

GENDER-RELIGION AND CASTE

Embark on a thought-provoking exploration of societal structures with our comprehensive study material for Class 10th, focusing on Gender, Religion, and Caste. This module is meticulously designed to foster critical thinking, empathy, and a nuanced understanding of the diverse fabric that shapes human societies.

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GENDER

RELIGION AND CASTE



Gender Dynamics: Delve into the intricate nuances of gender roles and societal expectations. Explore the challenges and victories in the pursuit of gender equality, and understand the impact of gender dynamics on individuals and communities.



Religious Pluralism: Uncover the rich tapestry of religions coexisting in our world. From the core tenets of major religions to the importance of religious tolerance, this module encourages a respectful appreciation for diverse belief systems.



Caste and Social Hierarchies: Examine the historical and contemporary dimensions of caste systems. Gain insights into the social structures that have influenced communities, and explore efforts towards caste equality and social justice.



Impact on Identity: Analyze how gender, religion, and caste intersect to shape individual and collective identities. Understand the complexities of identity formation and the societal expectations that influence personal choices.



Case Studies: Engage with real-world case studies that illuminate the experiences of individuals navigating issues related to gender, religion, and caste. Develop a contextual understanding of the challenges and triumphs faced by diverse communities.



Cultural Sensitivity: Foster cultural sensitivity and awareness. Learn to appreciate and respect differences, contributing to a more inclusive and harmonious society.



Contemporary Relevance: Explore the contemporary relevance of these social constructs. Understand how gender dynamics, religious pluralism, and caste systems continue to impact global and local socio-political landscapes.

BASIC CONCEPTS – A FLOW CHART

COMMUNALISM

Communalism is a situation where one community tries to promote its own interest at the cost of others.

The followers of a particular religion must belong to one community.

Communal politics is based on idea that religion is the basis of a religious community.

Ultimate result is division on the basis of religion.

The demands of one religion formed in opposition to others when one group tries to dominate others.

The problem becomes acute when one religion is presented as superior to others.

STATUS OF WOMEN IN INDIA

- India has a patriarchal society, a society that gives more power to man, values them more and considers them superior to women.
- The literacy rate among women is 54% as compared to the 76% among men.
- Every year girls do better than boys in school results, but more girls dropout as parents want to spend their resources on their son's education.
- Though there is an Equal Wages Act which states that women should be paid equal wages for equal work, women are still paid less for the same work.
- A woman works an hour more than a man on an average, yet her work is neither valued or recognised.
- The percentage of elected women members in Lok Sabha has never even reached 10% of the total members.

CASTE IN ELECTORAL POLITICS

No parliamentary constituency has only one caste dominating it.

All Voters belonging to one caste, do not vote for the same party.

Sometimes more than one candidate of the same caste stands for elections and sometimes the voters may find no candidate of their own caste.

The ruling party MPs and MLAs lose elections frequently. This could not happen in all voters voted according to caste.

POLITICS IN CASTE

Each caste group tries to increase in numbers by including sub-castes or neighbouring castes.

New caste groups come up, like backward, and forward caste groups.

Caste politics have helped Dalit & OBC castes to gain better access to decision making.

Various caste groups get into a coalition with other castes during elections.

Political parties make demands, agitate against discrimination on the basis of caste. They demand more dignity, more resources, more opportunities.

IMPORTANT TERMS

1. **Caste:** It is a social category to which a person belongs involuntarily.
2. **Sexual Division of Labour:** A term referring to the specialised *gender roles* of male breadwinner and female housewife.
3. **Feminism:** The belief that women are and should be treated as potential intellectual equals and social equals to men.
4. **Feminist:** A person who supports feminism.
5. **Patriarchal** relating to or denoting a system of society or government controlled by men.
6. **Wages:** A fixed regular payment earned for work or services, typically paid on a daily or weekly basis.
7. **Communalism:** It means that people of the same religion have common cultural, economic, political and social interests. Thus, religion based communities form as the primary unit of society.
8. **Communal Politics:** The use of religion in politics, where one religion is shown as superior to other religions.
9. **Outcast:** A person who is expelled from the caste.
10. **Urbanisation:** An increase in a population in cities and towns. Urbanisation began during the industrial revolution, when workers moved towards manufacturing hubs in cities to obtain jobs in factories as agricultural jobs became less common.
11. **Occupational Mobility** refers to the ease with which workers can switch career fields to find gainful employment or meet labour needs.
12. **Caste Hierarchy** is a class **structure** that is determined by birth. Loosely, it means that in some societies, if your parents are poor, you're going to be poor too. Same goes for being rich.
13. **Universal Adult Franchise:** It **means** that the right to vote should be given to all **adult** citizens without the discrimination of caste, class, colour, religion or gender. It is based on equality, which is a basic principle of democracy.
14. **MP:** Member of Parliament.
15. **MLA:** Member of Legislative Assembly.

