



CBSE • CLASS 10 • SOCIAL SCIENCE

POLITICAL SCIENCE

CHAPTER 01

Power-sharing



NCERT SOLUTIONS

FORMS OF POWER SHARING

QUESTION 1

What are the different forms of power sharing in modern democracies? Give an example of each of these.

ANSWER Power is shared in four main forms.

1. Among organs of government (horizontal sharing)

The legislature, executive and judiciary exercise different powers at the same level. Each checks the others, so no organ has unlimited power.

Example: In India, ministers answer to Parliament and courts can check laws and government action.

2. Among levels of government (vertical sharing)

The Constitution divides powers between the government for the whole country and State or regional governments. Local bodies may form another level.

Example: India has Union, State and local governments.

3. Among social groups

Religious or linguistic groups share power so that different communities have a voice.

Example: Belgium's community government represents Dutch, French and German-speaking people.

4. Among parties and other groups

Parties may share power in a coalition. Pressure groups and movements also influence government decisions.

Example: Two or more parties form a coalition government.

WHY POWER SHARING MATTERS

QUESTION 2

State one prudential reason and one moral reason for power sharing with an example from the Indian context.

ANSWER

Prudential reason:

1. It reduces conflict and supports stability.

Sharing power lowers the risk of conflict between different social groups. This helps maintain peace and political stability.

Indian example:

The Constitution divides powers between the Union and State governments. States can handle regional needs while remaining part of India.

Moral reason:

2. People have the right to take part in decisions.

Power sharing is the spirit of democracy. People affected by a decision should have a voice in making it.

Indian example:

Elected panchayats allow local people to take part in decisions about their villages.

Easy distinction

Prudential = practical benefits.

Moral = the democratic principle of participation.

POWER SHARING IN EVERY SOCIETY

QUESTION 3

After reading this chapter, three students drew different conclusions. Which of these do you agree with and why? Give your reasons in about 50 words.

Thomman: Power sharing is necessary only in societies which have religious, linguistic or ethnic divisions.

Mathayi: Power sharing is suitable only for big countries that have regional divisions.

Ouseph: Every society needs some form of power sharing even if it is small or does not have social divisions.

ANSWER

I agree with Ouseph. Democracy means that people have a voice in decisions. Every society needs power sharing to prevent one person or group from using unlimited power. Sharing power among government organs creates checks and balances. It also allows participation and makes government answerable to people, whatever the country's size.

BELGIUM AND LANGUAGE RIGHTS

QUESTION 4

The Mayor of Merchtem, a town near Brussels in Belgium, has defended a ban on speaking French in the town's schools. He said that the ban would help all non-Dutch speakers integrate in this Flemish town. Do you think that this measure is in keeping with the spirit of Belgium's power sharing arrangements? Give your reasons in about 50 words.

ANSWER (about 50 words)

No. Belgium's arrangement respects different linguistic communities and gives them a share in power. Banning French forces one language on others instead of accommodating diversity. Integration should build mutual respect. It should not deny French-speaking students their language. Such a ban goes against the spirit of Belgium's power sharing arrangements.



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