

NCERT SOLUTIONS For Class 10 Civics

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Class 10 Civics Chapter 1 Power Sharing NCERT SOLUTIONS For Download 2017 2018 New Edition PDF

Q.1. What are the different forms of power sharing in modern democracies ? Give an example of each of these.

Ans. Ans. (i) Power sharing among the different organs of government (Horizontal power sharing). In a democracy, power is shared among the different organs of the government such as the legislature, executive and the judiciary. This is called the horizontal distribution of power because it allows different organs of the government placed at the same level to exercise different powers. Under this kind of power sharing arrangement, one can exercise unlimited powers. Each organ has its own powers, and it can also check the powers of other. So this results in a balance of power among the various institutions.

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(ii) Power sharing among governments at different levels : Under this, people choose separate governments at separate levels, for example, a general local government for the entire country and local governments at the provincial, sub-national or regional levels. Such a general government for the entire country is usually called a Federal government.

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(iii) Power sharing among different social groups : In a democracy, especially, in a multi-ethnic society, power is also shared among social groups such as the religious and linguistic groups. 'Community government' in Belgium is a good example of this arrangement. In some countries, there are constitutional and legal arrangements whereby socially weaker sections and women are represented in the legislatures and the administration.

(iv) Power sharing among political parties, pressure groups and movements : In a democracy, power is also shared among different political parties, pressure groups and movements. Democracy provides the citizens a choice to choose their rulers. This choice is provided by the various political parties, who contest elections to win them. Such competition ensures that power does not remain in one hand.

Q.2. State one prudential reason and one moral reason for power sharing with an example from the Indian context. [CBSE Sept. 2010]

Ans. (i) (a) India is a multicultural society.

(b) India is a democratic country.

Q.3. After reading this chapter, three students drew different conclusions. Which of these do you agree with and why ? Give your reasons in about 50 words.

Thomman – Power sharing is necessary only in societies which have religious, linguistic or ethnic divisions.

Mattai – Power sharing is suited only for big countries that have regional divisions.

Ousep – Every society needs some form of power sharing even if they are small or do

not have social divisions.

Ans. Every society needs some form of power sharing even if they are small or do not have social divisions because :

- (i) Some power sharing is always needed to give voice to all, and representation to all the members of the country.
- (ii) Power sharing solutions are adopted to maintain stability in the system, and peace among various groups to ensure the smooth functioning of the system, irrespective of the size of the country.

Q.4. The Mayor of Merchtem, a town near Brussels in Belgium, has defended a ban on speaking French in the town's schools. He said that the ban would help all non-Dutch speakers integrate in this Flemish town. Do you think that this measure is in keeping with the spirit of Belgium's power sharing arrangements ? Give your reasons in about 50 words.

Ans. No, the measure taken by the Mayor of Merchtem is not in keeping with the spirit of Belgium's power sharing arrangements. As 59 per cent of the population in the Flemish region speaks Dutch, the ban on speaking French in the town's schools would prevent French and Dutch speakers to mingle with each other, and also create feelings of distrust and suspicion. The ban ignores the regional differences and cultural diversities. It is against the spirit of accommodating every linguistic group, and creating a right environment for everyone to live. The ban, rather, makes the ground for a civic strife, and a possible division of the community on linguistic lines.

Q.5. Read the following passage, and pick out any one of the prudential reasons for power sharing offered in this.

“We need to give more power to the panchayats to realise the dream of Mahatma Gandhi, and the hopes of the makers of our Constitution. The Panchayati Raj establishes true democracy. It restores power to the only place where power belongs in a democracy – in the hands of the people. Giving power to Panchayats is also a way to reduce corruption, and increase administrative efficiency. When people participate in the planning and implementation of developmental schemes, they would naturally exercise greater control over these schemes. This would eliminate the corrupt middlemen. Thus the Panchayati Raj will strengthen the foundations of our democracy.”

Ans. The following prudential reasons are cited into the passage for power sharing.

- (a) Reducing corruption by giving power into the hands of the people and thus, making them responsible for their own decisions.
- (b) Increasing administrative efficiency by delegating the decision-making function to the people affected by it.
- (c) Improving the efficiency of the system by reducing the number of middlemen, and transferring the planning and implementation to the people concerned through the Panchayats.

LAQ

Q-1- Describe the tension that existed between the Dutch and the French speaking people in Belgium. [CBSE 2014]

Or
What were the two main causes of resentment in Belgium in 1960 ? How was the conflict solved ? [CBSE 2010]

Ans. (i) The economic inequality between the Dutch-speaking and French-speaking was the basic

cause of tension.

(ii) The French-speaking community who was in minority was relatively rich and powerful whereas the Dutch-speaking community who was in majority was poor.

(iii) This was resented by the Dutch-speaking community who for the benefit of economic development and education much later.

(iv) The tension between the two communities was more acute in Brussels. Brussels presented a special problem : the Dutch-speaking people constituted a majority in the country, but a minority in the capital.

(v) Between 1970 and 1993, the Belgium government amended their constitution four times so as to work out an arrangement that would enable everyone to live together within the same country. ‘

Q.2. How were the ethnic problems solved in Belgium ? Mention any four steps which were taken by the government to solve the problems ?

Or

How is the political system in Belgium innovative and different from the other countries of the world ? Explain any three points. [CBSE 2008(o)]

Or .

Highlight any three measures adopted by the Belgian government to accommodate regional and cultural diversities. [CBSE 2013, 14]

Ans. (i) Equal number of ministers for both the groups : The Belgian Constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French speaking ministers shall be equal in the central government. Some special laws require the support of majority of members from each linguistic group. Thus, no single community can take decisions unilaterally.

(ii) More powers to state governments :

Under the proper power sharing arrangement, many powers of the central government were given to state governments for the two regions of the country. The state governments were not subordinate to the central government. •

(iii) Equal representation at the state and the central level : A separate government has been set up at Brussels in which both the communities have equal representation.

(iv) Formation of community government :

Apart from the central and the state government, there is a third kind of government, i.e., ‘community government’. This ‘community government’ is elected by the people belonging to one language community – Dutch, French and German speaking no matter where they live. This government has the powers regarding cultural, educational and language related issues.

Q.3. Why is Power sharing desirable ? [CBSE Sept. 2010, 2012]

Or

Why is power sharing necessary in democracy ? Explain. [CBSE Sept. 2011]

Or

“Power sharing is the very spirit of democracy.” Justify this statement with three suitable points. [CBSE 2012,14]

Or

Why is power sharing desirable ? Give any three prudential reasons.[CBSE 2013]

Ans. 1. Prudential reasons:

(i) Prudential reasons are based on careful calculations of gains and losses. For example in the Nepal movement for

democracy even the Maoists, an armed _ revolutionary group, was given some share after the formation of government. The major gain for this was peace in Nepal.

(ii) Prudential reasons help to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.

(iii) Prudential reasons are good way to ensure political stability.

(iv) Imposing the will of majority community over the minority may look like an attractive option in the short run, but in the long run, it undermines the unity of the nation. Tyranny of the majority is not just oppressive for the minority; it often brings ruin to the majority as well.

2. Moral reasons:

(i) Power sharing is the basic spirit of democracy. A democratic rule involves the sharing of power with those affected by its exercise, and those who have to live with its effects.

(ii) A democratic government is chosen by the people. So they have the right to be consulted on how they are to be governed. A legitimate government is one where groups, through participation, acquire a stake in the system.

(iii) Decentralisation of power, i.e., formation of state governments, local governments is an example of moral reason.

Q.4. Explain the major forms of power sharing in modern democracies. [CBSE Sept. 2010]

Or

Explain four forms of participation in government under modern democratic system. [CBSE 2008 Comp. (O)]

Or

Explain, how power is shared among different organs of government. [CBSE 2009 (D), Sept. 2010]

Or

Describe with examples the way in which power can be shared among different social and linguistic groups ? [CBSE Sept. 2010]

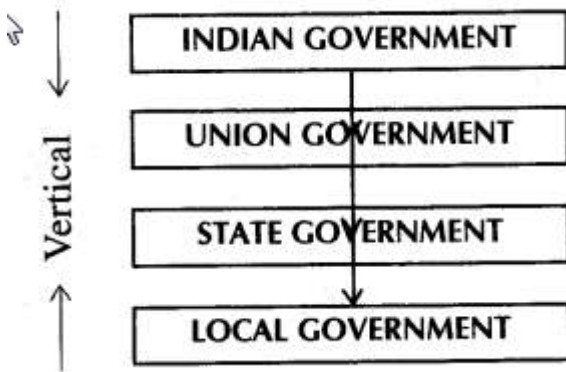
Or

Describe horizontal and vertical power sharing in modern democracies. [CBSE Sept. 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013]

Ans. (i) Power sharing among the different organs of government (Horizontal power sharing). In a democracy, power is shared among the different organs of the government such as the legislature, executive and the judiciary. This is called the horizontal distribution of power because it allows different organs of the government placed at the same level to exercise different powers. Under this kind of power sharing arrangement, one can exercise unlimited powers. Each organ has its own powers, and it can also check the powers of other. So this results in a balance of power among the various institutions.



(ii) Power sharing among governments at different levels : Under this, people choose separate governments at separate levels, for example, a general local government for the entire country and local governments at the provincial, sub-national or regional levels. Such a general government for the entire country is usually called a Federal government.



(iii) Power sharing among different social groups : In a democracy, especially, in a multi-ethnic society, power is also shared

among social groups such as the religious and linguistic groups. ‘Community government’ in Belgium is a good example of this arrangement. In some countries, there are constitutional and legal arrangements whereby socially weaker sections and women are represented in the legislatures and the administration.

(iv) Power sharing among political parties, pressure groups and movements : In a democracy, power is also shared among different political parties, pressure groups and movements. Democracy provides the citizens a choice to choose their rulers. This choice is provided by the various political parties, who contest elections to win them. Such competition ensures that power does not remain in one hand.

Q.5. What are the advantages of horizontal power sharing ? Explain with the help of examples.

Or

What is meant by the horizontal distribution of power ? Explain any two merits of this form of power sharing. [CBSE 2013]

Ans. (i) The power that is shared among different organs of government equally is known as horizontal power sharing.

(ii) Horizontal power sharing places all the organs of the government, i.e., legislature, executive and judiciary at the same level.

(iii) Under this kind of power sharing no organ can exercise unlimited powers.

(iv) This system is also known as system of checks and balances.

(v) For example, in India, though the ministers and government officials exercise power, but they are responsible to the parliament or state legislatures. Similarly, although the judges are appointed by the executive, but they can check the functioning of executive of laws made by the legislatures.

