

OFFLINE-ONLINE LEARNING ACADEMY

CIVICS
SOCIAL
STUDIES

CBSE-X

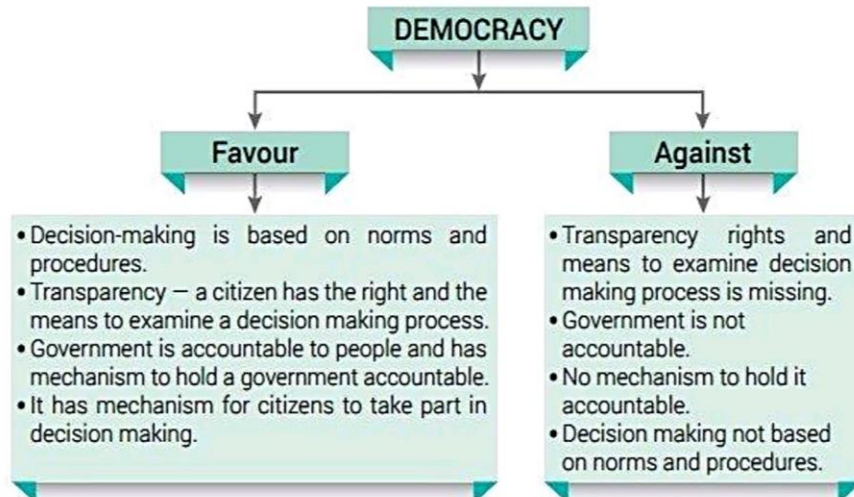
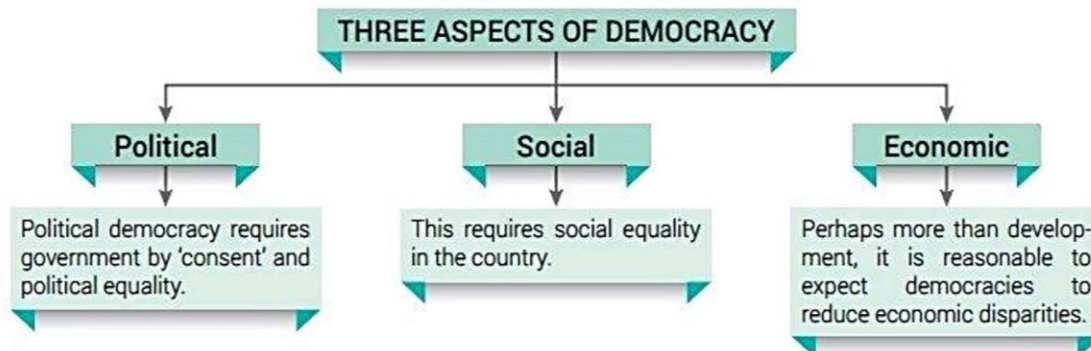
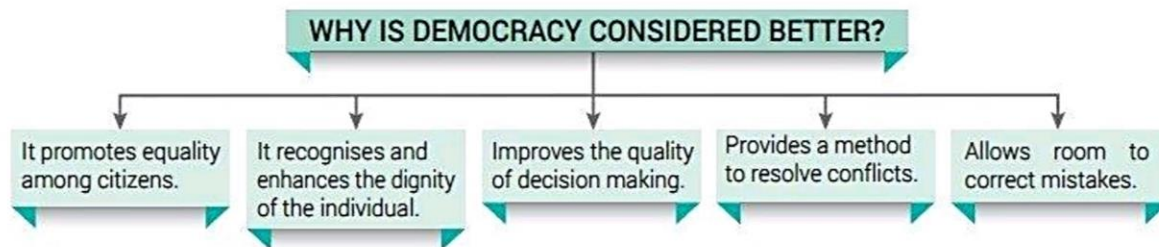


