

QUESTION BANK IN SOCIAL SCIENCE CLASS-IX (TERM-I)

2 WHAT IS DEMOCRACY? WHY DEMOCRACY?

CONCEPTS

WHAT IS DEMOCRACY?

1. Democracy is a form of government in which the rulers are elected by the people.
 - Myanmar where the army rules, Dictator Pinochet's rule in Chile, or President Nkrumah's rule in Ghana was not democratic. They were not chosen by the people.
 - Hereditary kings, like the king of Nepal or Saudi Arabia, are also not democratic rulers. They rule because they were born into noble families.
2. In a democracy final decision making power must rest with those elected by the people.
 - In Pakistan, President Musharraf has the power to dismiss national and state assemblies; so the final powers rest with the army and the General himself. We cannot call it a democracy.
3. A democracy must be based on a free and fair election where those currently in power have a fair chance of losing.
 - For example, in Mexico elections have been held every six years since 1980. But the same party, PRI, has won the elections. Obviously there has been rigging and malpractices, with freedom denied to opposition. This is not what a democracy should be.
4. In a democracy people's will is ascertained by each adult citizen having one vote and each vote has one value. Democracy is based on the fundamental principle of political equality.
5. A democratic government rules within limits set by constitutional and citizens' rights.
 - A democratic government cannot do what it likes after winning the elections. It has to respect certain basic rules and is accountable not only to the people but also to other independent officials.

WHY DEMOCRACY?

Points Against

There has been criticism of democracy by various people. The charges are that :

- It creates instability by changing its leaders frequently.
- Democracy is about power play and political competition. There is no scope for morality.
- So many people have to be consulted before any issue is solved. It leads to delay.
- Elected leaders do not know the best interest of the people.
- It leads to corruption for it is based on electoral corruption.
- Ordinary people do not know what is good for them, so decision making should not be left to them.

I. SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

A. NCERT TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS

Questions within the Lesson

Page No. 23

Q.1. News items like this appear very often in newspapers. Do they all use the word democracy in the same sense?

Ans. No. The headlines are being sarcastic, e.g., “Nepal king invents ‘democracy’” or “Why wait for a revolution”.

The headlines about Afghanistan clearly suggest that democracy is not accepted by the people.

Page No. 25

Q.2. This cartoon was drawn when elections were held in Iraq with the presence of US and other foreign powers. What do you think this cartoon is saying? Why is ‘democracy’ written the way it is?

Ans. Democracy — where free and fair elections must be held — is being forced on Iraq by the US and its allies. There are no “free” and “fair” elections. The capital M suggests mockery of democratic norms.

Page No. 26

Q.3. Syria is a small west Asian country. The ruling Baath Party and some of its small allies are the only parties allowed in that country. Do you think this cartoon could apply to China or Mexico? What does the crown of leaves on democracy signify?

Ans. Again the cartoon suggests that there is no true democracy in Syria. Yes, it would suit China and Mexico also where no opposition parties are allowed to contest election.

Crown of leaves — It is a symbol of victory. In Greece the reward to the winner was this crown. Here the crown suggests that ‘democracy’ has won and demands justice, but the one party rule is denying this right to the people of Syria.

Page No. 27

Q.4. This cartoon was drawn in the context of Latin America. Do you think it applies to the Pakistani situation as well? Think of other countries where this could apply. Does this happen sometimes in our country as well?

Ans. Yes, it applies to Pakistan. Other countries are Myanmar, Iraq where people are forced to vote by the army.

No, it has not happened in our country.

Page No. 28

Q.5. This cartoon was titled ‘Building democracy’ and was first published in a Latin American publication. What do moneybags signify here? Could this cartoon be applied to India?

Ans. This cartoon suggests that ‘democracy’ is in the hand of the rich. They control the country.

No, there are laws which see to it that the rich do not get the upper hand.

Page No. 29

Q.6. This cartoon is about the Iraqi election held after Saddam Hussain's regime was overthrown. He is shown behind the bars. What is the cartoonist saying here? Compare the message of this cartoon with the first cartoon in this chapter.

Ans. The cartoon shows the end of dictatorship in Iraq where Saddam ruled unchecked. People rejoice at elections being held. But the first cartoon shows that people do not have a real choice. They are forced to vote, by the powerful US and its allies.

Page No. 30

Q.7. Chinese government blocked free flow of information on the Internet by placing restrictions on popular websites like 'Google' and 'Yahoo'. The image of tanks and an unarmed student reminds the reader of another major event in recent Chinese history. Find out about that event.

