official language, one of several measures that made many Sri Lankan Tamils feel alienated.

3 d) It reduces the chance of conflict between groups

Prudential reasons are about better outcomes, such as less conflict and more stability. The other options are moral reasons.

4 a) Horizontal distribution of power

The three organs work at the same level of government, so this is horizontal distribution, also known as a system of checks and balances.

5 c) Vertical (federal) division of power

Dividing power between higher and lower levels of government is called vertical, or federal, division of power.