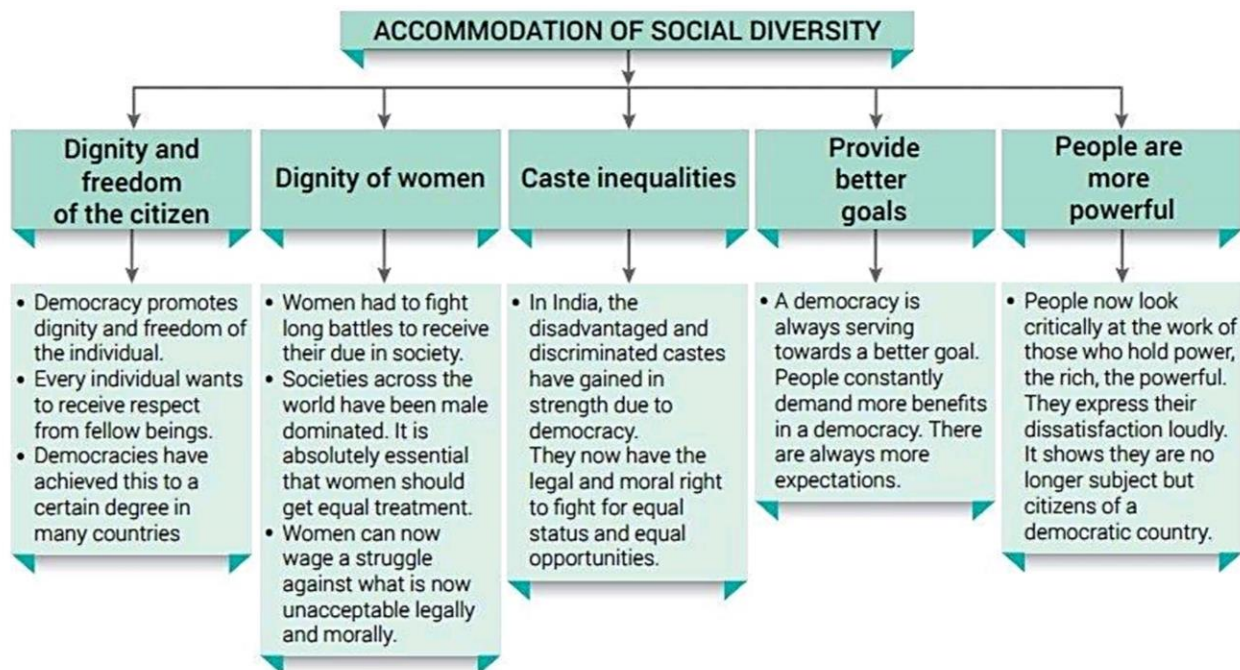
OUTCOMES
OF
DEMOCRACY



CIVICS
OUTCOMES
 OF DEMOCRACY

BASIC CONCEPTS – A FLOW CHART





IMPORTANT TERMS

1. **Democracy:** A system in which the government of a country is elected by the people.
2. **Accountable** required or expected to justify actions or decisions; responsible.
3. **Legitimate Government:** A government generally acknowledged as being in control of a nation and deserving formal recognition, which is symbolised by the exchange of diplomats between that government and the governments of other countries.
4. **Deliberation:** Long and careful discussion.
5. **Negotiation:** Discussion aimed at reaching an agreement.
6. **Dictator:** A ruler with total power over a country, typically one, who has obtained control by force.
7. **Disparities:** A great difference.
8. **Social Diversity:** People with different opinions, backgrounds (degrees and social experience), religious beliefs, political beliefs, sexual orientations, heritage, and life experience.
9. **Majority:** A great number.
10. **Minority:** The smaller number or part, especially a number or part representing less than half of the whole.
11. **Dignity:** The state or quality of being worthy of honour or respect.
12. **Atrocity:** An extremely wicked or cruel act, typically one involving physical violence or injury.

NCERT Textbook Questions

Q. 1. How does democracy produce an accountable, responsive and legitimate government?

OR

How does democracy produce an accountable, responsive and legitimate government? Discuss by giving five reasons. [CBSE Sample Paper 2016]

OR

Describe the importance of democratic government as an accountable and legitimate government. [CBSE Delhi 2019, 32/1/1]

OR

“Democracy is accountable and responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens.” Evaluate the statement. [CBSE Compt. 2017]

- Ans.**
- (i) In a democracy, people have the right to elect their rulers and participate in decision making that affects them all. Government thus, is accountable to the citizens and responsive to their needs and expectations.
 - (ii) Democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation, though it results in delays. It ensures that decision making is based on norms and procedures and allows transparency. Develops mechanisms for citizens to hold the government accountable.
 - (iii) Set up following practices and institutions: regular, free and fair elections; open public debate on major policies and legislations; and citizens' right to information about the government and its functioning.
 - (iv) It may be reasonable to expect from democracy a government that is attentive to the needs and demands of the people and is largely free of corruption. Though the record of democracy is not impressive on these two counts.
 - (v) Democratic government is a legitimate government. It may be slow, less efficient, not always very responsive or clean, but is people's own government. People wish to be ruled by representatives elected by them.

Q. 2. What are the conditions under which democracies accommodate social diversities?

OR

Democracy accommodates social diversities. Support the statement with examples. [CBSE (AI) 2016]

OR

How is social diversity accommodated in democracy? Explain with examples. [CBSE (AI) 2017]

OR

“Democracies accommodate various social divisions.” Support the statement. [CBSE 2019, 32/5/1]

OR

“The assertion of social diversities in a democratic country is very normal and can be healthy.” Justify the statement with arguments. [CBSE 2019, 32/1/1]

- Ans.** Democracy develops a mechanism which successfully negotiates difference among ethnic populations.
- (i) Democracies develop a procedure to conduct their competition. This reduces the possibility of these tensions becoming explosive or violent.
 - (ii) No society can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups. But we can certainly learn to respect these differences and can evolve mechanism to negotiate these differences.

- (iii) Ability to handle social differences, divisions and conflicts is thus a definite plus point of democratic regimes.
- (iv) For example: Belgium has successfully negotiated differences among ethnic population. This reduces the possibility of tensions.

Q. 3. Give arguments to support or oppose the following assertions:

- (i) **Industrialised countries can afford democracy but the poor need dictatorship to become rich.**
- (ii) **Democracy can't reduce inequality of incomes between different citizens.**
- (iii) **Government in poor countries should spend less on poverty reduction, health, education and spend more on industries and infrastructure.**
- (iv) **In democracy, all citizens have one vote, which means that there is absence of any domination and conflict.**

- Ans.**
- (i) Democracy ensures political equality and therefore the poor might have a say in the allocation of economic resources by the government. This may allow for equal distribution of wealth by the government thereby allowing poor to also become rich.
 - (ii) Democracy primarily means political equality. Every citizen has right to vote and stand for election. Economic inequality can only be reduced if there is an expansion of economic opportunities for all. Reducing economic inequalities requires creation of more jobs especially in manufacturing and services. This in turn will require access to health and education facilities so that they can participate and contribute in the modern economy. Requisite of redistribution of income from the rich to poor through progressive taxation and targeted subsidies cannot be denied. Democracy by itself cannot achieve these objectives although it is a significant part of the attempt to reduce economic inequality.
 - (iii) This option is not a wise option. Poverty reduction would allow the poor better access to civic amenities such as health services thereby improving their standard of living. By spending on quality education, informed and productive citizens will emerge and add towards the development of the country. A healthy and educated citizen will allow an effective functioning of industries and infrastructure.
 - (iv) One vote ensures only equal political opportunity to elect. Democracy is a mean and it depends upon the people to have a desired end. Democracy ensures means of resolution of conflict but not its absence; similarly, it ensures means of political accommodation but not political freedom.

Q. 4. Identify the challenges to democracy in the following descriptions. Also suggest policy/institutional mechanism to deepen democracy in the given situations:

- (i) **Following a High Court directive, a temple that had separate entry doors for dalits and non-dalits allowed entry for all from the same door.**
- (ii) **A large number of farmers are committing suicide in different states of India.**
- (iii) **Following allegation of killing of three civilians in Gandwara in a fake encounter by Jammu and Kashmir police, an enquiry has been ordered.**

- Ans.**
- (i) The challenge to democracy was that Dalits were not being treated as equal in access to place of worship. By having public awareness campaigns against casteism, we can try to abolish it through the will of the people rather than will of the court.
 - (ii) Farmers have not been given equal economic opportunity in India and neither do they have access to mental health services. Government should take pro-active measures to ease their economic burden, which will stop them from committing suicide. Access to mental health services will deter them from taking such extreme steps.