Ans. Refers to the massacre that took place at Tianmen Square where hundreds of students were ruthlessly killed.

Page No. 32

Q.8. This cartoon is from Brazil, a country that has long experience of dictatorship. It is entitled "The Hidden Side of Dictatorship". Which hidden sides does this cartoon depict? Is it necessary for every dictatorship to have a hidden side? Find this out about the dictators discussed in the first chapter and if possible, about Abacha in Nigeria and Marcos in Philippines.

Ans. The hidden side of dictatorship is massacre or killing of innocent people. Anybody who opposes the policies of a dictator is killed. Since the dictators control the media, the public never comes to know the number of people killed.

Page No. 33

Q.9. What would have happened if India was not a democracy? Could we have stayed together as a single nation?

Ans. We definitely would not have remained united. Differences of caste, language and religion would have raised their ugly head and divided our country. History would repeat itself and some foreign power would have enslaved us again, destroyed our pride, dignity and economy.

Page No. 34

Q.10. Rajesh and Muzaffar read an article. It showed that no democracy has ever gone to war with another democracy. Wars take place only when one of the two governments is non-democratic. The article said that this was a great merit of democracy. After reading the essay, Rajesh and Muzaffar had different reactions. Rajesh said that this was not a good argument for democracy. It was just a matter of chance. It is possible that in future democracies may have wars. Muzaffar said that it could not be a matter of chance. Democracies take decisions in such a way that it reduces the chances of war. Which of the two positions do you agree with and why?

Ans. I agree with Muzaffar. There is certainly a strong point in favour of democracies. Since decisions are taken after consultation, nobody rushes into war; sanity and reason rule every decision.

Q.11. This cartoon was published in Canada just before its parliamentary elections of 2005. Everyone, including the cartoonist, expected the Liberal Party to win once again. When

the results came, the Liberal Party lost the elections. Is this cartoon an argument against democracy or for democracy?

Ans. This cartoon is definitely in favour of democracy. In an indirect way it is telling the public not to be fooled and exercise their voting rights wisely, which they did by ousting the Liberals in the elections.

Page No. 35

Q.12. This famous cartoon by R.K. Laxman comments on the celebrations of the fifty years of the independence. How many images on the wall do you recognise? Do many common people feel the way the common man in this cartoon does?

Ans. The cartoon does reflect the opinion of the general public. For fifty years leaders have made promises, made tall claims of achievements — still basic facilities are still denied to the common man — poverty is not eradicated, there is shortage of water, power, shelter, schools, hospitals — the basic necessities of life. The common man is bored by promises which are never fulfilled, actions do not match the promises.

Page No. 36

Q.13. In my village the Gram Sabha never meets. Is that democratic?

Ans. Definitely not.

Questions in the Exercise

Q.1. Here is some information about four countries. Based on this information, how would you classify each of these countries. Write 'democratic', 'undemocratic' or 'not sure' against each of these.

- (a) Country A : People who do not accept the country's official religion do not have a right to vote.
- (b) Country B : The same party has been winning elections for the last twenty years.
- (c) Country C : Ruling party has lost in the last three elections.
- (d) Country D : There is no independent election commission.

Ans. (a) Undemocratic
(b) Undemocratic
(c) Democratic
(d) Not sure

Q.2. Here is some information about four countries. Based on this information, how would you classify each of these countries? Write 'democratic', 'undemocratic' or 'not sure' against each of these.

- (a) Country P : The parliament cannot pass a law about the army without the consent of the Chief of Army.
- (b) Country Q : The parliament cannot pass a law reducing the powers of the judiciary.
- (c) Country R : The country's leaders cannot sign any treaty with another country without taking permission from its neighbouring country.
- (d) Country S : All the major economic decisions about the country are taken by officials of the central bank which the ministers cannot change.

Ans. (a) Democratic
(b) Democratic

- (c) Not Sure
- (d) Undemocratic

Q.3. Which of these is not a good argument in favour of democracy? Why?

- (a) People feel free and equal in a democracy.
- (b) Democracies resolve conflict in a better way than others.
- (c) Democratic government is more accountable to the people.
- (d) Democracies are more prosperous than others.

Ans. (d) Prosperity is not a sign of democracy. Democracy does not affect the financial status of a country. India is a democracy, yet it is fighting a long battle against poverty. India is poor for various other reasons.

Q.4. Each of these statements contains a democratic and an undemocratic element. Write out the two separately for each statement.