Q.6. Explain the differences between horizontal power sharing and vertical power sharing .[CBSE Sept. 2010]

Ans.	Horizontal	Vertical
	(i) Under the horizontal power sharing, power is shared among the different organs of the government such as the legislature, the executive and the judiciary.	(i) Under the vertical power sharing, power is shared among the different levels of the government.
	(ii) Under horizontal distribution of power, the organs of the government are placed at the same level to exercise different powers.	(ii) The vertical division of power involves the higher and the lower levels of the government.
	(iii) Under this, each organ checks the other.	(iii) Under vertical power sharing, the lower organs work under the higher organs.

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Q.7. Explain the power sharing arrangements among the political parties and pressure groups.

- Ans.** (i) In a democracy, power is also shared among different political parties, pressure groups and movements.
- (ii) Democracy provides the citizens a choice to choose their rulers. This choice is provided by the various political parties, who contest elections to win them. Such competition ensures that power does not remain in one hand.
- (iii) In the long run, power is shared among different political parties that represent different ideologies and social groups. Sometimes, this kind of sharing can be direct, when two or more parties form an alliance to contest elections. If their alliance is elected, they form a coalition government and thus, share power.
- (iv) In a democracy, various pressure groups and movements also remain active. They also have a share in governmental power, either through participation in governmental committees or having influence on the decision making process.

Q.8. How is a federal government better than a unitary government ? Explain with examples of Belgium and Sri Lanka. [CBSE 2008 (O)]

- Ans.** (i) Federalism is a system of government under which power is divided between a central authority and its various constituent units. Whereas in a unitary government all the powers are in the

hands of a central authority,

(ii) The Belgium leaders tried to solve the ethnic problem by respecting the feelings and interests of different communities and regions by establishing a federal government, whereas the Sri Lankan government tried to solve the problem through majoritarianism.

(iii) The Belgium solution helped in avoiding the civic strife, whereas the majoritarianism in Sri Lanka led to the civil war.

Q.9. What are some of the basic elements of Belgium model of power sharing ? Write any three. [CBSE Sept. 2011, 2012]

Or

Explain any three elements of the Belgiumn model of Power sharing. [CBSE 2013]

Ans. (i) Equal number of ministers : Constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be equal in the central government. Some special laws require the support of majority of members from each linguistic group. Thus, no single community can make decisions unilaterally.

(ii) Power sharing : Many powers of the central government have been given to state governments of the two regions of the country. The state governments are not subordinate to the Central Government.

(iii) Separate government for Brussels : Brussels has a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation. The French-speaking people accepted equal representation in Brussels because the Dutch-speaking community has accepted equal representation in the Central Government.

SAQ

Q.1. What led to the ethnic tension in Belgium ? Why was it more acute in Brussels ?

Ans. The minority French-speaking community was relatively rich and powerful. So the Dutch speaking community, who got the benefit of economic development and education much later showed the resentment between the Dutch-speaking and the French-speaking communities during the 1950s and the 1960s. The conflict between the two communities was more severe in Brussels because the Dutch speaking people constituted a majority in the country, but a minority in the capital.

Q.2. What is the ethnic composition of Belgium ? [CBSE Sept. 2011]

Or

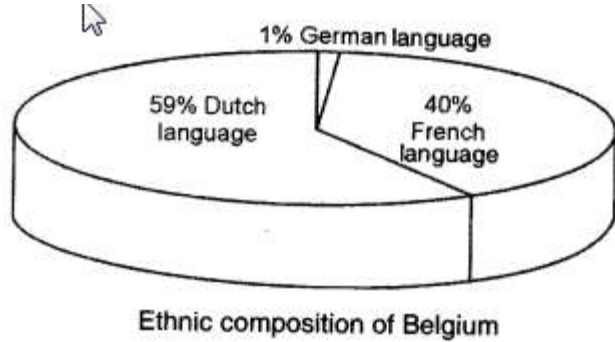
Describe the ethnic composition of Belgium. [CBSE 2012]

Ans. The ethnics composition of Belgium, a small country is very complex. Of the country's total population, 59 per cent live in the Flemish region and speak Dutch language. Another 40 per cent people live in the Wallonia region and speak French. Remaining 1 per cent of the Belgians speak German. In the capital city, Brussels, about 80 per cent people speak French while 20 per cent are Dutch-speaking.

Q.3. What is the ethnic composition of Sri Lanka ?

Ans. Sri Lanka has a diverse population. The Sinhalese community forms the majority of the population (74%) with Tamils (18%) who are mostly concentrated in the north and east of the island, forming the largest ethnic minority. Other communities include the Muslims. Among Tamils, there are two sub-groups. The Tamil natives of the country are called 'Sri Lankan Tamils' (13 %). The Tamils, who were brought as indentured labourers from India by British colonists to work on estate plantations are called the 'Indian Origin Tamils' (5%). Most of the Sinhala-speaking people are Buddhists, while most of the Tamils are Hindus or Muslims. There are about 7 per cent Christians,

who are both Tamil and Sinhalese.



Q.4. Mention any four steps which were taken by the Sri Lankan government to achieve majoritarianism. [CBSE Sept. 2010, 2012]

Ans. (i) In 1956, an Act was passed under which English was replaced as the country's official language not by the Sinhala and Tamil but by the Sinhala only.

(ii) The governments followed preferential policies that favoured the Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs.

(iii) A new constitution stipulated that the state shall protect and foster Buddhism.

(iv) Denial of citizenship to estate Tamils.

Q.5. What is a Civil War? Explain with context to Sri Lanka.

Ans. (i) It is a violent conflict between the opposing groups within a country, for example the Sinhalese and the Tamils.

(ii) Due to the violent conflict between both these ethnic groups thousands of people of both the communities have been killed. Many families were forced to leave the country as refugees and many more lost their livelihoods.

(iii) The civil war has caused a terrible setback to the social, cultural and economic life of the country.

Q.6. What is community government? Explain the concept of community government with context to Belgium. [CBSE 2014]

Ans. (i) A community government is one in which different social groups are given the power to handle the affairs related to their communities. They are expected to work jointly for the benefit of the common masses without undermining any one community.

(ii) The 'community government' is elected by people belonging to one language community-Dutch, French and German speaking – no matter where they live.

(iii) This government has the power regarding cultural, educational and language-related issues.

Q.7. What is the relationship between democracy and power sharing?

Ans. 'Democracy' means giving every citizen the right and power to make the decisions through their elected representatives. Power sharing is dividing power among various social groups to give them equal representation in the governance. Power sharing is the essence of democracy where every individual, irrespective of cultural and language differences feel involved in the political system.

Q.8. How did the Sri Lankan and the Belgium government try to solve the ethnic problem?

Or

Explain any two important differences between the power sharing model accepted by Belgium and Sri Lanka. [CBSE 2013]

Ans. (i) The Belgium leaders tried to solve the ethnic problem by respecting the feelings and interests

of different communities and regions, whereas the Sri Lankan government tried to solve the problem through majoritarianism.

(ii) Belgium leaders established a federal structure under which power was shared between the Union Government and its other constituent units whereas Sri Lankan leaders adopted Unitary Government structure.

(iii) The Belgium solution helped in avoiding civic strife whereas the majoritarianism in Sri Lanka led to the civil war.

Q.9. “Both Belgium and Sri Lanka are democracies but they follow different systems of power-sharing.” Support the statement by giving three points of difference. [CBSE 2012]

Ans. (i) Type of Government: Sri Lanka continues to be, for all practical purpose, a unitary system where the national government has all the powers. Tamil leaders want Sri Lanka to become a federal system under which the regional governments were given constitutional powers that were no longer dependent on the central government. Belgium shifted from a unitary to a federal form of government.

(ii) Religion and Government : To accommodate people belonging to different ethnic groups Belgium formed a ‘community government’ whereas Sri Lankan government passed a law to protect and promote Buddhism.

(iii) Language and government : In 1956 Sri Lankan government passed an act to recognize Sinhala as the only official language whereas Belgium government “tried to protect and foster all the languages spoken by the people.

Q.10. What is power sharing ? Explain.

Ans. (i) The concept of providing a permanent share of power in the government different communities or regions is termed as power sharing.

(ii) Under this the people and the leaders of the nation respect the feelings and interests of different communities and regions.

(iii) The principle of power sharing is very important for the unity and growth of democracy.

Q.11. Explain the principle of federal division of power.

Ans. (i) Under the federal division of power the power is divided among different levels of government ; for example in India the power is shared among the three levels of governments, i.e., Union government, the state governments and the local governments.

(ii) This type of system is known as vertical division of power.

(iii) Under this the Constitution clearly lays down the power of each level of government

Q.12. “Power may also be shared among different social groups”. Explain by giving examples.

Ans. (i) Power may also be shared among different social groups such as the religious and linguistic groups. ‘Community government’ in Belgium is a good example of this arrangement.

(ii) In some countries there are constitutional and legal arrangements whereby socially weaker sections and women are represented in the legislatures and administration. For example in India we follow the principle of ‘reserved constituencies’ in assemblies and the parliament of our country. This type of arrangement is meant to give space in the government and administration to diverse social groups who otherwise would feel alienated from the government.

(iii) This method is used to give minority communities a fair share in power.

Q.13. What is the difference between prudential and moral reasons for power sharing ?
Ans.

Prudential Reasons	Moral Reasons
(i) Prudential reasons are based on careful calculation of gains and losses.	(i) Moral reasons are based purely on moral considerations.
(ii) These reasons help to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.	(ii) These reasons are considered as the basic spirit of democracy.
(iii) Reservation of constituencies for minorities and women in India is a prudential reason.	(iii) Decentralisation of power in India is an example of moral reason.

VSAQ

Q.1. What do you mean by the word ethnic ?

Ans. A social division based on shared culture. People belonging to the same ethnic group believe in their common descent because of similarities of physical type or of culture or both.

Q.2. Which ethnic group in Belgium has the largest population ?

Ans. Flemish.

Q.3. 'The tension between Dutch-speaking and French-speaking communities was more acute in Brussels'. Give reason.

Ans. The minority French-speaking community was relatively rich and powerful. So the Dutch-speaking community, who got the benefit of economic development and education much later showed the resentment between the Dutch-speaking and the French-speaking communities.

Q.4. Which are the most important social groups of Sri Lanka ? –

Ans. (i) Sinhala speaking (ii) Tamil speaking

Q.5. Which ethnic group is in majority in Sri Lanka ?

Ans. Sinhala

Q.6. Name the two sub groups of Tamils in Sri Lanka. [CBSE 2014]

Ans. (i) Sri Lankan Tamils (ii) Indian Tamils

Q.7. When did Sri Lanka emerge as an independent nation ? [CBSE Sep. 2010, 11]

Ans. 1948

Q.8. What is a Civil War ?