(iii) The challenge to democracy is the need to kill three individuals by Police officers, presuming they were criminals. There should be an impartial and transparent enquiry into this and appropriate actions should be taken afterwards.

Q. 5. In the context of democracies, which of the following ideas is correct – democracies have successfully eliminated:

- (a) conflicts among people
- (b) economic inequalities among people
- (c) differences of opinion about how marginalised sections are to be treated
- (d) the idea of political inequality

Ans. (c) differences of opinion about how marginalised sections are to be treated

Q. 6. In the context of assessing democracy, which among the following is an odd one out. Democracies need to ensure:

- (a) free and fair elections
- (b) dignity of the individual
- (c) majority rule
- (d) equal treatment before law

Ans. (c) majority rule

Q. 7. Studies on political and social inequalities in democracy show that:

- (a) democracy and development go together.
- (b) inequalities exist in democracies.
- (c) inequalities do not exist under dictatorship.
- (d) dictatorship is better than democracy.

Ans. (a) democracy and development go together

Q. 8. Read the passage below:

Nannu is a daily wage earner. He lives in Welcome Mazdoor Colony, a slum habitation in East Delhi. He lost his ration card and applied for a duplicate one in January 2004. He made several rounds to the local Food & Civil Supplies office for the next three months. But the clerks and officials would not even look at him, leave alone do his job or bother to tell him the status of his application. Ultimately, he filed an application under the Right to Information Act asking for the daily progress made on his application, names of the officials, who were supposed to act on his application and what action would be taken against these officials for their inaction. Within a week of filing application under the Right to Information Act, he was visited by an inspector from the Food Department, who informed him that the card had been made and he could collect it from the office. When Nannu went to collect his card next day, he was given a very warm treatment by the Food & Supply Officer (FSO), who is the head of a Circle. The FSO offered him tea and requested him to withdraw his application under the Right to Information, since his work had already been done.

What does Nannu's example show? What impact did Nannu's action have on officials? Ask your parents their experiences when they approach government officials to attend to their problems.

Ans. Nannu's example shows that citizens through government mechanism, have the power to demand answers and can force and bring government officials into action. Officials were quick to take action and fearful to release the information under the RTI.

Multiple Choice Questions

Choose and write the correct option.

- We can judge democracy by its:
 - people
 - outcomes
 - political parties
 - none of these
- People feel that democracy is better as it promotes:
 - equality
 - freedom
 - dignity
 - all of these
- Many countries of the world claim and practice:
 - authoritarianism
 - democracy
 - dictatorship
 - none of these
- The successful democracy needs:
 - right to vote
 - freedom
 - periodic elections
 - all of these
- People should be vigilant and participate actively in the process of:
 - representation
 - governance
 - choosing party
 - all of these
- The political parties and democratic government is accountable to:
 - people
 - society
 - world
 - none of these
- Democracy even ensures the decision-making based on:
 - norms
 - procedures
 - both (a) and (b)
 - none of these
- In democracy, we do come across evil practices, such as:
 - corruption
 - favouritism
 - both (a) and (b)
 - none of these
- Democracy can lead to:
 - Handle social differences
 - Secular society
 - Harmonious social life
 - All of these
- Which of the following statements are true about Democratic Government?
 - Democratic Government is a legitimate Government.
 - Democratic Government may be slow, less efficient, and not always very responsive or clean.
 - Democratic Government is the people's own Government.
 - All the above
- Which of these factors play a role in the economic development of a country?
 - Cooperation from other countries
 - Size of the population
 - Economic priorities adopted by the Government
 - All of the above
- The rates of economic growth for different countries from 1950 to 2000 was highest among _____.
 - All democratic regimes
 - Poor countries under dictatorship
 - Poor countries under democracy
 - All dictatorial regimes
- Which of the following statements are true?
 - Non-democratic regimes often turn a blind eye to or suppress internal social differences.
 - Ability to handle social differences, divisions and conflicts is thus definite plus point of democratic regimes.
 - Democracies usually develop a procedure to conduct their competition.
 - All the above

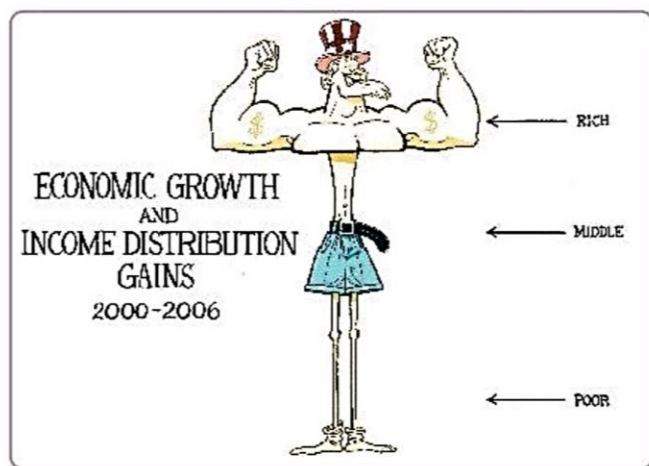
14. _____ stands much superior to any other form of Government in promoting dignity and freedom of the individual.
- (a) Theocracy (b) Oligarchy
 (c) Dictatorship (d) Democracy
15. Which of the following statements are true?
- (a) In democracy, the majority and minority opinions are not permanent.
 (b) In democracy, it is also necessary that rule by majority does not become rule of majority community in terms of religion or race of linguistic group.
 (c) Democracy remains democracy only as long as every citizen has a chance of being in majority at some point of time.
 (d) All of above
16. In a democracy, a citizen who wants to know if a decision was taken through the correct procedures can find this out - this is the hallmark of _____.
- (a) Transparency (b) Lack of transparency
 (c) Opacity (d) Ambiguity

17. Which one of the following options best signifies this cartoon?

- (a) On an average, dictatorial regimes have had a slightly better record of economic growth.
 (b) Within democracies, there are sometimes very high degree of inequalities.
 (c) There are often inequalities of opportunities available to the poorer sections.
 (d) There is a relationship of democracy with economic growth and economic inequalities.