NCERT Textbook Questions

Q. 1. Mention different aspects of life in which women are discriminated or disadvantaged in India.

Ans. The different aspects of life in which women are discriminated or disadvantaged in India are:

- (i) There are sex-selective abortions in India. A girl child is aborted due to preference of a male child among several Indian parents and the assumption that a girl child will be a burden on the economic wealth of the parents. The sex ratio in India (in 2011) was 919 girls to every 1000 boys which have fallen to even 800:1000 in some parts of India.
- (ii) The literacy rate of women is only 54% as compared to 76% among men in India. Many girls in India tend to leave their education midway because economically weak parents prefer to spend their money for the education of their son as compared to that of their daughter. Also money that can be invested for the education of a daughter is rather saved for her dowry and marriage.

- (iii) Women form a small portion among highly paid and valued jobs. Many girls are not able to pursue higher education in India due to early marriage, inaccessibility to higher education institutes or lack of money to pursue higher education. Therefore they do not have the qualification to apply for high paying jobs.
- (iv) There are instances of sexual harassment and domestic violence against women which deters the formation of a supportive environment for a woman to pursue her ambitions and fulfil her dreams as per potential. These conditions are created due to assumption of women being physically weaker, lack of protection from State agencies such as police and structure of the patriarchal society.

Q. 2. State different forms of communal politics with one example each.

Ans. Religious identities are used to divide different religious communities. Social differences based on religion leads to social divisions when religious identity is used to stereotype one community. This stereotype forms the basis of prejudice by another community thereby causing the second community to believe they are superior or feel threatened. The Divide and Rule policy of the British caused social differences among Hindus and Muslims to turn into Social Divisions.

There is political mobilisation based on religious divisions. It involves the use of religious symbols to gather followers of one religion and then building fear of another community in order to divide the followers of different religions. This causes social divisions to turn into political divisions thereby leading to Communal Politics. This existed in Northern Ireland where the Protestants and Catholics were politically mobilised by different political parties.

Communal politics often leads a desire for political dominance of one religious community over another. This can take shape in form of dominance of the majority community or a desire for separate political units for different religious communities thereby leading to conflict and even violence. Communal politics led to the division of Yugoslavia and violence among different religious groups.

Q. 3. State how caste inequalities are still continuing in India.

Ans. Caste continues in form of social traditions such as in marriage whereby people still marry within their own caste or tribe. Access to education to caste groups that did not have it earlier has progressed slowly in India thereby creating inequalities in literacy and jobs. The inequality in access to jobs has further created gaps in wealth among caste groups. Disadvantaged caste groups also had lower wealth such as land to pass to future generations which is reflected today in wealth inequality among caste groups. The belief that caste as the basis of social community has caused social divisions among caste communities and therefore they are not united to struggle for common interests.

Q. 4. State two reasons to say that caste alone cannot determine election results in India.

- Ans.**
- (i) No parliamentary constituency in the country has a clear majority of one single caste. So every candidate and party needs to win the confidence of more than one caste and community to win elections.
 - (ii) No party wins the votes of all the voters of a caste or community. When people say that a caste is a 'vote bank' of one party, it usually means that a large proportion of the voters from that caste vote for that party.

Q. 5. What is the status of women's representation in India's legislative bodies?

Ans. The proportion of women in legislature has been very low. The percentage of elected women members in Lok Sabha has never crossed 10% of total members in 2009 for the first time. Their share in the state assemblies has in general been less than 5%. Although there are more than 10 lakh elected women representatives in panchayats and municipalities due to reservation of 1/3 of seats for women. A Bill demanding reservation of at least 1/3 of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies for women has been pending before the Parliament for more than a decade.

Q. 6. Mention any two constitutional provisions that make India a secular state.

Ans. The Constitution provides to all individuals and communities freedom to profess, practice and propagate any religion, or not to follow any.

The Constitution prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion.