Ans. It is a violent conflict between the opposing groups within a country, for example the conflict between Sinhalese and Indian Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Q.9. Name the ethnic group of Sri Lanka which were involved in a Civil War.

Ans. (i) Sri Lankan Tamils or the Sinhalese (ii) Indian Tamils

Q.10. What is majoritarianism ? Name a country which has lost peace due to this. [CBSE Sep. 2013]

Ans. A belief that the majority community should be able to rule a country in whichever way it wants, by disregarding the wishes and needs of the minority. Sri Lanka.

Q.11. Power shared among different organs of government is known as horizontal distribution of power. Give reason.

Ans. Because it allows different organs of government placed at the same level to exercise different powers.

Q.12. State one prudential reason and one moral reason for power sharing from the Indian content.

Ans. (i) India is a multicultural society.
(ii) India is a democratic country.

Q.13. What is different between prudential and moral reasons for power sharing ?

Ans. Prudential reasons stress that power sharing will bring out better outcomes, whereas moral reasons emphasis the very act of power sharing as valuable.

Q.14. Apart from the Central and the State Government, there is a third kind of government in Belgium. Which is that third kind of government ?

Ans. Community government.

Q.15. What is the basic principle of democracy ?

Ans. The basic principle of democracy is that people are the source of all political power.

Q.16. For a long time it was believed that all power of government must reside in one person or group of persons located at one place. Give reason.

Ans. It was felt that if the power to decide is dispersed, it would not be possible to take quick decisions.

Q.17. What is a community government ?

Ans. A community government is one in which different social groups are given the power to handle the affairs related to their communities. They are expected to work jointly for the benefit of the common masses without undermining any one community.

Q.18. Name the most important organs of the government.

Ans. Legislature, Executive and Judiciary

Q.19. What is a federal government ?

Ans. It is a government under which two or more than two sets of governments govern the country.

Q.20. What is a reserved constituency ?

Ans. A reserved constituency is a constituency which is reserved for a particular section of the society.

Q.21. What is the importance of reserved constituency ?

Ans. This type of arrangement is meant to give space in the government and administration to diverse social group who otherwise would feel alienated from the government.

Q.22. What is die system of checks and balances in power sharing ? [CBSE 2014]

Ans. Under this system one organ of the • government keeps the check over the other. None of the organs can exercise unlimited powers. This keeps a balance of power among various institutions.

Q-23. The system of ‘checks and balances’ comes under which form of power sharing. [CBSE 2014]

Ans. Horizontal power sharing.

Q.24. What is a coalition government ?

Ans. A coalition government is a cabinet of parliamentary government in which several parties cooperate. It generally happens when no party gets a majority in the parliament and several parties join together to prove their majority.

Q.25. In Sri Lanka, the democratically elected government adopted a series of which measures to establish Sinhala supremacy ? Mention any one. [CBSE Sept.2010]

Ans. They established a Majoritarian government.

Q.26. State two main bases of social division in Sri Lanka. [CBSE 2008 (D) Compt.]

Ans. (i) Religion (ii) Language

Q.27. Which is the state religion of Sri Lanka ?

Ans. Buddhism.

Q.28. Which two languages are generally spoken in Belgium ? [CBSE 2010, 11]

Ans. French and Dutch

Q.29. Give one example of horizontal sharing of power. [CBSE 2010, 11]

Ans. Power sharing among Legislature, Executive and Judiciary.

Q.30. Who elects the community government in Belgium ? [CBSE Sept. 2010]

Ans. People belonging to one language community- Dutch, French and German.

HOTS

Q.1. Describe any three demands of the Sri Lankan Tamils. How did they struggle for their independence ? [CBSE 2009 (O), Sept. 2012]

Ans. (a) Recognition of Tamil as an official language.

(b) Regional autonomy.

(c) Equal opportunity in securing jobs and education.

They formed several political organisations, but when the government tried to suppress their activities by force, this led to a Civil War.

Q.2. How is power shared among the different organs of the government ? Explain. [CBSE 2009 (O)]

Ans. (i) Organs of the government: Legislature, executive and judiciary are the three organs of the government. Legislature is responsible for making laws, executive organ is responsible for execution or implementation the laws whereas judiciary is there to provide justice to the people or to solve the disputes.

(ii) Power sharing: In India the Union Parliament, i.e., the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha makes laws whereas various ministers and government officials are responsible for the execution of the laws. These ministers are not independent but they are responsible or answerable to the Parliament or State Assemblies. Similarly, although judges are appointed by the executive, they can check the functioning of executive or laws made by the legislatures. This arrangement is called a system of checks and balances.

Q.3. What is majoritarianism ? How has it increased the feelings of alienation among the Sri Lankan Tamils ? Explain with examples. [CBSE Sept. 2010]

Or

What were the reasons for the alienation of Sri Lankan Tamils ? What was the effect of this on the country ? [CBSE 2011]

Or

Why do the Sri Lankan Tamils feel alienated in spite of their long stay in Sri Lanka ?

Or

What is majoritarianism ? How has it been adopted in Sri Lanka ? [CBSE 2010]

Ans. A belief that the majority community should rule a country even at the cost of the wishes of the minority.

(a) The Sri Lankan government took various measures like declaring Sinhala as the official language and that declaring the state shall protect and foster Buddhism, denial of citizenship to Tamils, and to establish the Sinhala supremacy.

(b) All these measures created a feeling among the Tamils that political parties led by the Buddhist Sinhala leaders were not sensitive to their language and culture.

(c) They felt that the Constitution and the government policies denied them equal political rights.

(d) When they tried to raise their demands, the government used force to suppress their demands which led to a long Civil War.

Q.4. Explain the vertical division of power by giving examples from India. [CBSE 2013] Ans. (1) When power is shared among governments at different levels by division of power involving higher and lower levels of government, it is called as vertical division of power.

(2) (i) In India, this is done by a general government for the entire country, which is called as Union or Central Government and governments at provincial or regional level, which are called as State Governments.

(ii) The Indian Constitution has clearly laid down the provisions for distribution of power. This division of power is further extended to levels of government lower than state governments, such as Municipality and Panchayats.

Q.5. Why is horizontal distribution of power often referred to as a system of ‘checks and balances’ ? Explain. [CSBE 2012]

Ans. (1) Under horizontal distribution of power, power is shared among different organs of the government such as legislature, executive and judiciary. This system is also called system of ‘checks and balances’.

(2) Reasons :

(i) All three organs of the government are placed at the same level.

(ii) The power distribution ensures that no organ enjoys unlimited powers.

(iii) Each organ exercises a check on the others. Thus, this results in a balance of power.

Q.6. Describe with examples the way in which power can be shared among different social and linguistic groups ? [CBSE 2010]

Ans. (i) In some countries, there are constitutional and legal arrangements for the representation of socially weaker sections and women in legislatures and administration.

(ii) In India, Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) are given reservations in constituencies of Parliament and State Assemblies. These measures are meant to provide them space in government and administration. This would also prevent their feeling of alienation from government.

(iii) In Belgium, the “Community Government” provides equal representation in government to different linguistic groups of Dutch French and German-speaking people.

VBQ

Q.1. Which values you have learnt from the principle of power sharing ?

Ans. (i) Power sharing reduces the possibility of conflict between social groups and brings peace in the society.

(ii) Power sharing is the basic spirit of democracy.

(iii) Reservation of seats for women under power sharing leads to women empowerment.

Q.2. ‘Principle of majoritarianism is against the human values.’ Justify.

Ans. (i) It increases the feeling of alienation among the people of minority group.

(ii) It can lead to a conflict in the society, e.g., Sri Lankan Civil War.

(iii) It is against the principle of power sharing.

Q.3. Give three examples of power sharing in India. Also mention the social/moral value it strengthens.

Ans. (i) Reservation of seats for SC and ST in Lok Sabha : This provides equal opportunity even to depressed classes.

(ii) Reservation of seats for women in local government : This leads to women empowerment.

(iii) Division of legislative powers : The Constitution of India provides a three fold distribution of legislative powers between the Union and the state governments. It strengthens the spirit of democracy.

Notes

◆ **Ethnic** : A social division based on shared culture. People belonging to the same ethnic group believe in their common descent because of similarities of physical type or of culture, or both. They need not always have the same religion or nationality. ‘

◆ **Majoritarianism** : A belief that the majority community should be able to rule a country in whichever way it wants, by disregarding the wishes and needs of the minority.

◆ **Civil war** : A violent conflict between the opposing groups within a country that becomes so intense that it appears like a war.

◆ **Prudential** : Based on prudence, or on careful calculation of gains and losses. Prudential decisions are usually contrasted with those decisions which are based purely on moral considerations.

◆ **Community Government** : A community government is one in which different social groups are given the power to handle the affairs related to their communities. They are expected to work jointly for the benefit of the common masses without undermining any one community.

◆ **Federal government** : It is a government under which two or more than two sets of governments govern the country.

◆ **Reserved constituency** : A reserved constituency is a constituency which is reserved for a particular section of the society.

◆ **Coalition government** : A coalition government is a cabinet of parliamentary government in which several parties cooperate. It generally happens when no party gets a majority in the parliament and several parties join together to prove their majority.

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Question-1

What is Federalism?

Solution:

Federalism is the advocacy of federal political orders, where the final authority is divided between sub-units and a centre. Unlike a unitary state, sovereignty is constitutionally split between at least two territorial levels so that units at each level have final authority and can act independently of the others in some area. In such a case citizens have political obligations to two authorities. The allocation of authority between the sub-unit and centre may vary.

The federal system thus has dual objectives that is to safeguard and promote unity of the country and accommodate regional diversity.

Governments at different levels should agree to some rules of power sharing. An ideal federal system has both aspects; mutual trust and agreement to live together.

Question-2

What makes India a Federal Country?

Solution:

India is a nation with many languages, religions and regions. It emerged as an independent nation after a long and painful partition. Several princely states became a part of the country soon after independence. India was declared as a Union of States, by the Constitution.

The Indian Union is based on the principles of federalism. The Constitution earlier provided a two-tier system of government, the Union Government (Central Government), representing the Union of India and the State governments. Later, Panchayats and Municipalities were added as a third tier of federalism. All these different forms of government enjoy separate jurisdiction.

Question-3

Write a brief note on the language policy adopted in India.

Solution:

The 'Language policy' was the second test for Indian federation. No language was given the status of national language by our Constitution. Hindi was identified as the official language. But only about 40 per cent of Indians have Hindi as their mother tongue. Therefore, 21 other languages besides Hindi, are recognised as Scheduled Languages by the Constitution. A candidate in an examination conducted for the Central Government positions may opt to take the examination in any of these languages. States too have their own official languages. Much of the government work takes place in the official language of the concerned State.

