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1.Mention the ethnic composition of Belgium and Sri Lanka.

Belgium is composed of a population that is predominantly Flemish and French speaking, with some German speakers as well. The majority of the population is Roman Catholic. Sri Lanka has a diverse population with a majority Sinhalese population and significant minority populations of Sri Lankan Tamils, Moors, Burghers, Malays, Kaffirs, and Vedda. The predominant religion is Buddhism.

2a.Bring out sharp contrast between Belgium and Sri Lankan democracies.

Belgium is a constitutional monarchy while Sri Lanka is a semi-presidential republic. Belgium is a federal system of government while Sri Lanka is unitary. Belgium has a long-standing tradition of political stability while Sri Lanka has had numerous coups and civil wars. Belgium is a founding member of the European Union while Sri Lanka is not a member.

(OR)

2b.How have Belgium and Sri Lanka dealt with the question of power sharing differently?

Belgium has adopted a system of power-sharing in which the government has to represent the various linguistic and cultural communities in the country. This has resulted in a series of reforms that have increased the autonomy of the different regions and linguistic communities. Sri Lanka has adopted a system of power-sharing in which the government is composed of different ethnic and religious groups, as well as giving significant powers to the provinces. This has led to more stability and has allowed for better conflict resolution.

(OR)

2c.Write how accommodation is different from majoritarianism in terms of power-sharing.

Accommodation refers to a system of power-sharing in which all members of a society are given equal consideration and opportunities for participation in decision-making. Majoritarianism, on the other hand, is a system in which the majority group has greater power and influence, and minority groups are often left out or underrepresented in decision-making. Accommodation seeks to create a balance of power between different groups and provide equitable representation, while majoritarianism often leads to the marginalization of minority groups.

3. Do you think that the steps taken by Sri Lankan government to establish supremacy of Sinhala community will be long lasting? Justify

No, I do not think that the steps taken by the Sri Lankan government to establish the supremacy of the Sinhala community will be long-lasting. While this system may provide some stability in the short-term, it is likely that in the long-term it will lead to further conflict as minority groups feel marginalized and underrepresented. In order for any power-sharing system to be successful in the long-term, all groups must be given equal representation and opportunities for participation in decision-making.

4. Explain the ways by which Belgium has accommodated the existing regional difference and cultural diversity.

Belgium has implemented a variety of measures to accommodate the existing regional differences and cultural diversity in the country. This includes the establishment of three regions based on language, the implementation of regional parliaments, the protection of linguistic rights, the implementation of quotas for regional representation in government, and the promotion of regional culture and identity. The government has also taken steps to protect minority rights, such as the prohibition of discrimination based on race, gender, and sexual orientation.

5. Describe the majoritarian measures taken by Sri Lankan government to establish Sinhala supremacy.

The majoritarian measures taken by the Sri Lankan government to establish Sinhala supremacy include the promotion of Sinhala language as the official language, the adoption of a unitary state structure, the enactment of the Sinhala Only Act, the restriction of minority languages, the establishment of a Sinhala dominated state, and the implementation of preferential policies in favor of the Sinhala community. These measures have been widely criticized by minority groups as oppressive and discriminatory.

6. Mention the common features between Sri Lanka and Belgium.

Some of the common features between Sri Lanka and Belgium include the presence of diverse religious and cultural backgrounds, the adoption of power-sharing measures, the recognition of minority rights, and the promotion of regional cultures. Both countries have also adopted measures to protect the rights of minority groups, such as the prohibition of discrimination based on race, gender, and sexual orientation.

7. Why is power sharing desirable?

Power sharing is desirable because it ensures that all members of a society are given equal consideration and opportunities for participation in decision-making. Power sharing helps to create a balance of power between different groups, allowing minority groups to be represented in government and their interests to be taken into account. Power sharing can also lead to greater stability and better conflict resolution, as it allows all groups to work together towards a common goal.

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

One prudential reason for power sharing is that it can lead to greater stability and better conflict resolution, as it allows all groups to work together towards a common goal. An example from the Indian context is the Indian Constitution, which establishes a system of federalism and provides special safeguards for minority rights. One moral reason for power sharing is that it promotes equality and fairness, as all members of a society are given equal consideration and opportunities for participation in decision-making. An example from the Indian context is the policy of reservation, which provides opportunities for certain minority communities to access education and government jobs.

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

The different forms of power sharing in modern democracies include consociationalism, decentralization, devolution, federalism, and regionalism. An example of consociationalism is Belgium, which has a system of power-sharing in which the government has to represent the various linguistic and cultural communities in the country. An example of decentralization is India, which has a federal system of government with devolved powers to the states. An example of devolution is the United Kingdom, which has established a devolved government in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. An example of federalism is the United States, which is composed of 50 distinct states with limited powers reserved for the federal government. An example of regionalism is the European Union, which has established a system of cooperation between its member states.

Write the definition/meaning of the following words:

1. majoritarianism

2. ethnic

3. civil war

4. prudential

1. Majoritarianism is a system in which the majority group has greater power and influence, and minority groups are often left out or underrepresented in decision-making.

2. Ethnic refers to a shared culture or heritage, typically based on ancestry, language, and/or religion.

3. A civil war is a conflict between two or more organized groups, usually within the same country.

4. Prudential is an adjective meaning to be sensible and cautious. It is often used in reference to making decisions based on careful thought and planning.

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