Q. 7. When we speak of gender divisions, we usually refer to:

- (a) Biological difference between men and women
- (b) Unequal roles assigned by the society to men and women
- (c) Unequal child sex ratio
- (d) Absence of voting rights for women in democracies

Ans. (b) Unequal roles assigned by the society to men and women

Q. 8. In India, seats are reserved for women in:

- (a) Lok Sabha
- (b) State legislative assemblies
- (c) Cabinets
- (d) Panchayati Raj bodies

Ans. (d) Panchayati Raj bodies

Q. 9. Consider the following statements on the meaning of communal politics. Communal politics is based on the belief that:

- A. One religion is superior to that of others.
- B. People belonging to different religions can live together happily as equal citizens.
- C. Followers of a particular religion constitute one community.
- D. State power cannot be used to establish the domination of one religious group over others.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

- (a) A, B, C, and D
- (b) A, B, and D
- (c) A and C
- (d) B and D

Ans. (c) A and C

Q. 10. Which among the following statements about India's Constitution is wrong? It

- (a) prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion.
- (b) gives official status to one religion.
- (c) provides to all individuals freedom to profess any religion.
- (d) ensures equality of citizens within religious communities.

Ans. (b) Gives official status to one religion.

Q. 11. Social divisions based on Caste are peculiar to India.

Q. 12. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the Lists:

	List I	List II
1.	A person who believes in equal rights and opportunities for women and men	A. Communalist
2.	A person who says that religion is the principal basis of community	B. Feminist
3.	A person who thinks that caste is the principal basis of community	C. Secularist
4.	A person who does not discriminate others on the basis of religious beliefs	D. Castiest

	1	2	3	4
(a)	B	C	A	D
(b)	B	A	D	C
(c)	D	C	A	B
(d)	C	A	B	D

Ans. (b)

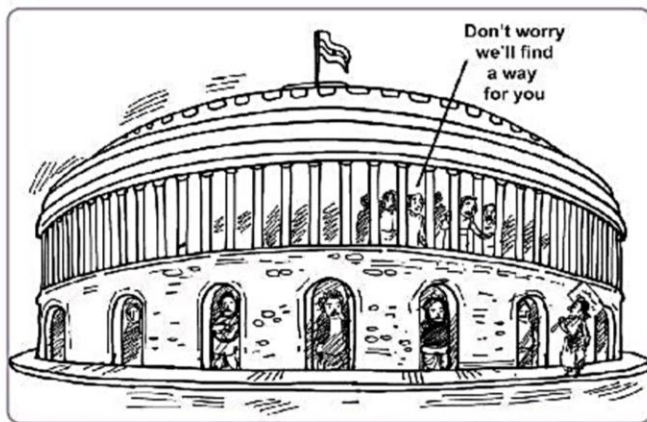
Multiple Choice Questions

Choose and write the correct option.

- What is leading to the breakdown of caste hierarchy?
 (a) Large-scale urbanisation (b) Growth of literacy and education
 (c) Occupational mobility (d) All of these
- The gender division is mainly:
 (a) private (b) public (c) both (a) and (b) (d) none of these
- “A woman or a man who believes in equal rights and opportunities for men and women.”
 Select the correct option for the definition.
 (a) Women’s movement (b) Female Agitation (c) Feminist (d) None of these
- What step was taken to provide representation to women in Panchayats and Municipalities?
 (a) Reservation for election to half of the seats for women
 (b) Appointment of 1/3 women members
 (c) Reservation for election to 1/3 of the seats for women
 (d) None of the these
- The distinguishing feature of communalism is:
 (a) Followers of a particular religion must belong to one community.
 (b) Communalism leads to the belief that people belonging to different religions can live as equal citizens within one nation.
 (c) A communal mind does not lead to quest for political dominance of one’s own religious community.
 (d) A secular constitution is sufficient to combat communalism.
- Communal politics is based on the idea that religion is the principal basis of:
 (a) economics (b) society (c) people (d) none of these
- Which of these Acts provides that equal wages should be paid for equal work to both men and women?
 (a) Same Wages Act (b) Equal Wages Act
 (c) Wages Equality Act (d) Equality Wages Act
- Partly due to the efforts of reformers and partly due to other _____ changes, caste system in modern India has undergone great changes.
 (a) Fundamental (b) Socio-economic
 (c) Cultural (d) Professional
- Which one of the following statements is the opinion of Mahatma Gandhi?
 (a) The religion can be separated from politics
 (b) The religion can never be separated from politics
 (c) There is no relationship between religion and politics
 (d) None of the above
- Which of the following statements are true regarding Feminist Movements?
 (a) Radical women’s movements aimed at equality in personal and family life as well.
 (b) Agitations demanded enhancing the political and legal status of women and improving their educational and career opportunities.
 (c) There were agitations in different countries for the extension of voting rights to women.
 (d) All the above.