The flexibility shown by Indian political leaders helped our country avoid any conflict based on languages.

Question-4

Write a brief note on village councils.

Solution:

Village Councils looked after the affairs of the village, had police and judicial powers and were the lines of contact with higher authorities on matters affecting the villages. Custom and religion elevated them to a sacred position of authority.

These Councils were the pivot of administration, the centre of social life, and, above all, a focus of social solidarity.

Question-5

What are the dual objectives of Federalism?

Solution:

The dual objectives of Federalism are to safeguard and promote unity of the country and to accommodate regional diversity.

Question-6

What are the duties of a Central and State governments?

Solution:

The duties of the Union or Central Government include subjects of national importance such as defence of the country, foreign affairs, banking, communications and currency. This is because, a uniform policy on these matters will be maintained throughout the country. All the laws pertaining to the above duties must be given only by the Union Government.

The duties of the State Governments include subjects of the State and local importance such as police, trade, commerce, agriculture and irrigation. All the laws pertaining to the above duties must be given only by the State Governments.

Some aspects have to be taken care of, by both, the Union Government as well as the State Governments. They are education, forest, trade unions, marriage, adoption and succession. Both governments can make laws on these subjects. If their laws conflict with each other, the law made by the Union Government will prevail.

Question-7

What is the special status the state of Jammu and Kashmir enjoys?

Solution:

Jammu and Kashmir enjoys a special status. It has its own Constitution. Many provisions of the Indian Constitution are not applicable to this State without the approval of the State Assembly.

Indians who are not permanent residents of this State cannot buy land or house here. Similar special provisions exist for some other States of India as well.

LAQ

Q.1. Explain the major key features of federalism.

Or

Describe any four features of the federalism. [CBSE 2011, 14]

Ans. (i) Two or more levels of government :

Federalism is a system of government in which the governmental power is divided between a central authority and its various constituent units. Usually, a federation has two levels of government. One is the government for the entire country, and the other governments at the state or provincial level. ,

(ii) Same Citizens Separate jurisdiction : Different tiers of the government govern the same citizens, but each tier has its own jurisdiction in specific matters of legislation, taxation and administration.

(iii) Superiority of Constitution : The jurisdictions of the respective levels or tiers of the government are specified in the Constitution. So the existence and authority of each tier of the government are constitutionally safeguarded. ‘

(iv) Rigid Constitution : The fundamental provisions of the Constitution cannot be unilaterally

changed by one level of the government. Such changes require the consent of the both the levels of the government.

(v) Supreme authority of the courts : Courts have the power to interpret the Constitution, and the powers of different levels of the government. The highest court acts as an umpire in case of disputes arising between different levels of the government in the exercise of their respective powers, (of) Dual objectives : The federal system,

thus has dual objectives : to safeguard and promote the unity of the country, while at the same time, to accommodate the regional diversity.

Q.2.Distinguish between the Coming Together Federations and the Holding Together Federations. [CBSE 2012, 14J]

Q.2. Distinguish between the Coming Together Federations and the Holding Together Federations. [CBSE 2012, 14]

Ans.

Coming Together Federations	Holding Together Federations
(i) Under this the independent, states come together on their own to form a bigger unit.	(i) Under this, a large country decides to divide its power between the constituent states and the national government.
(ii) Under this, all the constituent states usually have equal powers.	(ii) Under this central government tends to be more powerful.
(iii) USA, Switzerland and Australia.	(iii) India, Spain and Belgium.

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Q.3. 'India is a federal country.' Explain by giving examples.[CBSE Sept. 2012, 2013]

Or

Explain the three fold distribution of legislative powers between the Union Government and the State Governments.

Or

Mention any five main features which make India a federal country. [CBSE 2013]

Ans. (i) Division of powers : The Constitution demarcates the powers of the central and the state governments into different lists of subjects. There are three lists :

(i) Union List.

(ii) State List.

(iii) Concurrent List.

(ii) Three-tier system : As discussed earlier, under a federal government different tiers of the government govern the same citizens. This is true for India. In India, we have a three-tier system of government, i.e.,

- Union Government
- State Government
- Local Self-Government.

(iii) Not equal powers to all administrative units : Most of the federations that are formed by 'holding together' do not give equal powers to its constituent units. Thus, all states in the Indian Union do not have identical powers. Some states enjoy a special status. Jammu and Kashmir has its own Constitution. Many provisions of the Indian Constitution are not applicable to this state without the permission of the state assembly.

(iv) Consent of both the levels of the government : Under a federal government, the fundamental provisions cannot be unilaterally changed by one level of the government, and the same is true for India. The Parliament cannot on its own change the fundamental structure of the Constitution. implementation of constitutional provisions and procedures. The same is true for India. In case of any dispute about the division of powers, the High Courts and the Supreme Court take a decision.

(vi) Separate sources of income : A clear mention regarding the financial powers of the centre and the states has been made in the Indian Constitution. Income tax, excise duty, corporation tax, etc., are levied and collected by the central government, whereas land revenue, stamp duty, building tax, etc., come under the state government.

Q.4. How is federalism practised in India ? Explain.

Or

'The real success of federalism in India can be attributed to the nature of democratic politics in India.' Explain.

Ans. (i) Linguistic States : After independence, in 1950, the boundaries of several old states were changed in order to create new states. This was done to ensure that the people who spoke the same language, share common culture, ethnicity or geography could live in the same state.

(ii) Language Policy : The Indian Constitution did not give the status of national language to any one of the languages. Though Hindi was identified as the optional language, but the central government has not imposed Hindi on states where people speak a different language. Besides Hindi, there are 22 other languages recognised as Scheduled Languages by the Indian Constitution.

(iii) Centre-State relations : Improving the Centre-State relations is one more way in which federalism has been strengthened in practice. Though Indian Constitution has demarcated the powers of the Union and the state governments but still the Union government can have influence over the state in many ways.

In the past, the Central government has often misused the Constitution to dismiss the state governments that were controlled by

rival parties. This undermined the spirit of federalism, and that of democracy.

The judiciary has played a major role in improving the autonomy of the state governments because many a time, it has rescued state governments which were dismissed in an arbitrary manner.

Q.5. "The creation of linguistic states was the first and major test for democratic politics in our country." Justify this statement. [CBSE 2011, 14]

Ans. In 1947, the boundaries of several old States of India were changed in order to create new States. This was done to ensure that people who spoke the same language lived in the same State. Some States were created not on the basis of language but to recognize differences based on culture,

ethnicity or geography. These include States like Nagaland, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand. When the demand for the formation of States on the basis of language was raised, some national leaders feared that it would lead to the disintegration of the country. The Central Government resisted linguistic States for some time. But the experience has shown that the formation of linguistic States has actually made the country more united. It has also made administration easier.

Q.6. Explain how law making powers are shared between centre and states in India ? Mention three subjects each of Ans. Union List and State List. [CBSE 2013]

Or

Describe the division of power between the central and the state governments in India. [CBSE 2011]

Or

How are the powers divided between the states and centre ? Explain with examples.

Ans. Union List includes subjects of national importance such as defence of the country, foreign affairs, banking, communications and currency. They are included in this list because we need a uniform policy on these matters throughout the country. The Union Government alone can make laws relating to the subjects mentioned in the Union List.

State List contains subjects of State and local importance such as police, trade, commerce, agriculture and irrigation. The State Governments alone can make laws relating to the subjects mentioned in the State List. Concurrent List includes subjects of common interest to both the Union Government as well as the State Governments, such as education, forest, trade unions, marriage, adoption and succession.

Both the Union as well as the State Governments can make laws on the subjects mentioned in this list. If their laws conflict with each other, the law made by the Union Government will prevail.

(i) Under a federal government, the fundamental provisions cannot be unilaterally changed by one level of the government and the same is true for India,

(ii) The Parliament cannot on its own change the fundamental structure of the Constitution. Any change in it has to be first passed by both Houses of the Parliament with at least two-third majority. Then it has to be ratified by the legislatures of at least half of the total states.

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Q.7. Distinguish between the Union List and the Concurrent List.

Q.7. Distinguish between the Union List and the Concurrent List.

Ans.

Union List	Concurrent List
(i) This list includes subjects of national importance like defence, foreign affairs, atomic energy, etc.	(i) This list includes the subjects which are of common concern both to the centre and the state governments.
(ii) Only the central government can pass laws on these subjects.	(ii) Both the central and the state governments can frame laws on these subjects.
(iii) This list contains 97 subjects.	(iii) This list contains 47 subjects.

Q.8. 'Most federations that are formed by 'holding together' do not give equal power to its constituent units.' Is it true for India ? Explain.

Or

"Holding together federations" do not give equal power to its constituent units. Explain the statement with the help of examples in context to India. [CBSE 2012]

Ans. Yes, the above statement is true for India.

(i) All states in the Indian Union do not have identical powers. Some states enjoy a special status. Jammu and Kashmir has its own Constitution. Many provisions of the Indian Constitution are not applicable to this state without the permission of the state assembly. Indians who are not permanent residents of this state cannot buy land or house here.

(ii) Similar special provisions exist for Assam and the hill states of North-East India.

(iii) There are some units of Indian Union which enjoy very little power. These are areas which are too small to become an independent state but which could not be merged with any of the existing states. These areas, like Chandigarh, or Lakshadweep or the capital city of Delhi, are called the Union Territories. These territories do not have the powers of a state. The central government has special powers in running these areas.

Q.9. Why were the linguistic states created? What are their advantages ? [CBSE 2008 (Compt)]

Ans. (i) Common Language: Many states were created on the basis of language to ensure that people

who speak the same language lived in the same state.

(ii) Common culture, ethnicity or geography: Some States were created not on the basis of language but to recognise differences based on culture, ethnicity or geography. These include States like Nagaland, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand.

Advantages :

• The experience has shown that the formation of linguistic States has actually made the country, more united. It has also made administration easier.

Q.10. Explain the language policy of Indian Federal. How is it different from Sri Lanka ?
Or

Write any four characteristics of language policy of India. [CBSE 2011]

Or

Describe in brief the language policy of India. [CBSE 2010]

Ans. (i) No National Language: Our Constitution did not give the status of national language to any one language. Hindi was identified as the official language. But Hindi is the mother tongue of only about 40 per cent of Indians. Therefore, there were many safeguards to protect other languages.

(ii) Scheduled Languages: Besides Hindi, there are 22 other languages recognised as Scheduled Languages by the Constitution. A candidate in an examination conducted for the Central Government positions may opt to take the examination in any of these languages. States too have their own official languages. Much of the government work takes place in the official language of the concerned State.