- (a) A minister said that some laws have to be passed by the parliament in order to conform to the regulations decided by the World Trade Organisation.
- (b) The Election Commission ordered re-polling in a constituency where large scale rigging was reported.
- (c) Women's representation in the parliament has never reached 10 per cent. This led women's organisations to demand one-third seats for women.

Ans. (a) The reference of the laws to the parliament show that democracy is practiced. The minister has not taken the decision himself. But the decision to conform to the regulations decided by World Trade Organisation is undemocratic. Why should a free country make laws to suit a foreign organisation!

- (b) **Democratic :** Repolling is necessary whenever rigging takes place in a constituency during elections.

Undemocratic : Rigging itself is an undemocratic element. It should not happen in a democracy.

- (c) One should have more women representatives in parliament — democratic.
To demand reservation is undemocratic. Women should come forward themselves and fight elections.

Q.5. Which of these is not a valid reason for arguing that there is a lesser possibility of famine in a democratic country?

- (a) Opposition parties can draw attention to hunger and starvation.
- (b) Free press can report suffering from famine in different parts of the country.
- (c) Government fears its defeat in the next elections.
- (d) People are free to believe in and practice any religion.

Ans. (d) It has nothing to do with famines.

Q.6. There are 40 villages in a district where the government has made no provision for drinking water. These villagers met and considered many methods of forcing the government to respond to their need. Which of these is not a democratic method?

- (a) Filing a case in the courts claiming that water is part of right to life.
- (b) Boycotting the next elections to give a message to all parties.
- (c) Organising public meetings against the government's policies.

(d) Paying money to government officials to get water.

Ans. (d) Paying money to government officials to get water.

Q7. Write a response to the following arguments against democracy :

(a) Army is the most disciplined and corruption-free organisation in the country. Therefore, army should rule the country.

(b) Rule of the majority means the rule of ignorant people. What we need is the rule of the wise, even if they are in small numbers.

(c) If we want religious leaders to guide us in spiritual matters, why not invite them to guide us in politics as well. The country should be ruled by religious leaders.

Ans. (a) Army rule is not a rule of the people through their representatives. They may be disciplined but they become dictatorial and cut down the freedom of the people. We have seen this in the case of Pinochet's rule in Chile, President's Musharraf's rule in Pakistan and the military rule in Myanmar.

(b) Wise men are not necessarily good administrators. It will become the rule of the minority, not of the majority of the people. People's liberties are bound to be cut down.

(c) Religious leaders follow the letter of the religion they preach. They deny freedom of thought, expression and speech. We have seen this in the case of Afghanistan. Religious leaders deny freedom of religion to minorities and impose their ideas on them.

It is only democracy which gives maximum freedom to people, allows them to choose their own leaders and does not all dictators of any kind of seize power.

Q.8. Are the following statements in keeping with democracy as a value? Why?

(a) Father to daughter : I don't want to hear your opinion about your marriage. In our family children marry where the parents tell them to.

(b) Teacher to student : Don't disturb my concentration by asking me questions in the classroom.

(c) Employee to the officer : Our working hours must be reduced according to the law.

Ans. (a) No, the right of freedom to choose and express her opinion is denied by the father. He is behaving like a dictator.

(b) No, again the teacher is being autocratic. A student has the right to ask questions to clear his/her doubts.

(c) Yes, in this example the employee is making the right demand. He cannot be forced to work for extra hours.

Q.9. Consider the following facts about a country and decide if you would call it a democracy. Give reasons to support your decision.

(a) All the citizens of the country have right to vote. Elections are held regularly.

(b) The country took loan from international agencies. One of the conditions for giving loan was that the government would reduce its expenses on education and health.

(c) People speak more than seven languages but education is available only in one language, the language spoken by 52 per cent people of that country.

(d) Several organisations have given a call for peaceful demonstrations and nationwide strikes in the country to oppose these policies. Government has arrested these leaders.

- (e) The government owns the radio and television in the country. All the newspapers have to get permission from the government to publish any news about government's policies and protests.

Ans. No, the country is not a democratic country.

- (a) It has allowed a foreign agency to interfere in its internal policies. It has denied to its own citizens better education and health.
- (b) The minorities are denied equal status in matter of language. Their cultural rights are ignored.
- (c) The total control of media shows that there is no freedom of speech and expression and right to speak against the government.