11. The Scandinavian countries such as Sweden, Norway and _____, the participation of women in public life is very high.
 (a) Finland (b) Hungary (c) Russia (d) Latvia
12. On average, an Indian woman works _____ more than an average man every day.
 (a) Three hours (b) Two hours (c) One hour (d) Four hour
13. The Equal Remuneration Act, of _____ provides that equal wages should be paid to equal work.
 (a) 1986 (b) 1976 (c) 1966 (d) 1972
14. The percentage of elected women members in Lok Sabha had crossed 10 per cent of its total strength for the first time in _____.
 (a) 1999 (b) 2004 (c) 2009 (d) 2019
15. Which of the following statements are true?
 (a) Every social difference does not lead to social division.
 (b) Social differences divide similar people from one another, but they also unite very different people.
 (c) People belonging to different social groups share differences and similarities cutting across the boundaries of their groups.
 (d) All the above
16. Which of the following statements are true?
 (a) The constitution of India allows the state to intervene in the matters of religion in order to ensure equality within religious communities.
 (b) Constitution prohibits discrimination on the grounds of religion.
 (c) The constitution provides to all individuals and communities freedom to profess, practice and propagate any religion, or not to follow any.
 (d) All the above.

17.



Which one of the following options best signifies this cartoon?

- (a) It shows an understanding why the women's reservation bill is not passed in the parliament.
 (b) It shows an understanding of why the canteen rates of the parliament are extremely low.
 (c) It shows an understanding of the elections and domination of one party over the parliament.
 (d) none of the above

ANSWERS

1. (d) 2. (b) 3. (c) 4. (c) 5. (a) 6. (b) 7. (b) 8. (b)
 9. (b) 10. (d) 11. (a) 12. (c) 13. (b) 14. (c) 15. (d) 16. (d)
 17. (a)

Correct and Rewrite

Correct the following statements and rewrite them.

1. More radical women's movements aimed at inequality in personal and family life as well.
2. The Equal Remuneration Act, 1978 provides that equal wages should be paid to equal work.
3. In India, the proportion of women in legislature has been very high.
4. Gender division is an example that some form of social division does not need to be expressed in politics.

ANSWERS

1. More radical women's movements aimed at equality in personal and family life as well.
2. The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 provides that equal wages should be paid to equal work.
3. In India, the proportion of women in legislature has been very low.
4. Gender division is an example that some form of social division needs to be expressed in politics.

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) : Boys and girls are brought up to believe that the main responsibility of women is housework and bringing up children.
Reason (R) : This is reflected in a SEXUAL DIVISION OF LABOUR in most families: women do all work inside the home such as cooking, cleaning, washing clothes, tailoring, looking after children, etc., and men do all the work outside the home.
 2. Assertion(A) : Earlier, only women were allowed to participate in public affairs, vote and contest for public offices.
Reason (R) : The percentage of elected women members in Lok Sabha has crossed 10 per cent of its total strength for the first time in 2009.
 3. Assertion(A) : Women in different parts of the world organised and agitated for equal rights.
Reason (R) : There were agitations in different countries for the extension of voting rights to women.
 4. Assertion(A) : In our country, women still lag much behind men despite some improvement since Independence.
Reason (R) : Ours is still a male dominated, Matriarchal society.
 5. Assertion(A) : Gender division is an example that some form of social division needs to be expressed in politics.
Reason (R) : Women's movement has argued that FAMILY LAWS of all religions discriminate against women.

ANSWERS

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

EXPLANATIONS OF SELECTED ASSERTION-REASON QUESTIONS

- In India, the proportion of women in legislature has been very low.
- Ours is still a male-dominated, patriarchal society.
- This also shows that disadvantaged groups do benefit when social divisions become a political issue.