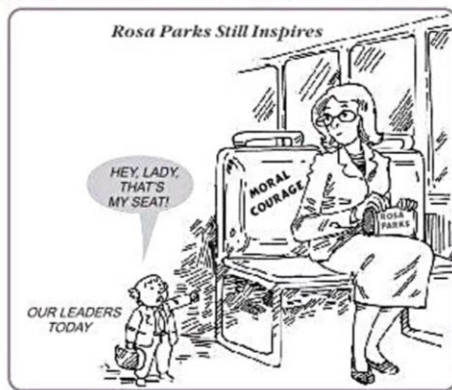
18. (i) Which one of the following options best signifies this cartoon?



- (a) If you see all democracies and all dictatorship for a decade, you will find dictatorships have slightly higher economic development.
 (b) Economic development depends on several factors like country's population, size, global situation and cooperation from other countries.
 (c) If democracies are expected to produce good governments, then it is not fair to expect that they would also produce development.
 (d) There are disparities between rich and poor, whereas economic growth should be evenly distributed.

- (ii) Which of the following options best signifies this cartoon?
- Democratic government is based on political equality not on the economic equality.
 - Democratic government does not provide facility to the poor.
 - Democratic government favours only the rich.
 - None of these.

19. Which one of the following options best suited this cartoon?



- Most societies across the world were historically male-dominated societies.
 - Majority and minority opinions are not permanent.
 - Democracies do not reduce economic inequalities.
 - People wish to be ruled by representatives elected by them.
20. Which one of the following options best signifies this cartoon?

- voice of the region
- voice of women
- voice of the poor
- none of the above



ANSWERS

- | | | | | | | | |
|---------|-------------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (b) | 2. (d) | 3. (b) | 4. (d) | 5. (d) | 6. (a) | 7. (c) | 8. (c) |
| 9. (d) | 10. (d) | 11. (d) | 12. (d) | 13. (d) | 14. (d) | 15. (a) | 16. (a) |
| 17. (c) | 18. (i) (d) | (ii) (a) | 19. (a) | 20. (c) | | | |

Correct and Rewrite

Correct the following statements and rewrite them.

- The first step towards thinking carefully about the outcomes of democracy is to recognise that democracy is a compulsory form of government.
- Democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and dictatorship.
- Democracy's ability to generate its own support is itself an outcome that can be ignored.
- The majority always needs to work with the majority so that governments function to represent the general view.

ANSWERS

1. The first step towards thinking carefully about the outcomes of democracy is to recognise that democracy is just a form of government.
2. Democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation.
3. Democracy's ability to generate its own support is itself an outcome that cannot be ignored.
4. The majority always needs to work with the minority so that governments function to represent the general view.

Assertion-Reason Questions

The following questions consist of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer these questions selecting the appropriate option given below:

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
 - (b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
 - (c) A is correct but R is wrong.
 - (d) A is wrong but R is correct.
1. **Assertion(A)** : Democracies are based on political equality.
Reason (R) : All individuals have equal weight in electing representatives.
 2. **Assertion(A)** : It is necessary to understand that democracy is not simply ruled by minority opinion.
Reason (R) : The majority always needs to work with the minority so that governments function to represent the general view.
 3. **Assertion(A)** : Democracy is best suited to produce positive outcome.
Reason (R) : Democracies are based on political equality.
 4. **Assertion(A)** : Democracies usually develop a procedure to conduct their competition.
Reason (R) : This increases the possibility of economic tensions becoming explosive or violent.
 5. **Assertion(A)** : Democracy in India has strengthened the claims of the disadvantaged and discriminated castes for equal status and equal opportunities.
Reason (R) : Democracy remains democracy only as long as every citizen has a chance of being in majority at some point of time.

ANSWERS

1. (a) 2. (d) 3. (b) 4. (c) 5. (b)

EXPLANATIONS OF SELECTED ASSERTION-REASON QUESTIONS

2. It is necessary to understand that democracy is not simply rule by majority opinion.
3. Non-democratic regimes often turn a blind eye to or suppress internal social differences.
4. This reduces the possibility of these tensions becoming explosive or violent.
5. There are instances still of caste-based inequalities and atrocities, but these lack the moral and legal foundations.

Source-based/Case-based Questions

Read the passages given below and answer the questions that follow:

PASSAGE-1

There are some things that democracy must provide. In a democracy, we are most concerned with ensuring that people will have the right to choose their rulers and people will have control over the rulers. Whenever possible and necessary, citizens should be able to participate in decision making, that affects them all. Therefore, the most basic outcome of democracy should be that it produces a government that is accountable to the citizens, and responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens. Before we go into this question, we face another common question: Is the democratic government efficient? Is it effective? Some people think that democracy produces less effective government. It is, of course, true that non-democratic rulers do not have to bother about deliberation in assemblies or worry about majorities and public opinion. So, they can be very quick and efficient in decision making and implementation. Democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation. So, some delay is bound to take place. Let us think in terms of costs. Imagine a government that may take decisions very fast. But it may take decisions that are not accepted by the people and may therefore face problems. In contrast, the democratic government will take more time to follow procedures before arriving at a decision. But because it has followed procedures, its decisions may be both more acceptable to the people and more effective. So, the cost of time that democracy pays is perhaps worth it. Now look at the other side – democracy ensures that decision making will be based on norms and procedures. So, a citizen who wants to know if a decision was taken through the correct procedures can find this out. She has the right and the means to examine the process of decision making. This is known as transparency. This factor is often missing from a non-democratic government. Therefore, when we are trying to find out the outcomes of democracy, it is right to expect democracy to produce a government that follows procedures and is accountable to the people. We can also expect that the democratic government develops mechanisms for citizens to hold the government accountable and mechanisms for citizens to take part in decision making whenever they think fit.

- (i) What should be the most basic outcomes of democracy?
- (ii) Do you think democracy produces less effective government?
- (iii) Democracy is based on which two ideas?