Q.10. In 2004 a report published in USA pointed to the increasing inequalities in that country. Inequalities in income reflected in the participation of people in democracy. It also shaped their abilities to influence the decisions taken by the government. The report highlighted that :

- If an average Black family earns \$ 100, then the income of an average White family is \$ 162. A White family has twelve times more wealth than an average Black family.
- In a President's election nearly nine out of 10 individuals in families with income over \$ 75,000 have voted. These people are the top 20% of the population in terms of their income. On the other hand, only 5 people out of 10 from families with income less than \$ 15,000 have voted. They are the bottom 20% of the population in terms of their income.
- About 95% contribution to the political parties comes from the rich. This gives them an opportunity to express their opinions and concerns, which is not available to most citizens.
- As poor sections participate less in politics, the government does not listen to their concerns — coming out of poverty, getting job, education, health care and housing from them. Politicians hear most regularly about the concerns of business and the most rich.

Write an essay on 'Democracy and Poverty' using the information given in this report but using examples from India.

Ans.

Democracy and Poverty

Most of the Asian and African countries which won independence from colonial rule have been fighting a battle against poverty. In India, poverty has been a major challenge before the Indian economy. According to a census (1999-2000), 27.09% of population in rural areas live below the poverty line. In urban areas the situation is a little better — 23.62% people live below poverty line. The overall average is 26.10%. It means that a quarter of the population in India is living below the poverty line. States like Orissa, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh have the highest percentage of people living below the poverty line.

Since independence, the Indian democracy has worked tirelessly to remove poverty in India. All our economic planning is geared to alleviate poverty. The government has passed many laws and reforms. Abolition of Zamindari system, security of tenant farmers is one of them. It has tried to reduce the gap between the rich and poor by income redistribution measures. The rich have to pay more taxes than the poor. There have been many rural and urban 'yojnas' which provide employment to the poor. They are known as PAPs — Poverty Alleviation Programmes.

So in India we cannot blame the government for not being concerned about the poor. The Government has done a lot for education, health care, housing and employment of the poor. All our ten five-programmes have been based on helping the poor.

In India the poor are conscious of their voting rights and only the rich have not won all elections. To stop the rich from capturing all the seats, ceiling has been put on expenditure during elections, for candidates appearing for Parliamentary and Assembly elections, for example : Rs 2,50,000 for Parliamentary and Rs 10,00,000 for Assembly in most of the constituencies. Of course, rich industrialists and businessmen contribute to party funds but now law has been made, which asks the parties to declare their assets. Every person standing for election has to do so too.

It is true that the rich are more and powerful but in a democracy the ordinary citizen has been given equal status. We see this in India where the poor now know their rights and are exercising them.

OTHER IMPORTANT QUESTIONS (AS PER CCE PATTERN)

B. MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS [1 MARK]

Q.1. The word 'Democracy' comes from the Greek word –

- (a) Democracia (b) Demokratia (c) Demos (d) Kratia

Ans. (b)

Q.2. What kind of government is there in Myanmar?

- (a) Government elected by the people (b) Communist government
(c) Army rule (d) Monarchy

Ans. (c)

Q.3. The head of the government in Nepal is the :

- (a) President (b) Prime Minister (c) King (d) Vice President

Ans. (a)

Q.4. Who led a military coup in Pakistan in 1999?

- (a) Benazir Bhutto (b) Nawaz Sharif (c) Pervez Musharraf (d) None of the above

Ans. (c)

Q.5. In August 2002, Musharraf issued a 'Legal Framework Order' that amended the Constitution of Pakistan. According to this Order, the President could : [Important]

- (a) appoint the National Assemblies
(b) dismiss the National and Provincial Assemblies
(c) amend the Constitution on his own (d) declare elections.

Ans. (b)

Q.6. In which case was the real power with external powers and not with the locally elected representatives?

- (a) India in Sri Lanka (b) US in Iraq
(c) USSR in Communist Poland (d) Both (b) and (c)

Ans. (d)

Q.7. 'One person, one vote' means

- (a) One person is to be voted by all
- (b) One person has one vote and each vote has one value
- (c) A person can vote only once in his life
- (d) Both (a) and (c)

Ans. (b)

Q.8. How many members are elected to the National People's Congress from all over China?

- (a) 3050
- (b) 3000
- (c) 4000
- (d) 2000

Ans. (b)

Q.9. Why can the Chinese government not be called a democratic government even though elections are held there?

- (a) Army participates in election
- (b) Government is not accountable to the people
- (c) Some parts of China are not represented at all
- (d) Government is always formed by the Communist Party

Ans. (d)

Q.10. Which party always won elections in Mexico since its independence in 1930 until 2000?