Source-based/Case-based Questions

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

PASSAGE-1

Communal politics is based on the idea that religion is the principal basis of social community. Communalism involves thinking along the following lines. The followers of a particular religion must belong to one community. Their fundamental interests are the same. Any difference that they may have is irrelevant or trivial for community life. It also follows that people who follow different religions cannot belong to the same social community. If the followers of different religion have some commonalities these are superficial and immaterial. Their interests are bound to be different and involve a conflict. In its extreme form communalism leads to the belief that people belonging to different religions cannot live as equal citizens within one nation. Either, one of them has to dominate the rest or they have to form different nations.

- Communal politics is based on what idea?
- Can people who belong to different religions belong to same family laws?
- What does the extreme form of communalism leads to?

PASSAGE-2

As in the case of communalism, casteism is rooted in the belief that caste is the sole basis of social community. According to this way of thinking, people belonging to the same caste belong to a natural social community and have the same interests which they do not share with anyone from another caste. As we saw in the case of communalism, such a belief is not borne out by our experience. Caste is one aspect of our experience but it is not the only relevant or the most important aspect. Caste can take various forms in politics: When parties choose candidates in elections, they keep in mind the caste composition of the electorate and nominate candidates from different castes so as to muster necessary support to win elections. When governments are formed, political parties usually take care that representatives of different castes and tribes find a place in it. Political parties and candidates in elections make appeals to caste sentiment to muster support. Some political parties are known to favour some castes and are seen as their representatives. Universal adult franchise and the principle of one-person-one-vote compelled political leaders to gear up to the task of mobilising and securing political support. It also brought new consciousness among the people of castes that were hitherto treated as inferior and low.

- (i) What are the distinguishing feature of communalism?
- (ii) Mention any two the statements which suggest that it is not politics that gets caste-ridden, it is the caste that gets politicised.
- (iii) When we speak of gender divisions, we usually refer to what?

ANSWERS

1. (i) Religion is the principal basis of social community.
(ii) No, they do not.
(iii) Extreme form communalism leads to the belief that people belonging to different religions cannot live as equal citizens within one nation.
2. (i) Followers of a particular religion must belong to one community.
(ii) (a) Each caste group incorporates neighboring castes which were earlier excluded.
(b) Various caste groups enter into a coalition with other castes.
(iii) Unequal roles assigned by the society to men and women.

Very Short Answer Questions

Each of the following questions is of 2 marks.

Q. 1. How are boys and girls brought up in India for the division of labour?

Ans. Boys and girls are brought up to believe that the main responsibility of women is house work and bringing up children.

Q. 2. What is the proportion of women in legislature of India?

Ans. In India, the proportion of women in legislature has been very low. Example: It crossed 10 percent of its total strength in Lok Sabha in 2009.

Q. 3. What is the proportion of women in India's local bodies?

Ans. One third of the seats in local government bodies—in panchayats and municipalities are now reserved for women.

Q. 4. What do you understand by secularism and its essence?

Ans. Secularism means the separation of religion from the state which seeks to end religious dominance to prevent discrimination.

Q. 5. What is occupational mobility?

Ans. Shift from one occupation to another, usually when a new generation takes up occupations other than practised by their ancestors.

Q. 6. What does 'Caste hierarchy' mean?

Ans. It is a ladder like formation in which all the caste groups are placed from the 'highest' to the 'lowest' castes or we can say that it is a system of social stratification in our society.

Q. 7. (i) What is the role of Indian Constitution to remove caste system?

(ii) What do you understand by vote bank of a caste?

Ans. (i) The Constitution of India prohibited any caste based discrimination.

(ii) A large proportion of the voters from that caste vote for that party.

Short Answer Questions

Each of the following questions is of 3 marks.

Q. 1. What would happen if politics and religion go hand in hand?

Ans. (i) Gandhiji used to say that religion can never be separated from politics. What he meant by religion was not Hinduism or Islam but moral values are uniform in all religions. He believed that politics must be guided by the morals and ethics drawn from religion.

- (ii) Human rights group in one country has argued that most of the victims of communal riots in India are people from religious minorities. They have demanded that the government should protect religious minorities.
- (iii) Women's movements have argued that 'family laws' of all religions discriminate against women. So they have demanded that the government should change these laws to make them more equitable.

Q. 2. How are religious differences expressed in politics?

- Ans.**
- (i) A communal mind often leads to a quest for political dominance of one's own religious community.
 - (ii) Political mobilisation on religious lines is another frequent form of communalism.
 - (iii) Sometimes, communalism takes its most ugly form, in communal violence riots and massacres.