(iii) Spread of Hindi with cautious approach: Unlike Sri Lanka, the leaders of our country adopted a very cautious attitude in spreading the use of Hindi. According to the Constitution, the use of English for official purposes was to stop in 1965. However, many non-Hindi-speaking States demanded that the use of English continue. In Tamil Nadu, this movement took a violent form. The Central Government responded by agreeing to continue the use of English along with Hindi for official purposes. Promotion of Hindi continues to be the official policy of the Government of India. Promotion does not mean that the Central Government can impose Hindi on States where people speak a different language.

(iv) Language policy of Sri Lanka: In 1956, an Act was passed by the Sri Lankan government to recognise Sinhala as the only official language whereas in case of India the government agreed to continue the use of English along with Hindi for official purposes.

Q.11. 'Restructuring the Centre-State relations is an important way in which the Indian Federalism has been strengthened in practice.' Explain.

Ans. (i) After 90s, many regional political parties have emerged in many states of the country.

(ii) The regional parties are playing a very vital role in forming the Union government.

(iii) The judiciary has played a major role in improving the autonomy of the state governments because many a time, it has rescued the state governments which were dismissed in an arbitrary manner.

Q.12. Why does the exact balance of power between the Centre and the State Governments vary from one Federation to another ? Explain with two examples. [CBSE 2008(D)]

Ans. The exact balance of power between the central and the state government depends mainly on the historical context in which the federation was formed. There, are two kinds of routes through which federations have been formed :

(i) Coming Together Federations

(ii) Holding Together Federations

[Refer Q. 2, Long Answer Type Questions]

Q.13. Point out one feature in the practice of federalism in India that is similar to any one feature that is different from that of Belgium.

Ans. One similar feature of Federalism between India and Belgium : India and Belgium are both holding together federations where the Central Governments tend to be more powerful vis-a-vis the states.

One different feature of Federalism between India and Belgium : In Belgium, there are three kinds of government – government at the centre, government at the state level and third kind of government is the community government. The community government has the power regarding cultural, educational and language related issues.

But in India, there is no third kind of government, there is no community government.

Q.14. What is decentralisation ? What is the importance or need for decentralisation ? [CBSE Sept. 2010, 14]

Or

“Do you take decentralisation as a mean to minimise the conflicts ?” Give your view point. [CBSE 2014]

Ans. When power is taken away from the Central and State governments, and given to the Local governments, it is called decentralisation.

(i) The basic idea behind decentralisation is that there are a large number of problems and issues which are best settled at the local level. People have a better knowledge of problems in their localities. They also have better ideas on where to spend money, and how to manage things more efficiently.
(ii) At the local level, it is possible for the people to directly participate in decision, making. This helps to inculcate a habit of democratic participation. Basically the local government is the best way to realise one important principle of democracy, namely the Local Self-Government.

Q.15. Name the three tier government system in India. What steps have been taken by the government to make the third tier more powerful and effective ? [CBSE 2008(o)]

Or

How has the third tier of government in our country been made more effective and powerful by the Constitutional Amendment of 1992 ? [CBSE Sept. 2010]

Or

Explain any four provisions that have been made towards decentralisation in India after the constitutional amendment in 1992. [CBSE Sept. 2010, 2011, 2012]

Ans. Three tier system :

1. Union Government
2. State Governments
3. Local Governments.

Steps :

- Now, it is constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections to the local government bodies.
- Seats are reserved in the elected bodies and the executive heads of these institutions for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Backward Classes.
- At least one-third of all positions are reserved for women.
- An independent institution called the State Election Commission has been created in each state to conduct free and fair elections for the panchayat and the municipalities.
- The State governments are required to share some powers and revenue with the Local government bodies. The nature of sharing varies from state to state.

Q.16. Explain the advantages of decentralisation. [CBSE Sept. 2010, 14]

Or .

Explain any four features of the third tier of government. [CBSE Sept. 2011]

Or

Explain how the federal experiment has been successful in the matter of formation of states in India. [CBSE Sept. 2010]

Or

Give two arguments in favour of decentralisation of powers to local governments. Give two provisions under the amendment of 1992 which empowers local governments in India. [CBSE Sept. 2011]

OR

Assess the need for local government. [CBSE 2012, 14]

Ans. (i) Locals have better knowledge : The basic idea behind decentralisation is that there are a large number of problems and issues which are best settled at the local level. People have better knowledge of problems in their localities. They also have better ideas on where to spend money, and how to manage things more efficiently.

(ii) Direct participation of the people : Decentralisation makes it possible for the people to directly participate in decision making. This helps to inculcate a habit of democratic participation. The Local government is the best way to realise one important principle of democracy, namely the Local Self-Government.

(iii) Foundation of democracy : Local governments are most important in a democratic system. These are training schools for local citizens and local leadership. These provide political education. The people get familiar about the electoral process, and the proper use of their vote, which is the very foundation of democracy.

(iv) Reduction of burden of the Central Government : It reduces the burden of the Central or State governments. These can concentrate on matters of national or state importance in a better way. In this way, the Local Self-Government ensures efficiency everywhere, at all the three levels of today's governance. Indian leaders have recognised the need for decentralisation.

(v) Women empowerment : At least one-third of all positions are reserved for women in all the local bodies. This has led to women empowerment.

SAQ

WE ARE WITH YOU.....

Q.1. "Belgium shifted from a unitary to a federal form of government". What key changes were brought in the political system under the above mentioned shift ?

Ans. (i) Many powers of the central government were given to state governments of the two regions of the country.

(ii) The regional governments were given constitutional powers that were no longer dependent on the central government.

(iii) Apart from the central government and the state government there is a third kind of government known as community government. This government has the power regarding cultural, educational and language related issues.

Q.2. "Federations are contrasted with unitary governments". Explain by giving examples from Sri Lanka and Belgium.

Ans. Under the unitary system, either there is only one level of government or the sub-units are subordinate to the Central government. The Central government can pass on orders to the provincial or the Local government. For example in Sri Lanka is a unitary country and the Union government passed a new law stipulating that the state shall protect and foster Buddhism. Whereas under federal system, the Central government cannot order the State government to do something. State government has powers of its own for which ' it 's not answerable to the Central government. Both these governments are separately answerable to the people.

Q.3. Mention any three features of an ideal federal system.

Ans. (i) The federal system which safeguards and promotes unity of the country, while at the same time accommodates regional diversity.

(ii) Governments at different levels should agree to some rules of power-sharing. They should also trust that each would abide by its part of the agreement.

(iii) An ideal federal system has both aspects : mutual trust and agreement to live together.

Q.4. Mention any two subjects which are r included in the union list. Explain by giving reasons why these are included in the union list.

Ans. Defence and foreign affairs.

Reasons:

(i) These are subjects of national importance.

(ii) We need a uniform policy on these matters throughout the country.

Q.5. ‘All states in the Indian Union do not have identical powers. Justify. –

Ans. (i) Some states like Jammu and Kashmir has its own Constitution.

(ii) Many provisions of the Indian Constitution are not applicable to this State without the approval of the State Assembly.

(iii) Indians who are not permanent residents of this State cannot buy land or house here. Similar special provisions exist for some other States of India as well.

Q.6. “Federal power sharing is more effective today than it was in the early years after the Constitution came into force”. Explain.

Or

How is federal power sharing more effective today than in the early years ? Explain.

Ans. (i) Centre-State relations: As and when the ruling party at the State level was different, the parties that ruled at the Centre tried to undermine the power of the states. The Central Government has been misusing the Constitution to dismiss the State governments that were controlled by rival parties. This undermined the spirit of federalism. All this changed significantly after 1990. This period saw the rise of regional political parties in many states of the country.

(ii) Coalition Governments and autonomy of states: The era of coalition has changed the relationship between the centre and state governments since no single party got a clear majority in the Lok Sabha, the major national parties had to enter into an alliance with many parties including several regional parties to form a government at the Centre. This led to a new culture of power sharing and respect for the autonomy of State Governments.

(iii) Judgement of the Supreme Court: The Supreme Court of India has established strict guidelines for imposing President’s rule. With new guidelines it is very difficult for the Central Government to dismiss state governments in an arbitrary manner. Thus, federal power sharing is more effective today than it was in the early years after the Constitution came into force.

Q.7. ‘The sharing of power between the Union government and the state governments is basic to the structure of the Indian Constitution’. Explain.

Ans. (i) Under a federal government, the fundamental provisions cannot be unilaterally changed by one level of the government and the same is true for India,

(ii) The Parliament cannot on its own change the fundamental structure of the Constitution. Any change in it has to be first passed by both the Houses of the Parliament with at least two-third majority. Then it has to be ratified by the legislatures of at least half of the total states.

Q.8. Mention any four features of federalism. [CBSE 2008, 2009 (O), Sept. 2010, 2011, 2012]

Or

Explain four features of the federal form of government. [CBSE 2008 Comp. (O) (D)]

Ans. (i) The power is divided between a central authority and its various constituent units.

(ii) Different tiers of the government govern the same citizens.

(iii) The fundamental provisions of the government cannot be unilaterally changed by one level of government.

(iv) It has a dual objective, i.e., to safeguard and promote the unity of the country, and also to accommodate the regional diversity.

Q.9. “There is a need for power sharing within the states”. Explain.

Ans. (i) A vast country like India cannot be run only through these two-tiers. States in India are as large as independent countries of Europe. In terms of population, Uttar Pradesh is bigger than Russia, Maharashtra is about as big as Germany.

(ii) Many of Indian states are internally very diverse. There is thus a need for power sharing within these states.

(iii) The third tier is also required to principle of decentralisation of power.

Q.10. Mention any four difficulties of the local government in India. [CBSE Comp. (O) 2008, Sept. 2010, 14]

Ans. (i) Most states have not transferred significant powers to the local governments.

(ii) There is a shortage of resources.

(iii) Elections are not held regularly.

(iv) The GramSabhas are not held regularly.

Q.11. What are the advantages of local governments ? [CBSE Sept. 2010]

Ans. (i) Constitutional status for local government has helped to deepen democracy in our country.

(ii) It has also increased women’s representation and voice in our democracy.

(iii) This allows people to directly participate in decision making.

(iv) Local people have better ideas and knowledge about the local problems.

Q.12. Explain two achievements and two difficulties of the local self-governments in India. [CBSE Comp. (O) 2008, Sept. 2011, 14]

Ans. Achievements :

(i) It has made the country more united and stronger.

(ii) It has also made the administration easier.

Difficulties :

(i) There is a shortage of resources.

(ii) Elections are not held regularly.

Q.13. What is Gram Sabha ? Mention its functions.

Ans. Every adult of the village who is 18 years of age constitute the Gram Sabha.

(i) It is the decision-making body of the entire village.

(ii) The village Panchayat works under the supervision of the Gram Sabha.