- (a) Revolutionary Party
- (b) Mexican Revolutionary Party
- (c) Institutional Revolutionary Party
- (d) Institutional Party

Ans. (c)

Q.11. Democracy must be based on

- (a) One-party system
- (b) Free and fair election
- (c) Choice from only the ruling party
- (d) All the above

Ans. (b)

Q.12. When did Zimbabwe attain independence and from whom?

- (a) 1970, from Black minority rule
- (b) 1880, from White minority rule
- (c) 1980, from Americans
- (d) 1980, from White minority rule

Ans. (d)

Q.13. Which party has ruled Zimbabwe since its independence and who is its ruler?

- (a) ZANU-PF, Robert Mugabe
- (b) ZANU-PF, Kenneth Kaunda
- (c) Zimbabwe Freedom Party, Nelson Mandela
- (d) Zimbabwe Party, P Johnson

Ans. (a)

Q.14. Which of these statements is/are correct in the case of Zimbabwe?

- (a) Popular governments are always democratic
- (b) Popular governments can be undemocratic
- (c) Popular leaders can be autocratic
- (d) Both (b) and (c)

Ans. (d)

Q.15. Which of these features is/are necessary to provide the basic rights to the citizens?

- (a) Citizens should be free to think
- (b) Should be free to form associations
- (c) Should be free to raise protest
- (d) All the above

Ans. (d)

Q.16. Which organ of the government is required to protect the rights of the citizens?

- (a) Executive
- (b) Legislature
- (c) Independent judiciary
- (d) Police

Ans. (c)

Q.17. A democratic government has to respect some rules after winning the elections. Which of these points is not a part of those rules?

- (a) Respecting guarantees given to the minorities.
- (b) Every major decision has to go through a series of consultations.
- (c) Office-bearers are not accountable.
- (d) Office-bearers have some responsibilities.

Ans. (c)

Q.18. What is Constitutional Law?

- (a) Provisions given in the Constitution
- (b) Law to make Constitution
- (c) Law to set up Constituent Assembly
- (d) None of the above

Ans. (a)

Q.19. Which of these is permitted under the Rule of Law?

- (a) Prime Minister can be punished for violating the Constitution.
- (b) Police has a right to kill anybody.
- (c) Women can be paid lesser salaries.
- (d) President can rule for as long as he wants.

Ans. (a)

Q.20. Some of the drawbacks of democracy are

- (a) instability and delays
- (b) corruption and hypocrisy
- (c) politicians fighting among themselves
- (d) all the above

Ans. (d)

Q.21. In which of these cases can democracy not provide a complete solution?

- (a) Removing poverty completely
- (b) Providing education to all
- (c) Giving jobs to all
- (d) All the above

Ans. (d)

Q.22. In which period did China face one of the worst famines that have occurred in the world?

- (a) 1932-36
- (b) 1958-61
- (c) 2001-2002
- (d) 2004-2007

Ans. (b)

Q.23. A democratic government is better than a non-democratic government because

- (a) it may or may not be accountable
- (b) it always responds to the needs of the people
- (c) it is a more accountable form of government
- (d) none of the above

Ans. (c)

Q.24. Democracy improves the quality of decision-making because

- (a) decisions are taken by educated people
- (b) decisions are taken by consultation and discussion
- (c) decisions are taken over a long period of time

(d) all decisions are approved by judiciary

Ans. (b)

Q.25. In any society, people are bound to have difference of opinions and interests. Which is a better way of dealing with these conflicts?

- (a) By brutal power exercised by the government
- (b) By allowing one group to dictate terms to others
- (c) By providing equal opportunities to all
- (d) By opting for a strong leader who should have all the powers.

Ans. (c)

Q.26. How does democracy allow us to correct its own mistakes?

- (a) Mistakes are hidden and cannot be corrected
- (b) Re-electing the same government to enable it to correct its mistakes
- (c) The rulers can be changed
- (d) None of the above

Ans. (c)

Q.27. The most common form that democracy takes in our time is that of

- (a) limited democracy
- (b) representative democracy
- (c) maximum democracy
- (d) none of the above

Ans. (b)

Q.28. Which of these is not an instance of broader meaning of democracy?

- (a) Taking opinion of all the family members before taking a decision
- (b) Being allowed to ask questions in the class
- (c) Having no say in one's marriage plan
- (d) None of the above

Ans. (c)

Q.29. Which body in Indian political system is an example of direct democracy?

- (a) Zila Parishad
- (b) Panchayat Samiti
- (c) Gram Sabha
- (d) Vidhan Sabha

Ans. (c)

Q.30. Which of these is an example of perfect democracy? [Important]

- (a) USA
- (b) UK
- (c) India
- (d) None of the above

Ans. (d)

Q.31. Which of these is not a feature of monarchy, dictatorship or one-party rule?