Q. 3. How can a relationship between religion and politics be established?

Ans. The relationship between religion and politics can be established by setting up the following constitutional provisions:

- (i) There is no official religion. The Indian Constitution does not give special status to any religion.
- (ii) The Constitution provides to all individuals and communities freedom to profess, practise and propagate any religion, or not to follow any.
- (iii) At the same time, the Constitution only allows the state to intervene in matters of religion in order to ensure equality within religious communities.

Q. 4. What factors matter in politics other than caste?

- Ans.**
- (i) The voters have strong attachment to political parties which is often stronger than their attachment to their caste or community.
 - (ii) People within the same caste or community have different interests depending on their economic conditions.
 - (iii) Rich and poor or men and women from the same caste often vote very differently.
Example: Abolition of Caste system.

People's assessment of the performance of the government and the popularity rating of the leaders matter and are often decisive in elections.

Q. 5. What does 'gender-division' mean?

Ans. Gender division is a form of hierarchical social division seen everywhere, but rarely recognised in the study of politics. It tends to be understood as natural and unchangeable. However, it is not based on biology but on social expectations and stereotypes.

Q. 6. What do you understand by 'sexual division of labour'? Give some examples.

Ans. It is a system in which all work inside the home is either done by the women of the family, or organised by them through the domestic helpers.

It is reflected in most of the families. Women do all the work inside the home such as cooking, cleaning, washing clothes, tailoring, looking after children, etc. and men do all the work outside the home.

It is not that men cannot do housework; they simply think that it is for women to attend to these things.

In villages, women fetch water, collect fuel and work in the field.

Q. 7. What does 'feminist' mean? What are feminist movements?

Ans. Feminist can be a woman or a man who believes in equal rights and opportunities for women and men.

Feminist movements aim at equal rights and opportunities for women and men. More radical women's movements aimed at equality, both in personal and family life.

- Q. 8. "Secularism is not an ideology of some political parties or persons, but it is one of the foundations of our country." Examine the statement. [CBSE Delhi 2018, 32/1/1]

Ans.

Introduction : Secularism is the foundation of our country's polity. Our constitution clearly states that India is a secular country in articles - 25 to 28 Part - III of constitution.

(a) There is no official religion of India like the status of Islam in Pakistan, Christianity in England and Buddhism in Sri Lanka.

(b) Every individual is given the right to profess, propagate and practice religion of their choice or not to follow any.

(c) There is no discrimination on the grounds of religion.

Conclusion : Thus, communalism threatens the very idea of democracy. [Topper's Answer 2018 (32/1/1)]

- Q. 9. What is communal politics? How is it preferred?

Ans. **Communal Politics:** It is based on the idea that religion is the principal basis of social community. Communalism involves thinking that the followers of a particular religion must belong to one community. Their fundamental interests are the same. Any difference that they may have is irrelevant or trivial for community life. It also follows that people who follow different religions cannot belong to the same social community. If the followers of different religions have some commonalities, these are superficial and immaterial. Their interests are bound to be different and involve a conflict.

- Q. 10. "The problem begins when religion is seen as the basis of the nation." Explain the statement with an example.

Ans. When religion becomes the basis of the nation, it becomes communalism.

When people of one religion consider themselves as superior to other religions, the problem of communalism erupts. This problem of communalism takes another sharp turn when it gets mixed with politics. The state power is used to establish domination of one religious group over the other religion. The manner in which religion is used in politics is called 'communal politics'. Sometimes people also use politics to express their needs, interests as members of a particular religious community.

- Q. 11. "In politics, the focus on caste can sometimes give an impression that elections are all about caste and nothing else." Justify the statement.

- Ans. (i) When parties choose candidates in elections, they keep in mind the caste composition of the electorate and nominate candidates from different castes so as to get necessary support to win elections.
- (ii) Political parties and candidates in elections make appeal to caste sentiment to muster support. Some political parties are known to favour some castes and are seen as their representatives.

(iii) Universal adult franchise and the principle of 'one person one vote' compelled political leaders to gear up to the task of mobilising and securing political support.

Q. 12. How does caste get politicised?

- Ans.**
- (i) Each caste group tries to become bigger by incorporating within it the neighbouring castes or subcastes, which were earlier excluded from it.
 - (ii) Various caste groups are required to enter into a coalition with other castes or communities and thus enter into a dialogue and negotiations.
 - (iii) New kinds of caste groups have come up in the political arena like 'backward' and 'forward' caste groups.