PASSAGE-2

In a democracy, we are most concerned with ensuring that people will have the right to choose their rulers and people will have control over the rulers. Whenever possible and necessary, citizens should be able to participate in decision making, that affects them all. Therefore, the most basic outcome of democracy should be that it produces a government that is accountable to the citizens, and responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens. Some people think that democracy produces less effective government. It is, of course, true that non-democratic rulers are very quick and efficient in decision making and implementation, whereas, democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation. So, some delay is bound to take place. But, because it has followed procedures, its decisions may be both more acceptable to the people and more effective. Moreover, when citizens want to know if a decision was taken through the correct procedures, they can find this out. They have the right and the means to examine the process of decision making. This is known as transparency. This factor is often missing from a non-democratic government. There is another aspect in which democratic government is certainly

better than its alternatives: democratic government is legitimate government. It may be slow, less efficient, not always very responsive, or clean. But a democratic government is people's own government.

- (i) What do you mean by Right to Vote?
- (ii) What is the most basic outcome of democracy?
- (iii) What makes the government legitimate?

ANSWERS

1. (i) The most basic outcome of democracy should be that it produces a government that is accountable to the citizens, and responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens.
 (ii) I agree, compared to non-democratic rulers, they do not have to bother about deliberation in assemblies or worry about majorities and public opinion. Whereas the decision making is delayed in a democracy.
 (iii) Democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation.
2. (i) People's right to choose their own rulers is called as the Right to Vote.
 (ii) The most basic outcome of democracy should be that it produces a government that is accountable to the citizens, and responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens. Some people think that democracy produces less effective government.
 (iii) Free and fair elections.

Very Short Answer Questions

Each of the following questions is of 2 marks.

Q. 1. What is meant by transparency in a Democracy?

Ans. Right or means to examine the that whether the laws, plans, action, policies or the process of decision-making is called transparency.

Q. 2. How can you say that democracies are based on political equality?

Ans. Democracies are based on political equality as they provide equal rights to all the citizens to contest elections and cast votes and ensure equal opportunity to be elected. They also subscribe to one vote, one value and equal political rights.

Q. 3. Why is democratic government better than other alternatives?

Ans. Democracy is a better form of government because it is legitimate, accountable, responsive, promotes equality among citizens, enhances dignity of the individual, improves quality of decision-making and allows room to correct mistakes.

Q. 4. What is the most basic outcome of democracy?

Ans. The most basic outcome of democracy is that it produces a government that is accountable to citizens and responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens.

Q. 5. How far are economic inequalities existing in democratic countries?

Ans. In democracies a small number of ultra rich enjoying a highly disproportionate share of wealth and incomes. Not only that, their share in the total number of the country has been increasing. Those at the bottom of the society suffer.

Q. 6. How is democracy considered best to accommodate social diversity?

Ans. In democracy we can certainly learn to respect these social difference and we can evolve mechanism to negotiate the difference. In fact, democracy is best suited to reduce this outcome.

Q. 7. Do you agree that democracy promotes dignity of the citizen?

Ans. Often conflicts arise among individuals because some feel that they are not treated with due respect. The passions for respect and freedom are the basis of democracy no doubt promotes dignity of the citizens and treats everyone equally.

Q. 8. Which aspect of dictatorship is better than democracy?

Ans. The aspect of dictatorship is better than democracy is that dictatorial regimes have had a slightly better record of economic growth and they are more efficient.

Q. 9. Which provision of the Indian Constitution grants equal status to all citizens?

Ans. Equality before law for all and provision of equal opportunities to all of the Indian Constitution grants status to all citizens.

Q. 10. "In comparison to non-democratic government, decision of government takes time." Does democracy pay its price? Explain.

Ans. The democratic governments take more time to follow procedures before arriving at a decision. But because it has followed procedures, its decisions may be both more acceptable to the people and more effective. So, the cost of time that democracy pays is perhaps worth it.

Q. 11. Explain the meaning of transparency in democracy. [CBSE (AI) 2017]

Ans. In democracy, decision making is based on norms and procedures. A citizen has the right and the means to examine the process of decision making. This is known as transparency.

Q. 12. How democracy is considered best to accommodate social diversity?

Ans. In democracy, we can certainly learn to respect social differences and we can evolve mechanism to negotiate the differences. In fact, democracy is best suited to reduce this outcome.

Q. 13. How does democracy remove the gap between majority and minority in the country?

Ans. Rule by majority means that in case of every decision or in case of every election, different persons and groups may and can form a majority. Democracy remains democracy only as long as every citizen has a chance of being in majority at some point of time.

Q. 14. Explain any one difference between a pressure group and a political party. [CBSE (AI) 2017]

Ans. One difference between a pressure group and a political party is:
 Political parties contest elections and hold power in the government while pressure groups attempt to influence government policies.

Short Answer Questions

Each of the following questions is of 3 marks.

Q. 1. What is democracy? What are its various characteristics?

Ans. In modern usage, democracy is a system of government, in which the citizens exercise power. It is formed by two Greek words 'demos' and 'Kratia'. 'Demos' means people and 'Kratia' means the government. Democracy, thus means 'rule by the people.' In a democratic set up, every citizen has a right to take a part in the decision making process. According to Abraham Lincoln, democracy is 'government of the people, government by the people and the government for the people' Citizens choose their representatives who would form the government.

Characteristics:

- (i) It promotes equality among citizens.
- (ii) It looks after the interest of the people.
- (iii) It allows room to correct mistakes.

Q. 2. What are the prudential reasons to support democracy?

Ans.

- (i) Over a hundred countries of the world today claim and practice same kind of democratic politics.
- (ii) They have formal constitution, they hold elections, they have parties and they guarantee rights to citizens.
- (iii) While these features are common to most of them, these democracies are very much different from one another in terms of their social situations, their economic achievements and their cultures.

Q. 3. What are our expectations from democracy?

- Ans.**
- (i) In a democracy, we are most concerned with ensuring that people have the right to choose their rulers and people have control over the rulers.
 - (ii) Whenever possible and necessary, citizens should be able to participate in decision-making that affects them all.
 - (iii) Thus, the most basic outcome of democracy should be that the government is accountable to the citizens and responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens.