- (a) Censorship of press
- (b) No opposition party or parties
- (c) Citizens taking part in politics
- (d) One-man rule

Ans. (c)

C. SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS [3 MARKS]

Q.1. How can you say that every government that holds an election is not a democracy? Give an example to prove your point. [Important]

Ans. It is true that every government that holds an election is not a democracy. In many dictatorships and monarchies, there are formally elected parliaments and governments but the real power is with those who are not elected. Pakistan under General Musharraf could not be called a democracy because people there elected their representatives to the national and provincial assemblies but the power to take final decision rested with army officials and with General Musharraf.

Q.2. In China, elections are held after every five years. In spite of this, China does not have a democratic government. Why?

Ans. In China, elections are regularly held after every five years for electing the country's Parliament. The Parliament has the power to appoint the President of the country. It has nearly 3,000 members elected from all over China. Some members are elected by the Army. Before contesting elections, a candidate needs the approval of the Chinese Communist Party. The government is always formed by the Communist Party.

Q.3. In which way is the right to vote denied in Saudi Arabia and Fiji?

Ans. In Saudi Arabia women do not have the right to vote.

In Fiji, the electoral system is such that the vote of an indigenous Fiji has more value than that of an Indian Fijian. In both the countries, the right to vote is denied as there is no political equality. In a democracy, each adult citizen must have one vote and each vote must have one value.

Q.4. Why has India never had a famine of the level which occurred in China in 1958-61?

Ans. In China's famine of 1958-61, nearly three crore people died. In those days India's economic condition was not much better than China. Yet India did not have a famine of the kind China had. The reason was the difference in the economic policies of the two countries. Democratic government in India responded to the food shortage in a way that Chinese government did not. If China too had had multi-party elections, an opposition party and a press free to criticise the government, so many people would not have died in the famine.

Q.5. 'Democracy is based on consultation and discussion.' Explain.

Ans. Consultation and discussion help democracy prosper. A democratic decision always involves many persons, discussions and meetings. When a number of people put their heads together, they are able to point out possible mistakes in any decision. This reduces the chances of rash or irresponsible decisions. Thus democracy improves the quality of decision-making.

Q.6. Why is it not possible for the people to rule directly but through elected representatives?

Ans. The people cannot rule directly but only through their elected representatives because, firstly, modern democracies involve such a large number of people that it is physically impossible for them to sit together and take a collective decision. Secondly, even if they could, the citizens do not have the time, the desire or the skill to take part in all the decisions.

Q.7. Is it possible for any country to become a perfect democracy? Give reasons.

Ans. No country is a perfect democracy as every democracy has to realise the ideals of democratic decision-making. This cannot be achieved once and for all. This requires a constant effort to save and strengthen democratic forms of decision-making. What we do as citizens can make a difference to making our country more or less democratic.

Q.9. Why is Democracy considered the best form of government? Give three reasons.

[2010 (T-1)]

Ans. Democracy is a more accountable form of government.

- (i) It improves the quality of decision-making
- (ii) It enhances the dignity of citizens.
- (iii) It allows us to correct its own mistakes.

Q.10. What is the role of citizen in promoting democracy? [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. Every citizen should be able to play equal role in decision-making. For this a citizen not only needs an equal right to vote but also needs to have equal information, basic education, equal resources.

Q.11. Explain any three differences between democratic country and non-democratic country? [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. In a Democratic country—

(i) Each adult citizen has a vote; (ii) Each vote has one value; and (iii) Free and fair elections are held.

In a non-democratic country — (i) Election do not offer a choice and fair opportunity; (ii) Rulers are not elected by the people; and (ii) The rulers have unlimited power.

Q.12. Is China a democratic country or not? Give two arguments in favour of your answer. [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. China is not a democratic country. (i) Only those who are members of the Chinese Communist Party or eight smaller parties allied to it are allowed to contest elections; (ii) Before contesting elections a candidate needs the approval of the Chinese Communist Party.

Q.13. Explain any three features of democracy. [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. According to a Democracy— (i) Rulers elected by the people take all the major decisions. (ii) Elections offer a choice and fair opportunity to the people to change the corrent rulers; and (ii) This choice and opportunity is available to all the people on an equal basis.

Q.14. Why is Zimbabwe not considered a democratic country? [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. It is ruled by ZANU-PF, the party that led the freedom struggle. Its leader, Robert Mugabe has been ruling the country since independence. Elections are held regularly but always won by the ZANU-PF. President Mugabe uses unfair means in the elections. He has changed the constitution several times to increase the power of the president. Radio and TV are controlled by the government.