(iii) It approves the annual budget of the Gram Panchayat.

Q.14. What is a Panchayati Raj ? What is its importance ? [CBSE 2008 (F)]

Ans. The rural local government is known as the Panchayati Raj.

Importance :

- (i) It helps the people to directly participate in decision-making.
- (ii) It helps in the decentralisation of power.
- (iii) It reduces the burden of the central government.

Q.15. Which is the highest tier of the Panchayati Raj ? Explain its composition.

Ans. The highest institution of the Panchayati Raj in rural areas is the Zila Parishad. The Zila Parishad coordinates the activities of all the Block Samitis in the whole district. Most members of the Zila Parishad are elected. Members of the Lok Sabha and the MLAs of that district along with some other officials of other district level bodies are also its members. The Zila Parishad's Chairperson is the political head of the Zila Parishad.

Q.16. Define :

- (a) Gram Panchayat**
- (b) Panchayat Samiti**
- (c) Zila Parishad**
- (d) Mayor**

Ans. (a) It is a council consisting of several ward members, often called the Panch and a president or a Sarpanch.

(b) A few Gram Panchayats are grouped together to form a Panchayat Samiti or Block or a Mandal.

(c) All the Panchayat Samitis or Mandals in a district together constitute the Zila Parishad.

(d) A Mayor is an elected Chairperson of the Municipal Corporation.

Q.1.. What is federalism ? [CBSE 2014]

Ans. Federalism is a system of government under which power is divided between a central authority and its various constituent units. The various constituent units and the central authority run their administration independently and do not interfere unnecessarily in the affairs of one another.

Q.2. What is Unitary Government ?

Ans. Under the unitary system, either there is only one level of government or the sub units are subordinate to the central government.

Q.3. 'The federal system has dual objective'. Mention the dual objectives.

Ans. To safeguard and promote the unity of the country, while at the same time accommodate regional diversity.

Q.4. Mention any two features of federalism.

Ans. (i) There are two or more levels of government, (ii) Different tiers of government govern the same citizens.

Q.5. 'There are two kinds of routes through which federations have been formed.' Name the two routes by giving one example of each.

Ans. (i) Coming together federations – USA (ii) Holding together federations – India.

Q.6. Name any two examples of coming together federation. [CBSE 2014]

Ans. USA and Australia.

Q.7. Name any two holding together federation. [CBSE 2014]

Ans. India and Spain.

Q.8. Mention the three tier system prevailing in India.

Ans. (i) Union Government
(ii) State Government
(iii) Local Government

Q.9. Categorise the following under Union list or Concurrent list.

(i) Currency (ii) Education

Ans. (i) Currency – Union List
(ii) Education – Concurrent List

Q.10. What is a Union List ?

Ans. Subjects of national importance like defence, foreign affairs, atomic energy, banking, post and telegraph are included in the Union List. Only the central government can pass laws on the subjects mentioned in the Union List because we need a uniform policy on important or national issues throughout the country. The Union List has 97 subjects.

Q.11. What is a State List ?

Ans. It comprises those important subjects on which the state government can pass laws. Subjects like police, local governments, trade and commerce, agriculture within the state are included in the State List. The State List has 66 subjects.

Q.12. What is a Concurrent List ?

Ans. The Concurrent List comprises of the subjects which are of common concern both to the centre and the state governments. Ordinarily both the central and the state governments can frame laws on these subjects. However, if there is a conflict between the central law and the state law, over a subject in the Concurrent List, the central law would be effective. This List includes subjects like criminal and civil procedure, marriage and divorce, education, economic planning, trade unions etc. The Concurrent List has 47 subjects.

Q.13. What are Residuary Powers ? [CBSE 2014]

Ans. Matters which are not included in the division of powers, are known as residuary powers. It was felt that there can be subjects which are not mentioned in either of these lists. The central government has been given the power to legislate on these 'residuary' subjects.

Q.14. Name an Indian state which enjoys a special status.

Ans. Jammu and Kashmir.

Q.15. What are Union Territories ?

Ans. These are areas which are too small to become an independent State but which could not be merged with any of the existing states.

Q.16. Who governs the Union Territories ?

Ans. The Union Government.

Q.17. What is the importance of judiciary in a federal government ?

Ans. The judiciary plays an important role in overseeing the implementation of constitutional provisions and procedures. In case of any dispute about the division of powers, the High Courts and the Supreme Court make a decision.

Q.18. What is decentralisation ? [CBSE 2014]

Ans. When power is taken away from Central and State governments and given to local government, it is called decentralisation.

Q.19. What is Gram Panchayat ?

Ans. It is a council consisting of several ward members, often called panch and a president or sarpanch.

Q.20. What is Panchayat Samiti ?

Ans. A few gram panchayats are grouped together to form a Panchayat Samiti or block or mandal.

Q.21. How are village Sarpanch or Panches elected?

Ans. They are directly elected by all the adult population living in that ward or village.

Q.22. How judiciary acts as an umpire in a federal nation?

Ans. Courts have the power to interpret the Constitution and the powers of different levels of government. The highest court acts as an umpire if disputes arise between different levels of government in the exercise of their respective powers.

Q.23. What is Zila Parishad ?

Ans. All the Panchayat Samiti's or Mandals in a district together constitute the Zila Parishad.

Q.24. Who is a Mayor ?

Ans. He is an elected Chairperson of the Municipal Corporation.

Q.25. How had federalism helped Belgium to solve the ethnic problem ?

Ans. (i) Before 1993 most of the powers in Belgium were in the hands of the central government, i.e., Belgium had a unitary government.
(ii) After 1993 the regional governments were given constitutional powers. Thus Belgium shifted from a unitary to a federal form of government.

Q.26. Which law will remain prevalent if there is any conflict over a subject mentioned in the Concurrent list?

Ans. The law passed by the Union Government will prevail.

Q.27. How many languages have been recognised as scheduled languages?

Ans. 22 languages.

Q.28. Which two languages have been identified as the official languages? [CBSE 2014]

Ans. English and Hindi.

HOTS

Q.1. Some subjects have been mentioned below. Categorise them into Union List, State List and Concurrent List.

(i) Education (ii) Currency (iii) Police (iv) Forest (v) Banking (vi) Communication

Ans. (a) Union List – Currency, Banking and Communication.

- (b) State List – Police
- (c) Concurrent List – Education, Forest

Q.2. How is the Indian federal system different from that of Sri Lanka ? Explain by giving three examples.

- Ans.** (i) Sri Lanka believes in majoritarianism whereas in India equal rights are given to minorities.
(ii) In Sri Lanka, Sinhala is the only official language, whereas in India though Hindi is the official language but along with Hindi, 21 other languages have been recognised as Scheduled Languages.
(iii) In Sri Lanka, the government protects and fosters Buddhism, whereas India is a secular country.

Q.3. Explain how the federal experiment has been successful in the matter of formation of states in India. [CBSE 2011]

- Ans.** (i) The federal experiment had been successful in matter of formation of states in India because of the nature of the democratic politics of the country.
(ii) Earlier, when the demand for the formation of linguistic states was raised, some national leaders feared that it would lead to the disintegration of the country.
(iii) But the experience has shown that the formation of linguistic states has actually made the country more united.
(iv) It has also made administration easier.
(v) Linguistic States : After independence, the boundaries of many old states of India were changed in order to create new states to ensure that people who spoke the same language, lived in one state. For example, Gujarati-speaking Gujarat and Marathi-speaking Maharashtra.
(vi) Cultural States : Some states were created to recognize differences of culture, ethnicity and geography, e.g., Nagaland, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand.

Q.4. Critically analyse the Centre-State relations prior to 1990 and after. [CBSE 2013]

- Ans.** (i) Prior to 1990, except for once, the Congress ruled at the centre for about 40 years. These were the years when the single party made the government.
(ii) The government at the centre ruled the states with biased views. It supported those states which had a government formed by the same party. The government at many occasions dismissed the state governments formed by other parties in the name of law and order situations. In other words, the centre dictated the states and the states had no alternative except to follow the centre.
(iii) The rise of regional politics in many states has changed the Centre-State relations significantly after 1990. This was also the beginning of the era of coalition governments at the centre.
(iv) Since, no single party got a clear majority in the Lok Sabha, major national parties had to enter into an alliance with many small regional parties. Hence, regional parties do take care of their states.
(v) This led to a new culture of power sharing and respect for the autonomy of state government. It became difficult for the central government to dismiss state governments in an arbitrary manner.

Q.5. Why did the makers of our Constitution declare India to be a 'Union of states' ? Why were some sub-political units of India given a special status ? [CBSE 2012]

- Ans.** (1) India became a 'Union of states' because it consisted of both British ruled territories as well as many princely states.
(2) Some sub-political units of India have a special status :
(i) All British ruled regions have same status.
(ii) All princely states that have voluntarily joined have the same status as British ruled territory.
(iii) French and Portuguese ruled territories were given the status of Union Territory.
(iu) Jammu & Kashmir joined India on special condition.

Q.6. What is the rationale for decentralization of power ? Describe the functions of Rural Local Government. [CBSE 2013]

Ans. (1) (i) The rationale behind decentralisation is to ensure community participation for proper growth and development of the community itself. It is aimed to ensure social, economic and political development of the community.

(ii) It is also oriented to ensure no or less interferences in the local affairs by the Union and State executive bodies. It has been executed to make village 'Little Republic'.

(2) Following are the functions of the rural local government :

(i) Supply of water for domestic use.

(ii) Maintaining public health and sanitation.

(iii) Construction and repairing of public roads.

(iv) Lighting on roads and public places.

(v) Construction, repairing and maintaining public buildings, grazing lands, forest, public wells and tanks in good conditions..

VBQ

Q.1. Mention any three social or political values reflected by federalism.

Ans. (i) Federalism works on the principle of power sharing which leads to social peace.

(ii) Federal system has dual objective, i.e., to safeguard and promote unity of the country, while at the same time accommodate regional diversity.

(iii) An ideal federal system has important aspect like mutual trust and agreement to live together.

Q.2. Mention any four major values which are reflected by federalism in India.

Ans. (i) Formation of linguistic states has made the country more united.

(ii) While framing the language policy Indian federal system has shown the flexibility. Our Constitution has not given the status of national language to any of the language.

(iii) Some seats in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies are reserved for SC and ST. This reflects the principal of equality.

(iv) One third seats of all positions are reserved for women leading to women empowerment. ,

Q.3. Explain the values reflected by the principle of decentralisation in India.

Ans. (i) Through decentralisation people at local level participate in decision-making. This strengthens spirit of democracy.

(ii) Constitutional status for local government has helped to deepen democracy in our country.

(iii) It has also increased women's representation and voice in democracy.