Q. 4. On the basis of which values will it be a fair expectation that democracy should produce a harmonious social life? Explain. [CBSE (AI) 2017]

Ans. The values that are associated with democracy producing a harmonious social life are:

- (i) Equality among all human beings.
- (ii) Respect for individual freedom.
- (iii) Democracies accommodate various social divisions.
- (iv) Democracies reduce the possibility of tensions becoming explosive or violent.
- (v) Ability to handle social differences, divisions and conflicts.

Q. 5. "Democracies do not appear to be very successful in reducing economic inequalities?" Justify the statement. [CBSE 2019 (32/2/3)]

Ans. It is true. The following points justify that:

- (i) A small number of ultra-rich enjoy a disproportionate share of wealth and income. Not only that, their share in the total income of the country has been increasing.
- (ii) Those at the bottom of the society have very little to depend upon. Their incomes have been declining.
- (iii) Sometimes, they find it difficult to meet their basic needs of life, such as food, clothing, housing, education and health.

In actual life, democracies do not appear to be very successful in reducing economic inequalities.

Q. 6. How can you say that democracy is better than dictatorship?

OR

Which values make democracy better than any other form of government? Explain.

[CBSE (F) 2017]

OR

Analyse any three values that make democracy better.

[CBSE Delhi 2017]

Ans.

- (i) Democracy promotes equality among citizens as it is people's own government.

- (ii) It enhances the dignity of the individual.
- (iii) It also improves the quality of decision-making.
- (iv) It provides methods to resolve conflicts, if any.
- (v) Only democracy allows room to correct mistakes.
- (vi) It is a legitimate government.
- (vii) Gives equal status and respect to women and weaker sections.

Q. 7. How much transparency is there in democracy as compared to other governments?

- Ans.**
- (i) A citizen who wants to know if a decision was taken through the correct procedures can find that out. He/She has the right and the means to examine the process of move to next line decision-making. This is known as transparency.
 - (ii) This factor is often missing from a non-democratic government. Therefore, when we are trying to find out the outcomes of democracy, it is right to expect democracy to produce a government that follows procedures and is accountable to the people.

- (iii) We can also expect that the democratic government develops mechanisms for citizens to hold the government accountable and mechanisms for citizens to take part in move to next line decision-making process.

Q. 8. Suggest some broad guidelines that can be kept in mind while devising ways and means for political reforms in India. [CBSE Sample Paper 2016]

Ans. Guidelines for political reform:

- (i) Any legal change must carefully look at what results it will have on politics. Sometimes, the results may be counter-productive.
- (ii) The main focus of political reforms should be on ways to strengthen democratic practice.
- (iii) Any proposal for political reforms should think not only about what is a good solution but also about who will implement it and how.

Long Answer Questions

Each of the following questions is of 5 marks.

Q. 1. Describe any five outcomes of democracy. [CBSE 2019 (32/1/2)]

- Ans.**
- (i) The first step towards evaluating outcome of democracy is to recognise that democracy is just a form of government. It means democracy provides an opportunity and it is the citizens who can take advantage of it.
 - (ii) The most basic outcome of democracy is that it is accountable to citizens and responsive to their needs and expectations.
 - (iii) Another outcome of democracy is that it is a legitimate government. It means all decisions are taken as per the constitution only.
 - (iv) Democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation, though it results in delays. It ensures that decision making is based on norms and procedures and allows transparency. Develops mechanisms for citizens to hold the government accountable.
 - (v) Set up following practices and institutions: regular, free and fair elections; open public debate on major policies and legislations; and citizens' right to information about the government and its functioning.

Q. 2. "Democratic government is legitimate government"? Support the statement with arguments. [CBSE Delhi 2016]

OR

How is 'democratic government' a 'legitimate government'? Explain with examples. [CBSE Delhi 2017]

Ans. Democratic government is a legitimate government: It may be slow, less efficient, not always very responsive or clean. But a democratic government is peoples' own government. That is why there is an overwhelming support for the idea of democracy all over the world. People wished to be ruled by representatives elected by them. They also believe that democracy is suitable for their country. Democracy's ability to generate its own support is itself an outcome that cannot be ignored.

Democratic Government known as legitimate government:

- (i) Democracy produces a government that follows and is accountable to the people.
- (ii) It provides mechanism for citizens to hold the government accountable and allows citizens to take part in decision making process.
- (iii) If we want to measure democracies on the basis of this expected outcome you would look for the following practices and institutions regular free and fair election, open public debate on major policies.

Q. 3. Explain the three factors that are crucial in deciding the outcome of politics of social divisions. [CBSE 2018 (32/1/1)]

Ans.

Introduction : The outcome of politics of social divisions is decided by 3 factors :-

(a) It depends on how the people perceive their identities. If they perceive their identities in singular and exclusive terms: (like in Srilanka), it becomes difficult to accommodate. If they perceive their identities in multiple & complementary with nation (eg:- Belgium), it is easier to accommodate.

(b) It depends on how the political parties raise the issues. If they raise the issues that are within the constitutional framework and not at the cost of other communities, it leads to peace in the country. eg:- The various leaders of different ethnic groups raised the issues in such a way that they couldn't be accommodated within a single country, and lead to division of country into 6 independent units.

(c) It depends on how the govt reacts to the reasonable demands of minority. If they suppress the reasonable demands in name of national unity, it turns into conflicts. eg:- Srilanka.

Conclusion : Thus, it depends on these factors, the outcome of politics of social division.

[Topper's Answer 2018 (32/1/1)]

Q. 4. Do democracies lead to peaceful and harmonious relations among citizens?

- Ans.
- (i) Democracies usually develop a procedure to conduct their competition. This reduces the possibility of these tensions becoming explosive or violent.
 - (ii) No society can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups.
 - (iii) But we can certainly learn to respect these differences and we can also evolve mechanisms to negotiate the differences.
 - (iv) Democracy is best suited to produce this outcome.

Non-democratic regimes often turn a blind eye to or suppress internal social differences. Ability to handle social differences, divisions and conflicts is, thus, a definite plus point of democratic regimes.