These castes play different kinds of roles in politics. As in the case of religion, politics based on caste identity alone is not very healthy in a democracy.

Long Answer Questions

Each of the following questions is of 5 marks.

Q. 1. Women still lag much behind men in India despite some improvements since independence. Analyse the statement. [CBSE 2019, 32/1/1]

OR

Women in India still face discrimination in various ways. Explain with examples.

[CBSE 2019, 32/2/3]

Ans. In our country, women still lag much behind men despite some improvements since Independence. Women face disadvantage, discrimination and oppression in various ways :

- (i) The literacy rate among women is only 54 percent as compared with 76 percent among men.
- (ii) Similarly, a smaller proportion of girl students go for higher studies. When look at school results, girls perform as well as boys, if not better at some places. But they drop out because parents prefer to spend their resources for their boys education rather than spending equally on their sons and daughters.
- (iii) The proportion of women among the highly paid and valued jobs is still very small. On an average an Indian women works one hour more than an average man everyday.
- (iv) The Equal Wages Act provides that equal wages should be paid to equal work. However in almost all areas of work, from sports and cinema, to factories and fields, women are paid less than men, even when both do exactly the same work.
- (v) In many parts of India, parents prefer to have sons and find ways to have the girl child aborted before she is born. Such sex selective abortion led to a decline in child sex ratio.
- (vi) Women face harassment, exploitation and violence on the domestic front.

Q. 2. How is caste preferred in politics?

- Ans.**
- (i) No parliamentary constituency in the country has a clear majority of one single caste. So every candidate and party needs to win the confidence of more than one caste and community to win elections.
 - (ii) No party wins the votes of all the voters of a caste or community. When people say that a caste is a 'vote bank' of one party, it usually means that a large proportion of the voters from that caste vote for that party.
 - (iii) Many political parties may put up candidates from the same caste. Some voters have more than one candidate from their caste while many voters have no candidate from their caste.
 - (iv) The ruling party and the sitting MPs or MLAs frequently lose elections in a country. That would not have happened if all castes and communities were frozen in their political preferences.

Q. 3. Describe any five features of secularism in India.

[CBSE 2019, 32/4/2]

Ans.

23	The features of secularism in India are
(i)	India has no official religion of its own, unlike Pakistan (Islam), Britain (Christianity), Sri Lanka (Buddhism).
(ii)	Every individual is free to practise, profess and propagate any religion of their choice.
(iii)	The government does not discriminate and provides equal opportunities to all, irrespective of religion.
(iv)	No body or individual can be discriminated on the basis of religion. The Constitution prohibits such discrimination.
(v)	The government can interfere in the matters of religion and its practices to make it more equitable.
	[Topper's Answer 2019 (32/4/2)]

Q. 4. What changes can be seen in the caste system in modern India?

Ans. Partly due to social reformers and political leaders' efforts and partly due to other socio-economic changes, castes and caste system in modern India have undergone great changes.

With economic development, large-scale urbanisation, growth of literacy and education, occupational mobility and the weakening of the position of landlords in the villages, the old notions of caste hierarchy are breaking down. Now most of the times, in urban areas, it does not matter much who is walking along next to us on a street or eating at the next table in a restaurant. The Constitution of India prohibited any caste-based discrimination. If a person who lived a century ago were to return to India, he/she would be greatly surprised at the change that has come about in the country.

Q. 5. How does communalism threaten the Indian democracy? Explain.

- Ans.
- The most common expression of communalism lies in our everyday beliefs. These routines involve belief in the superiority of one's religion above other religions.
 - A communal mind often leads to a quest for political dominance of one's own religious community; it can take the form of a desire to form a separate political unit.
 - Political mobilisation based on religion is another form of communalism. This involves the use of sacred symbols, religious leaders, emotional appeal to bring the followers of one religion together in the political arena.
 - Sometimes, communalism takes its most ugly form in violence riots and massacres. India and Pakistan suffered some of the worst communal riots at the time of partition.

Q. 6. Highlight the positive and negative impact of casteism with regard to political expression. Give any three examples to justify the statement.

Ans. Positive Impact of Casteism

- (i) With the economic development, large scale urbanisation growth of literacy and education, occupational mobility and the weakening of the position of landlords in the village, the old notions of caste hierarchy are breaking down.
- (ii) The constitution has prohibited any caste based discrimination and laid the foundation of policies to reverse the injustices of the caste system.