Q.4. "Local governments have made a significant impact on Indian democracy. At the same time there are many difficulties." Explain. [CBSE 2012]

Ans. (1) Impacts :

(i) Constitutional status for local governments has helped to deepen democracy.

(ii) It has increased women's representation and voice in our democracy.

(2) Difficulties :

(i) Gram Sabhas are not held regularly.

(ii) Most state governments have not transferred significant powers to local governments.

(iii) State governments have not provided adequate resources.

Q.5. Should Panchayats be given judicial power to punish the anti social elements of its area ? Give your suggestions with arguments. [CBSE 2014]

Ans. No panchayats should not be given such powers ‘

Reasons :

(i) They do not have required resources.

(ii) It is the judiciary which has the power to decide whether a person is guilty or not.

Notes

◆ **Union List:** Subjects of national importance like defence, foreign affairs, atomic energy, banking, post and telegraph, are included in the Union List. The central government can pass laws on the subjects mentioned in the Union List.

◆ **State List :** It comprises those important subjects on which the state government can pass laws. Subjects like police, local government, trade and commerce within the state and agriculture are included in the State List.

◆ **Concurrent List :** The Concurrent List comprises the subjects which are of common concern both to the centre, and the state governments. Ordinarily, both the central and the state governments can frame laws on these subjects.

◆ **Residuary Powers :** Matters which are not included in the division of powers, are known as residuary powers.

◆ **Jurisdiction :** The area over which someone has legal authority. The area may be defined in terms of geographical boundaries or in terms of certain kinds of subjects.

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Question-1

Discuss three factors that determine the outcomes of politics of social divisions.

Solution:

Three factors are crucial in deciding the outcome of politics of social divisions. First of all the outcome depends on how people perceive their identities. If people see their identities in singular and exclusive terms, it becomes very difficult to accommodate. As long as people in northern Ireland saw themselves as only Catholic or Protestant, their differences were difficult to reconcile. It is much easier if the people see that their identities are multiple and are complementary with the national identity. A majority of Belgians now feel that they are as much Belgian as they are Dutch or German-speaking.

This helps them to stay together. This is how most people in our country see their identity: they think of themselves as Indian as well as belonging to a state or a language group or a social or religious community.

Second, it depends on how political leaders raise the demands of any community. It is easier to accommodate demands that are within the constitutional framework and are not at the cost of another community. The demand for 'only Sinhala' was at the cost of the interest and identity of the Tamil community in Sri Lanka. In Yugoslavia, the leaders of different ethnic communities presented their demands in such a way that these could not be accommodated within a single country.

Third, it depends on the how the government reacts to demands of different groups. As we saw in the examples of Belgium and Sri Lanka, if the rulers are willing to share power and accommodate the reasonable demands of minority community, social divisions become less threatening for the country. But if they try to suppress such a demand in the name of national unity, the end result is often quite the opposite. Such attempts at forced integration often sow the seeds of disintegration.

Question-2

When does a social difference become a social division?

Solution:

People who feel marginalised, deprived and discriminated have to fight against the injustices. Such a fight often takes the democratic path, voicing their demands in a peaceful and constitutional manner and seeking a fair position through elections.

Sometimes social differences can take the form of unacceptable level of social inequality and injustice. The struggle against such inequalities sometimes takes the path of violence and defiance of state power. However history shows that democracy is the best way to fight for recognition and also to accommodate diversity.

Question-3

How do social divisions affect politics? Give two examples.

Solution:

Expression of various kinds of social divisions in politics often results in their cancelling one another out and thus reducing their intensity. This leads to strengthening of a democracy. But a positive

attitude towards diversity and a willingness to accommodate it do not come about easily. People who feel marginalised, deprived and discriminated have to fight against the injustices. Such a fight often takes the democratic path, voicing their demands in a peaceful and constitutional manner and seeking a fair position through elections. Sometimes social differences can take the form of unacceptable level of social inequality and injustice. The struggle against such inequalities sometimes takes the path of violence and defiance of state power. However history shows that democracy is the best way to fight for recognition and also to accommodate diversity.

Question-4

_____ social differences create possibilities of deep social divisions and tensions.
_____ social differences do not usually lead to conflicts.

Solution:

Overlapping social differences create possibilities of deep social divisions and tensions. Cross-cutting social differences do not usually lead to conflicts.

Question-5

In dealing with social divisions which one of the following statements is NOT correct about democracy?

- (a) Due to political competition in a democracy, social divisions get reflected in politics.
- (b) In a democracy it is possible for communities to voice their grievances in a peaceful manner.
- (c) Democracy is the best way to accommodate social diversity.
- (d) Democracy always leads to disintegration of society on the basis of social divisions.

Solution:

d

Question-6

Consider the following three statements.

- A. Social divisions take place when social differences overlap.
- B. It is possible that a person can have multiple identities.
- C. Social divisions exist in only big countries like India.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

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

Solution:

(b) A and B

Question-7

Among the following, which country suffered disintegration due to political fights on the basis of religious and ethnic identities?

- (a) Belgium (b) India (c) Yugoslavia (d) Netherlands

Solution:

(c) Yugoslavia

Q.1. Explain the reasons of social differences. [CBSE Sept. 2010, 2011, 2012]

Or

Why do social differences emerge in society ? [CBSE 2014]

Ans. (i) Birth : Birth is the most important factor which is responsible for social differences. A person in India is considered of a low caste because of his birth in the lower class family. A Black is discriminated from White because of his colour which is once again controlled by birth.

(ii) Differences based on choice : Some of the differences are based on our choices. For example, some people are atheists. They don't believe in God or any religion. Differences also occur because of choice of occupation. Differences occur among the people because of different professions and economic activities also.

(iii) Differences based on religion:

Sometimes religion can be one of the causes of social differences. It is fairly common for people belonging to the same religion to feel that they do not belong to the same community because their caste or sect is very different.

(iv) Differences based on economic status : Economic status can also be responsible for social differences. Rich and poor people belonging to the same community or religion or sect often do not keep close relations with each other as they feel that they are very different. ‘

(v) Differences based on caste/color : In many regions of the world people are differentiated on the basis of caste or colour. For example, in United States and South Africa Blacks were discriminated because of their skin color.

Q.2. Explain the overlapping and cross-cutting differences. [CBSE Sept. 2012]

Or

Explain the cross-cutting differences with suitable examples. [CBSE 2012]

Ans. • Overlapping differences : These social divisions take place when some social differences overlap with many other differences.

- The difference between the Blacks and Whites becomes a social division in the United States because historically, most of the Blacks are poor, homeless and discriminated against.
- In India, the Dalits tend to be poor and landless. They often face discrimination and injustice.
- These kinds of situations produce social divisions which are harmful for democracy, and weaken the basic foundation of democracy.
- When one kind of social difference becomes more important than any other, and people start feeling that, they belong to different communities then this can lead to the disintegration of the country.

Cross-cutting differences :

- Under cross-cutting differences, people share common interests on one issue but are likely to be on different side on another issue.
- Cross-cutting social differences are easier to accommodate.
- Netherlands and Northern Ireland are Christian countries divided into Catholics and Protestants.
- In Netherlands, class and religion tend to cut across each other. This means Catholics and the Protestants are about equally likely to be poor or rich.
- In Northern Ireland, class and religion overlap with each other, i.e., if one is Catholic, he is also more likely to be poor.

Q.3. “The combination of politics and social divisions is very dangerous and explosive. It can make social divisions into political divisions and lead to conflict, violence or even disintegration of a country.” Justify. [CBSE 2008, 2013]

Or

Explain with special reference to Northern Ireland the ways in which social divisions have resulted in violent and bitter ethno-political conflict. [CBSE 2013]

Ans. (i) Let us take the case of Northern Ireland that we referred to above. This region of the United Kingdom has been for many years the site of a violent and bitter ethno-political conflict. Its population is divided into two major sects of Christianity: 53 per cent are Protestants, while 44 per cent are Roman Catholics.

(ii) The Catholics were represented by Nationalist parties who demanded that Northern Ireland be unified with the Republic of Ireland, a predominantly Catholic country whereas the Protestants were represented by Unionists who wanted to remain with the UK, which is predominantly protestant.

(iii) Hundreds of civilians, militants and security forces were killed in the fight between Unionists and Nationalists and between the security forces of the UK and the Nationalists.

(iv) It was only in 1998, that the UK government and the Nationalists reached a peace treaty after

which the latter suspended their armed struggle.

(v) Political competition along religious ending ethnic lines led to the disintegration of Yugoslavia into six independent countries.

Q.4. 'Three factors are crucial in deciding the outcome of politics of social divisions.'

Explain. [CBSE Sept. 2010]

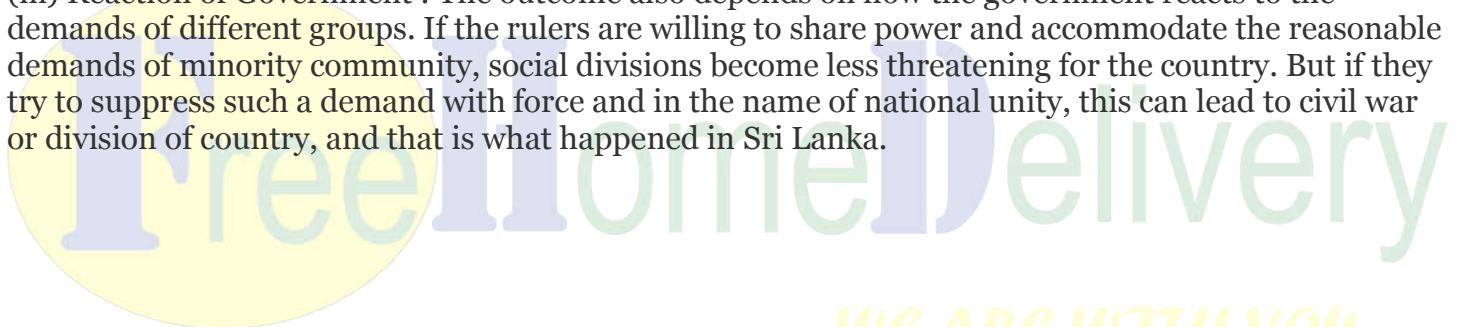
Ans. (i) People's perception : This is the most important factor which decides the outcome of politics of social divisions. If people see their identities in singular and exclusive terms, it will lead to social divisions and violence. As long as, people in Ireland saw themselves as only Catholic or Protestant, their difference prevailed.

It is much easier if the people see that their identities are multiple and are complementary with the national identity. A majority of Belgians now feel that they are as much Belgian nationalist or citizens as they are Dutch or German speaking. This feeling binds them together. Though—India is a multi-cultural country, but the feeling of nationalism binds us together.

