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Class Xth Subject Political science

Chapters:1. POWER SHARING

(REVISION OF P.A.1.)

Read the following question and answer thoroughly and try to understand and Write down in your H.W.Copy.

Short Answer Questions:

Question 1.

Which language was recognized as the only official language of Sri Lanka in 1956? (2012)

Answer:

Sinhala

Question 2.

Apart from the Central and the State governments, which is the third type of government practised in Belgium?

Answer:

Community government

Question 3.

Define majoritarianism.

Answer:

Majoritarianism is rule by majority community by disregarding the needs and wishes of the minority community.

Question 4.

What measure was adopted by the democratically elected government of Sri Lanka to establish Sinhala Supremacy?

Answer:

In 1956, an Act was passed to make Sinhala the official language.

The government followed preferential policies favouring Sinhala applicants for University positions and government jobs.

Question 5.

What is the language spoken by the people residing in the Wallonia region of Belgium?

Answer:

People residing in Wallonia region of Belgium speak French.

Question 6.

What is meant by the system of 'checks and balances'?

Answer:

The horizontal distribution of power ensures that power is shared among different organs of government—the legislature, executive and judiciary. It allows different organs of government placed at the same level to exercise different powers. The horizontal distribution of power is also called a system of checks and balances. This system ensures that none of these organs can exercise unlimited power. Each organ checks the other.

Question 7.

After independence, Sri Lanka witnessed the supremacy of which community?

Answer:

Sri Lanka emerged as an independent country in 1948 and the democratically elected government adopted a series of measures to establish Sinhala supremacy.

Question 8.

Define the term 'Ethnic'.

Answer:

Ethnic means a social division based on shared culture and common descent. People belonging to an ethnic group need not have the same religion or nationality.

Question 9.

What is vertical division of power?

Answer:

When power is shared among governments at different levels, i.e., the Union or the Central Government, the State Government and the Municipality and Panchayat at the lower level. This division of power involving higher and lower levels of government is called the vertical division of power.

Question 10.

Compare the different ways in which the Belgians and the Sri Lankans have dealt with the problem of cultural diversity.

Answer:

Both Belgium and Sri Lanka are democracies, yet they have dealt with the problem of cultural diversity very differently.

Belgium:

Leaders realised that for the unity of the country it is important to respect the feelings and interests of different communities. The Constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French speaking people shall be equal in the Central Government.

Both Dutch and French communities share power on an equal basis at the Centre. Along with the

State Government, both communities have a third kind of Government called 'Community Government' which decides on cultural, education and language related issues.

Between, 1970 and 1993, the Constitution was amended four times to enable all linguistic groups to live together within the same country.

Sri Lanka:

In Sri Lanka, there are two major communities, the Sinhalese speaking (74%) and Tamil speaking (18%). The majority community, the Sinhalese have forced their domination over Tamils, refusing to share power.

Both communities have lived in tension as the Sinhalese have denied political, educational, religious, employment and economic rights to the Tamils leading to Civil War.

In 1956, the Government passed an Act to recognise Sinhala as the only official language, thus disregarding Tamil.

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