Q.15. How does democracy in a country enhance the diginity of an individual? State three points. [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. (i) Democracy is based on the principal of political equality on recognising that the poorest and the least educated has the same status as the rich and the educated.

(ii) People are not subjects of a ruler they are the rulers themselves.

(iii) Even when they make mistakes, they are responsible for their conduct.

Q.16. “Elections in China do not represent people verdict.” Explain. [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. In China the elections do not offer the people any serious choice. They have to choose the ruling party and the candidates approved by it. Can it be called a choice? There is only are political party and people have to vote for its candidates.

Q.17. “Democracy allows people to correct their own mistakes”. Support the given statement with three points. [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. The advantage in a demarcry is that mistakes made by a government cannot be hidden for long. There is a space for public discussion on these mistakes and there is room for correction. Either the rulers have to change their decisions or they can be changed.

Q.18. Explain any three major political changes that took place recently in India's neighbourhood? [2010 (T-1)]

- Ans.** (i) Pakistan–General Musharaff led a military coup.
(ii) Nepal–In 2005 the new king dismissed the elected government.
(iii) Iraq–Sadaam Hussain's regime was overthrown.

D. LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS [4 MARKS]

Q.1. What were the steps taken by Musharraf in Pakistan to empower himself?

[Important]

Ans. In Pakistan, General Pervez Musharraf led a military coup in October 1999. He overthrew a democratically elected government and declared himself the 'Chief Executive' of the country. Later he changed his designation to President and in 2002 held a referendum in the country that granted him a five year extension. This referendum was based on fraud and malpractices. In 2002, he issued a 'Legal Framework Order' that amended the Constitution of Pakistan. According to this order, the President could dismiss the national or provincial assemblies.

Q.2. With reference to Zimbabwe, describe how the popular approval of rulers is necessary in a democracy but not sufficient.

Ans. In Zimbabwe, since Independence in 1980, elections have been held regularly and always won by ZANU-PF, the party that led the freedom struggle. Its leader, President Robert Mugabe, is popular but also uses unfair practices in elections. His government has changed the Constitution several times to increase the powers of the President and make him less accountable. Opposition party workers are harassed. Public protests and demonstrations against the government are declared illegal. There is a law that limits the right to criticise the President.

Q.3. On the basis of the various examples given in the chapter, state what should be the four features of a democracy. [V. Important]

Ans. Four features of a democracy are –

- (i) Representatives elected by the people take all the major decisions.
- (ii) Elections offer a choice and fair opportunity to the people to change the current rulers.
- (iii) This choice and opportunity is available to all the people on an equal basis.
- (iv) The exercise of this choice leads to a government limited by basic rules of the constitution and citizens' rights.

Q.4. Enumerate the arguments given against democracy.

Ans. Some of the arguments against democracy are as follows :

- (i) Leaders keep changing in a democracy. This leads to instability.
- (ii) Democracy is all about political competition and power play, with no scope for morality.
- (iii) Since so many people are to be consulted in a democracy, it leads to delays.
- (iv) Elected leaders do not know the best interest of the people; so it leads to bad decisions.
- (v) Democracy leads to corruption as it is based on electoral competition.

Q.5. How does democracy provide a method to deal with differences and conflicts?

Ans. In any society people are bound to have differences of opinions and interests. These differences are particularly sharp in a country like India which has lot of social diversity. The preference of one group may clash with those of the other groups. Democracy provides the only peaceful solution to this problem. In democracy, no one is a permanent winner or a permanent loser. Different groups can live with one another peacefully. In a diverse country like ours, democracy keeps our country together.

Q.6. Write any four disadvantages of democracy. [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. (1) Leaders keep changing in a democracy. This leads to instability. (2) Democracy is all about political competition and power play. There is no scope for morality. (3) So many people have to be consulted in a Democracy that it leads to delays. (4) Elected leaders do not know the best interest of the people. It leads to bad decisions.

Q.7. How does a democratic government rule within limits set by Constitutional Law? Give three reasons. [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. A democratic government cannot do whatever it likes simply because it has won an election. Every major decision has to go through a series of consultations. Every office bearer has certain rights and responsibilities assigned by the constitution and the law. A democratic government rules within limits set by constitutional law and citizens rights.