Q. 5. How far are democracies able to handle differences between various ethnic groups?

- Ans.**
- (i) Democracies are able to accommodate various social divisions.
 - (ii) These usually develop a procedure to reduce the possibility of tension between ethnic groups as they become explosive or violent sometimes.
 - (iii) Democracy is best suited to reduce this outcome.
 - (iv) Non-democratic regimes often turn a blind eye to or suppress social differences.
 - (v) Ability to handle social differences, divisions and conflicts is, thus, a definite plus point of democratic regimes.

Q. 6. Evidence shows that in practice, many democracies did not fulfil the expectation of producing economic development in the country. Validate the statement with the help of relevant example. [CBSE Sample Paper 2016]

OR

“Democracies do not appear to be very successful in reducing economic inequalities.” Justify the statement. [CBSE 2019 (32/2/1)]

Ans. If we consider all democracies and all dictatorships for the fifty years between 1950 and 2000, dictatorships have slightly higher rate of economic growth.

Economic development depends on several factors: country's population size, global situation, cooperation from other countries, economic priorities adopted by the country, etc.

However, the difference in the rates of economic development between less developed countries with dictatorships and democracies is negligible. Overall, it cannot be said that democracy is a guarantee of economic development. But we can expect democracy not to lag behind dictatorships in this respect.

When such a significant difference in the rates of economic growth between countries under dictatorship and democracy, it is better to prefer democracy as it has several other positive outcomes.

Q. 7. How are the democratic governments better than the other forms of governments? Justify the statement. [CBSE Delhi 2016, 2019 (32/1/3)(32/2/3)]

OR

“Democracy is a better form of government than any other form of government.” Analyse the statement with arguments. [CBSE Delhi 2016, 2020 (32/1/1) 2019(32/2/1)]

Ans. Democracy is a better form of government compared to other alternative form of governments because:

- (i) Democratic governments have formal constitution, unlike other forms of government.
- (ii) They hold regular elections.
- (iii) They have political parties.
- (iv) Democracy guarantees rights of citizens.
- (v) Democratic governments allows room to correct mistakes.
- (vi) Democratic government accommodates social diversities.
- (vii) Promotes equality among citizens.
- (viii) Enhances the dignity of the individual.
- (ix) Improves the quality of decision making process.
- (x) Provides a method to resolve conflicts.

Q. 8. "Democracies have had greater success in setting regular free and fair elections." Analyse the statement. [CBSE 2019 (32/3/1)]

Ans. Free & fair elections:

- (i) Contesting candidate should submit affidavit of properties & cases pending against him if any.
- (ii) To hold organisational elections by parties.
- (iii) The defection law: The constitution was amended to prevent elected MLAs & MPs from changing parties.
- (iv) The supreme court passed a law to bring down the influence of money during elections.
- (v) Democracy provides meaningful choice to their voters to choose their representative regularly, freely and fairly.
- (vi) It also provides the government to make policies, justify or oppose them.

Any others relevant point

9. Describe any five characteristics of democracy. [CBSE (AI) 2017]

Ans. Democracy is a better form of government from any other form of government:

- (i) Democracy promotes equality among citizens.
- (ii) Enhances the dignity of the individual.
- (iii) Improves the quality of decision making.
- (iv) Provides methods to resolve conflicts.
- (v) Accountable, responsive and legitimate government.
- (vi) Reduction of inequality and poverty.
- (vii) It promotes transparency.

10. "Democracy stands much superior in promoting dignity and freedom of the citizens." Justify the statement. [CBSE Delhi 2017, CBSE (AI) 2016]

OR

"Democracies promotes dignity and freedom of the people." Examine the statement.

[CBSE 2020 (32/5/1)]

OR

How does democracy stand better to any other form of government in promoting the dignity and freedom of the citizens? Explain with examples. [CBSE (F) 2017]

Ans. "Democracy stands much superior in promoting dignity and freedom of the citizens:"

- (i) Every individual wants to receive respect from fellow beings.
- (ii) The passion for respect and freedom are basis of democracy.
- (iii) Democracies throughout the world have recognised this. It has been achieved in various degrees in various democracies.
- (iv) Long struggles by women have got them respect and equal treatment and now accepted as necessary ingredients of a democratic society.
- (v) In many democracies, women were deprived of their right to vote for a long time which they have achieved now.
- (vi) In India, 1/3rd of seats have been reserved for women in local bodies.
- (vii) Democracy has strengthened the claims of the disadvantaged and discriminated castes for equal status and equal opportunity.
- (viii) Legal basis which works on the principle of individual freedom and dignity.

11. "Democracy is best suited to produce better results." Examine the statement.

[CBSE 2020 (32/5/1)]

Ans. Democracy is best suited to produce its own outcomes:

- (i) Promotes equality and coexistence among citizens.
 - (ii) Enhances the dignity and freedom of the individual.
 - (iii) Improves the quality of decision making in spite of many economic, political and social problems.
 - (iv) Provides a method to resolve conflicts. Allow room to correct mistakes.
 - (v) Believes in discussion, negotiation and shows accountability through transparency.
 - (vi) Accommodates social diversities in a better way.
- Any other relevant point*

12. "A democracy must look after the interests of all, not just one section." Support the statement with arguments.

[CBSE (F) 2017]

Ans. Democracy must look after the interest of all because:

- (i) Democracy believes in and work for equality.
- (ii) It has the ability to handle social differences irrespective of religion or race or linguistic group, etc.
- (iii) It gives equal treatment to women.
- (iv) It cares equally for majority and minority.
- (v) Democracy in India has strengthened the claims of the disadvantaged.
- (vi) It tries to provide equal opportunities to minority and depressed classes.
- (vii) Ordinary citizens value their democratic rights.
- (viii) Democracy shows that people have developed awareness.
- (ix) It has the ability to expect and look critically at power holders.

13. "No party system is ideal for all countries and in all situations." Analyse the statement.

[CBSE (AI) 2017, CBSE (AI) 2016]

Ans. Party system is not something any country can choose:

- (i) It evolves over a long time, depending on the nature of society.
- (ii) It depends on social and regional divisions.
- (iii) It depends on history of politics and its system of elections.
- (iv) These cannot be changed very quickly.
- (v) Each country develops a party system that is conditioned by its special circumstances.