Negative impacts of Casteism

- (i) When parties choose candidates in election, they keep in mind the caste imposition of the electorate and nominate candidates from different castes so as to get necessary support to win elections.
- (ii) Political parties and candidates in elections make appeals to caste sentiments to muster support.

Q. 7. Write a few measures to combat communalism in India.

Ans. Measures to Combat Communalism in India:

Communalism can be combated through the following methods:

- (i) Law should ban parties using religion in politics.
- (ii) Socio-economic backwardness of the country should be removed so that people are not used as vote banks.
- (iii) Political parties should rise above narrow gains and stop fanning communal passions.
- (iv) Educational institutions should inculcate secular values among students.
- (v) The Election Commission should prepare a code of conduct for parties so that religion is not used in politics.
- (vi) Mass media, TV, radio, NGOs and people themselves should launch an enlightenment movement so that public opinion is created against communal riots.

Q. 8. How is gender division understood in Indian society? How does political mobilisation of women on this question help to improve women's role in public life?

- Ans.**
- (i) Boys and Girls are brought to believe that the main responsibility of women is household work and bringing up children.
 - (ii) Women do all work inside the house such as cooking, cleaning, washing clothes, tailoring, looking after the children, etc. and men do all the work outside the house. It is not that men cannot do such work they simply think that it is for women, to attend to.
 - (iii) Political mobilisation has helped to improve women's role in public life.
 - (a) Now women are scientists, space astronauts, doctors, engineers, lawyer and college and university teachers which were earlier not considered suitable for them.
 - (b) Despite certain improvement, Indian Society remains a male dominated and patriarchal society. Women still face torture, discrimination in various ways.
 - (iv) In urban areas, poor women work as domestic helps in middle-class homes while middle-class women work in offices.
 - (v) In fact, the majority of women do some sort of paid work in addition to domestic labour. But their work is not valued and does not get recognition.

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) Many women movements were aimed at equality for women in:
 - (a) personal life
 - (b) family life
 - (c) public life
 - (d) none of these
- (ii) In many parts of India, parents prefer to have:
 - (a) girls
 - (b) sons
 - (c) both (a) and (b)
 - (d) none of these
- (iii) Women education has been focused upon by the National Policy for Education in:
 - (a) 1986
 - (b) 1989
 - (c) 1984
 - (d) 1986
- (iv) Gandhiji used to say that religion cannot be separated from:
 - (a) people
 - (b) society
 - (c) politics
 - (d) none of these
- (v) Communalism has led to:
 - (a) vote bank politics
 - (b) division of society
 - (c) hatred among people
 - (d) none of these
- (vi) More radical women's movements aimed at equality in personal and family life as well. These movements are called _____ movements.
 - (a) Political
 - (b) Gender
 - (c) Feminist
 - (d) Radical
- (vii) Which of the following divisions is unique to India?
 - (a) Gender division
 - (b) Caste division
 - (c) Economic division
 - (d) Religious division
- (viii) Human rights groups in our country have argued that most of the victims of communal rights in our country are _____.
 - (a) Women
 - (b) Religious extremes
 - (c) Religious minorities
 - (d) Religious majorities
- (ix) There is no official language in _____.
 - (a) England
 - (b) Sri Lanka
 - (c) India
 - (d) Pakistan
- (x) _____ are those laws that deal with family related matters such as marriage, divorce, adoption, inheritance, etc.
 - (a) Family Laws
 - (b) Religious Laws
 - (c) Community Laws
 - (d) State Laws

(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) : Caste identity has become essential in politics.

Reason (R) : Political parties put up candidates and mobilise votes in the name of caste.

Options:

- (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.

SECTION-B

Answer the following questions.

- 2. Give any two reasons for the status of women's representation in India's legislative bodies? 2
- 3. Give negative and positive aspects of relationship between caste and politics. 3
- 4. 'The idea of communal politics is fundamentally flawed.' Explain the statement. 3
- 5. Define Feminist movement. What are the political demands of the feminist movement in India? 3
- 6. Suggest steps to improve the women's participation in politics. 3
- 7. How does caste interfere in politics? 5
- 8. Write major five areas where women in India are discriminated against. 5
- 9. Mention any five reasons for the declining caste system in India. 5