Q.8. What is the significance of the rule of law and respect for rights in democratic country? State four points. [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. A democratic government cannot do whatever it likes simply because it has won an election. It has to respect some basic rules. In particular it has to respect some guarantees to the minorities. Every major decision has to go through a series of consultations. Every office bearer has certain rights and responsibilities assigned by the constitution and the law. Each is accountable not only to law but also to other independent officials.

Q.9. Why is democracy called a “government by discussion”? [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. It is called a “government by discussion” because a democracy is based on consultation and discussion. A democratic decision always involves many persons discussions and meetings. When a member of people together think over a certain matter they are able to point out possible mistakes. This takes time. But there is big advantage in taking time. This reduces rash decisions, problems are not resolved by brutal force but by peaceful discussions. It offers best alternative that we know.

Q.10. Why does a democratic country always need a constitution? [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. All countries that are democratic will have constitutions. After the war of independence against Great Britain the Americans gave themselves a constitution. After the revolution the French people approved a democratic constitution. Since then it has become a practice in all democracies to have a written constitution.

Q.11. “Democracy enhances the dignity of citizen.” Justify this statement. [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. Democracy is based on the principle of political equality on recognising that the poorest and the least educated has the same status as the rich and the educated. People are not subjects of a ruler. They are the rulers themselves. Even when they make mistakes they are responsible for their conduct.

Q.12. “Democracy improve the quality of decision making.” Explain. [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. Democracy provides a method to deal with differences and conflicts. In any society people are bound to have difference of opinions and interests. These differences are particularly sharp a country like ours which has an amazing social diversity. People belong to different regions speak different languages, practise different religions and have different castes. Preferences of a groups can clash with those of other groups. Democracy provides the only peaceful solution to this problem. In democracy no one is a permanent winner. No one a permanent loser. In a diverse country like India, democracy keeps our country together.

Q.13. Give any four reasons why democracies resolve conflict in a better way than other forms of governments. [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. Democracies resolve conflict in a better way. Reasons — (i) It improves the quality of decision making. It has scope for consultation and discussion. (ii) In a Democracy conflicts are not solved by brutal force but by peaceful solutions. (iii) Even even when people/associations/ government make mistakes for a democracy allows them to correct their mistakes; and (iv) Democracy provides a forum for consultations and discussions to resolve conflicts.

Q.14. Despite its demerits why is democracy the most preferred form of government? Explain. [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. Despite its demerits democracy is still the most preferred form of government as it is— (i) a more accountable form of government. It responds to the needs of the people because the constitution requires it; and (ii) Better decision came for when many heads together strive to do so, this reduces the chance of rash decisions or irresponsible decisions plus a democracy enhances the dignity of citizens. It is clearly better than any other form of government.

Q.15. Why is democracy government a better government? Mention four reasons. [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. A democratic government is a better government as— (i) it offers better changes of a good decision; (ii) it is always likely to respect people wishes and allows; (iii) different kinds of people to live together; and (iv) even when it fails to do something for the people it allows a way of correcting its mistakes and offers more dignity to all citizens. That is why a democracy is considered the best form of government.

II. FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

A. PROJECT

- Topic Covered** : Democracy and its main features
- Objective** : To be able to distinguish a democratic form of government from a non-democratic government.
- Skills Developed** : Analytical and thorough understanding of functioning of a democracy
- Time Required** : 2–3 days
- Method** : (a) Define democracy and give various quotations on democracy by great personalities.
(b) Explain main features of democracy in detail.
(c) Explain the merits and demerits of democracy.
(d) Conclusion: Why is democracy considered better than other forms of government? Also give your own views.

B. ACTIVITIES

- (1) During the Tiananmen Square incident the Chinese government censored the press and blocked the free flow of information. The image of tanks and unarmed students reminds us of another major event in recent Chinese history. Collect more information about that event.
- (2) This famous cartoon by R.K. Laxman comments on the celebrations of the fifty years of independence. Study the cartoon and comment on the theme of the cartoon.



C. GROUP DISCUSSION

Divide the class into two large groups — one 'for democracy' and another 'against democracy'. The group 'for democracy' will give arguments in favour of democracy and the group 'against democracy' will give arguments opposing democracy.

(**Guidelines** : The teacher will conduct and monitor the discussion. At the end of the discussion, she will declare one group winner and highlight the reasons for declaring the winner.)

D. MAKING A POSTER/COLLAGES/WALLPAPER

Collect a set of twenty cartoons drawn by R.K. Laxman on democracy and its functioning in India. Make a poster or a collage or a wallpaper and hang it in your classroom.

Guidelines : Below each cartoon, explain the theme of the cartoon in brief.