14. "A public expression of dissatisfaction with democracy shows the success of democratic project." Justify the statement.

[CBSE (F) 2016]

Ans. "A public expression of dissatisfaction with democracy shows the success of democratic project:"

- (i) As democracy passes one test, it produces another test. As people get some benefits of democracy they ask for more and want to make democracy even better.
- (ii) That is why when we ask people about the way democracy functions, they will always come up with more expectations, and many complaints.
- (iii) The fact that people are complaining is itself a testimony to the success of democracy; it shows that people have developed awareness and the ability to expect and to look critically at power holders and the high and the mighty.
- (iv) A public expression of dissatisfaction with democracy shows the success of the democratic project; it transforms people from the states of subject into that of a citizen.
- (v) Most individuals today believe that their vote makes a difference to the way the government is run and to their own self interest.

15. "There is an overwhelming support for the idea of democracy all over the world." Support the statement.

- Ans. (i) Over a hundred countries of the world today claim and practise some kind of democratic politics.
 (ii) They have formal constitution, they hold elections, they have parties and they guarantee rights to citizens.
 (iii) While these features are common to most of them, these democracies are very much different from one another in terms of their social situations, their economic achievements and their cultures.
 (iv) Democracy is a government that is attentive to the needs and demands of the people and largely free of corruption.

16. "Democratic government is attentive to the needs and demands of the people and is largely free of corruption." Support your answer with arguments.

OR

Is democracy attentive to the needs of people? Is it free from corruption?

- Ans. The record of democracy is not impressive on these counts.
 (i) Democracies often frustrates the needs of people and ignore the demands of a majority of its population.
 (ii) The routine tales of corruption are enough to convince us that democracy is not free from this evil.
 (iii) Democracies also give right to the citizens to choose their representatives. Whenever possible, people are able to participate in decision making. But their decisions are not often followed.
 (iv) At the same time, there is nothing to show that non-democracies are less corrupt or more sensitive to the people.

17. On the basis of which values will it be a fair expectation that democracy should produce a harmonious social life? Explain. [CBSE 2017 (32/2/2)]

Ans.

17. On the basis of ^{and diversity} accommodation, we should expect democracy to produce a harmonious social life. The countries are very diverse and thus it sometimes lead to conflicts.
 * Democracy can never stop conflicts but can it can try to settle down the conflicts. It respects the diversity present in the society and it help to accommodate people if:
 (a) People ^{i.e. majority} understand that they have to work with minority to develop their country. Majority rules doesn't mean that only majority people's need will be fulfilled considered.
 (b) The majority doesn't mean any major social group on basis of religion, caste, etc. Each and every person has the right to be a part of majority at some point of time. they cannot be denied this on the basis of birth.
 * The biggest example of this is Belgium which has accommodated diversity for a harmonious life.
 [Topper's Answer 2017 (32/2/2)]

Self-Assessment

Time allowed: 1 hour

Max. marks: 40

General Instructions:

- (i) The test is divided into two sections: A and B.
- (ii) All questions are compulsory.
- (iii) Section-A contains Multiple Choice Questions.
- (iv) Section-B contains Subjective Type Questions (2/3/5 marks each) .

SECTION-A

1. Choose and write the correct answer for each of the following. (1 × 11 = 11)

- (i) Which of the following countries has the most stable democracy?
 - (a) Pakistan
 - (b) U.S.A.
 - (c) Nepal
 - (d) Sri Lanka
- (ii) Which of the following is not the feature of Democracy?
 - (a) Election
 - (b) Rule of Law
 - (c) Independent Judiciary
 - (d) Preference to a particular religion
- (iii) In which South Asian country is dictatorship preferred over democracy?
 - (a) Bangladesh
 - (b) Pakistan
 - (c) Nepal
 - (d) Sri Lanka
- (iv) Democracy is mainly:
 - (a) Free and Fair election
 - (b) Dignity of individual
 - (c) Majority rule
 - (d) Equal treatment before law
- (v) What is regarded as a 'definite plus point' of democratic regimes?
 - (a) Equal treatment before law
 - (b) dictatorship
 - (c) Ability to handle Social differences, divisions, and conflicts.
 - (d) None of these
- (vi) The basic outcome of democracy are:
 - (a) Military Outcome
 - (b) Political, Social and Economic Outcome
 - (c) Elimination of Poverty
 - (d) Restricted and limited welfare policies
- (vii) A democratic government is:
 - (a) A responsive government
 - (b) An accountable government
 - (c) A legitimate government
 - (d) All of these
- (viii) Democracies have successfully eliminated?
 - (a) Conflicts among people
 - (b) Economic inequalities
 - (c) Idea of political inequality
 - (d) Differences of opinion on how marginalised communities are to be treated.

- (ix) Democracy is considered a better form of government in comparison to dictatorship because _____.
- It promotes the citizens.
 - It allows room to correct mistakes.
 - It improves the quality of decision making.
 - All of the above
- (x) Which of the following statements is true about democracy?
- It is a good form of government due to lesser corruption.
 - It ensures higher rate of economic growth.
 - It is rule by majority, therefore its a good government.
 - It respects the individual dignity of citizens.
- (xi) In the question given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:
- Assertion (A) :** Development and democracy are however, compatible.
- Reason (R) :** They are complimentary to each other.
- Options:
- Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
 - Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
 - A is correct but R is wrong.
 - A is wrong but R is correct.

SECTION-B

Answer the following questions.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 2. What is the best way that democracy is thought to accommodate social diversity? | 2 |
| 3. How can we say that democratic governments are better than its alternatives? | 3 |
| 4. List out various aspects and qualifications which aid in giving a more precise definition of democracy. | 3 |
| 5. 'Democracy is not free from evils'. Comment. | 3 |
| 6. How does democracy accommodates social diversity? | 3 |
| 7. Describe the main features of dictatorship. | 5 |
| 8. "A democracy must look after the interests of all, not just one section." Support the statement with arguments. [CBSE (F) 2017] | 5 |
| 9. Do democracies lead to peaceful and harmonious relations among citizens? | 5 |