(ii) Raising of demands by political leaders : The outcome of politics of social division also depends on how political leaders raise the demands of any community. It is easier to accommodate demands that are within the constitutional framework and are not at the cost of another community.

The Sinhalese leaders of Sri Lanka wanted to fulfil their demand at the cost of other communities, and this led to the civil war. In Yugoslavia, the leaders of different ethnic communities presented their demands in such a way that these could not be accommodated within a single country.

(iii) Reaction of Government : The outcome also depends on how the government reacts to the demands of different groups. If the rulers are willing to share power and accommodate the reasonable demands of minority community, social divisions become less threatening for the country. But if they try to suppress such a demand with force and in the name of national unity, this can lead to civil war or division of country, and that is what happened in Sri Lanka.



Q.5. Distinguish between overlapping and cross-cutting differences. [CBSE Sept. 2010,2011,2013]

Q.5. Distinguish between overlapping and cross-cutting differences.

[CBSE Sept. 2010, 2011, 2013]

Ans.

Overlapping	Cross-cutting
(i) Under this, a social difference overlaps another difference.	(i) Under this, a social difference cross-cuts another difference.
(ii) Under this, people start feeling that they belong to different communities.	(ii) Under this, the group can share a common interest on one issue but are likely to be in different sides on different issues.
(iii) These create possibilities of deep social divisions.	(iii) These are easier to accommodate.
(iv) For example, difference between Blacks and the Whites in USA is a overlapping difference because the Blacks tend to be poor, homeless and discriminated.	(iv) In Netherlands class and religion tend to cut- across each other as Catholics and Protestants are about equally likely to be poor or rich.

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WITH YOU.....

Q.6. Distinguish between Civil Rights Movement (1954-1968) and The Black Power Movement (1966-1975) in the USA. [CBSE 2013]

Q.6. Distinguish between Civil Rights Movement (1954-1968) and The Black Power Movement (1966-1975) in the USA. [CBSE 2013]

Ans.	Civil Rights Movement	Black Power Movement
	1. This movement emerged in 1954 and lasted till 1968.	1. This movement emerged in 1966 and lasted till 1975.
	2. It was a non-violent movement.	2. It believed in violence.
	3. This movement was led by Martin Luther King (junior)	3. This movement had no leader.
	4. It was, in fact, a reform movement.	4. This movement resorted to violence to end racism.
	5. It was a civil disobedience movement against racially discriminatory laws and practices.	5. It was an unorganized, more militant and anti-racist movement.

Q.1. Explain the Civil Rights Movement in the USA. [CBSE 2014]

Ans. (i) Civil Rights Movement in the USA (1954-1968) refers to a set of events and reform movements aimed at abolishing legal racial discrimination against African-Americans.
 (ii) Led by Martin Luther King Jr., this movement practised non-violent methods of civil disobedience against racially discriminatory laws and practices.
 (iii) The movement inspired many nationalist to raise the issue of racial discrimination at international level. Inspired by the movement, Tommie Smith and John Carlos raised the issue of racial discrimination in the Mexican Olympics.

Q.2.. What was Black Power Movement ? How was it different from the Civil Rights Movement ?

Or

Who was the leader of the Civil Rights Movement in USA ? Explain the importance of this movement. [CBSE 2013]

Ans. The Black Power Movement was an anti-racist movement launched in Africa.

Differences:

- (i) The Black Power Movement emerged in 1966 and lasted till 1975. Whereas Civil Rights Movement emerged in 1954 and lasted till 1968.
- (ii) The Civil Rights Movement was a non-violent movement. Whereas the Black Power Movement was a militant anti-racist movement, advocating even violence if necessary to end racism in the US.

Q.3. Taking the examples at Carlos, Smith and Norman, explain how social differences divide similar people from one another but also unite very different people ? [CBSE Sept. 2012]

Ans.(i) Similarity between Tommie Smith and John Carlos : Both Tommie Smith and John Carlos were African-Americans. They both were Blacks and were facing racial discrimination in the United States.

(ii) Similarity between Tommie Smith, John Carlos and Peter Norman : Peter Norman, an Australian and both Tommie Smith and John Carlos belonged to different nations but still they all were one, i.e., they all were athletes.

(iii) United on racial discrimination : All the

three athletes were united on the issue of racial discrimination though one of them belonged to white class.

Q.4. “We all have more than one identity and can belong to more than one social group.” Discuss the statement with suitable examples. [CBSE Sept. 2010]

Or

Explain the statement ‘we have different identities in different contexts’. [CBSE 2011]

Ans.(i) Carlos and Smith were similar in one way, i.e., they both were African-Americans and thus different from Norman who was white. But they were also all similar in other ways – they were all athletes who stood against racial discrimination.

(ii) It is fairly common for people belonging to the same religion to feel that they do not belong to the same community, because their caste or sect is very different. For example, people of Northern Ireland and Netherlands are predominantly Christians but divided between Catholics and Protestants. –

(iii) Rich and poor persons from the same caste and creed often do not keep close relations with each other for they feel they are very different. Thus, we all have more than one . identity and can belong to more than one social group. We have different identities in different contexts.

Q.5. How far do you agree with the statement that all social differences are not always an accident ? Why are most countries emerging as multi-cultural countries ?

Or

All kinds of social differences are not based on accident of birth. [CBSE 2014]

Ans. (i) Many of our differences are based on our choices. For example, some people are atheists (those who don't believe in God) whereas other choose to follow a religion.

(ii) Many differences are based on the occupation we take up.

(iii) Some differences are also based on ideology. For example, in India there are many political parties based on different ideologies.

Q.6. “The outcome of politics of social divisions depends on how people perceive their identities.” Explain the statement with example. [CBSE 2013]

Ans. Three factors are crucial in deciding the outcome of politics of social divisions. First of all, the outcome depends on how people perceive their identities. If people see their identities in singular and exclusive terms, it becomes very difficult to accommodate. As long as people in Northern Ireland saw themselves as only Catholic or Protestant, their differences were difficult to reconcile. It is much easier if the people see that their identities are multiple and are complementary with the national identity. A majority of Belgians now feel that they are as much Belgian as they are Dutch or German-speaking. This helps them to stay together. This is how most people in our country see their identity : they think of themselves as Indian as well as belonging to a state or a language group or a social or religious community.

Q.7. ‘Overlapping social differences create possibilities of deep social divisions and tensions.’ Explain. [CBSE Sept. 2012]

Ans. • When one social difference overlaps another difference, it is known as overlapping social differences.

• Overlapping social differences between Blacks and Whites became a social division in the United States. Overlapping social difference became the main factor for the Black Power Militant Movement.

• Even in India, Dalits face discrimination and injustice. These kinds of situations produce social divisions which are harmful for democracy and weaken the basic foundation of democracy.

Q.8. ‘Social divisions of one kind or another exist in most countries.’ Explain. [CBSE Sept. 2011, 2012]

Or

When does a social difference become a social division ? Explain any three situations. [CBSE 2013]

Ans. • Most of the countries of the world are heterogeneous or multi-cultural. India is a vast country with many religions and communities living side by side.

• Belgium, a small country is also a multi-cultural country.

• Even those countries such as Germany and Sweden, that were once highly homogeneous, are undergoing rapid change with the influx of people from other parts of the world. Migrants bring with them their own culture, and tend to form a different social community.

Q.9. ‘In a democracy, political expression of social divisions is very normal, and can be healthy.’ Explain. [CBSE 2014]

Or

How is political expression of social divisions in democracy beneficial ? [CBSE Sept. 2010, 2011]

Or

“Assertion of social diversities in a country need not be seen as a source of danger.” Explain. [CBSE 2010]

Ans. (i) This allows various disadvantaged and marginal social groups to express their grievances, and get the government to attend to these.

(ii) Expression of various kinds of social divisions in politics often results in their cancelling one another out, and thus, reduces their intensity. This leads to the strengthening of a democracy

(iii) In certain case, countries like India tries to accomodate social division by providing political power to certain backward people.

Q.10. “History shows that democracy is the best way to fight for recognition and also to accommodate diversity.” Justify.

Ans. (i) India: India is a very diverse country. The real success of democracy in India is because our Parliament and government has tried to accommodate social diversities. Many changes have been brought in the Indian Constitution since independence.

(ii) Belgium: The experiment of Belgium also shows that democracy is the only way to accommodate differences. Between 1970 and 1993, they amended their Constitution four times so as to work out an arrangement that would enable everyone to live together within the same country.

(iii) Sri Lanka: In case of Sri Lanka, the government failed to respond to needs of the people and tried to follow the principle of majoritarianism. The distrust between the two communities turned into widespread conflict and lead to a Civil War.

Q.11. “Reaction of the government to the demands of different groups is a crucial factor in determining the outcome of social divisions”. Explain the statements.

Ans. (i) If the rulers are willing to share power and accommodate the reasonable demands of minority community, social divisions become less threatening for the country. But if they try to suppress such a demand with force and in the name of national unity, this can lead to civil war or division of country, and that is what happened in Sri Lanka.

(ii) According to our Constitution, the use of English for official purposes was to stop in 1965 but when many non-Hindi states demanded the use of English to be continued the Union Government

responded in a positive way avoiding any conflict.

(iii) In Belgium, the government responded as per the needs of the people and amended the Constitution several times to avoid any conflict in the society.

VSAQ

Q.1. What was Civil Rights Movement ?

Ans. It was a reform movement launched by Martin Luther to abolish legal racial discrimination against African-American.

Q.2. Who were African-American ?

Ans. Afro-American, Black American, or Black are the terms used to refer mainly to the descendants of Africans who were brought into America as slaves between the 17th century and early 19th century.

Q.3. What was the Black Power Movement ?

Ans. The Black Power movement emerged in 1966 and lasted till 1975, which was a more militant anti-racist movement, advocating even violence if necessary to end racism in the US.

Q.4. Why Tommie Smith and John Carlos received their medals wearing black socks and no shoes ?

Ans. To represent black poverty and to draw international attention to racial discrimination in the United States. ‘

Q.5. “The silver medallist (Mexico Olympic 1968) Peter Norman wore a human rights badge on his shirt during the medal ceremony”. Give reason.

Ans. He wore a human rights badge to support to the African-Americans who tried to draw international attention to racial discrimination in the United States.

Q.6. What action was taken against the athletes who raised the Civil Rights issue at Mexico Olympics ?

Ans. The International Olympic Association held Carlos and Smith guilty of violating the Olympic spirit by making a political statement. Their medals were taken back. Back home, they were subjected to a lot of criticism. Norman too suffered for his action and was not included in the Australian team for the next Olympics.

Q.7. What did Peter Norman do to show his support to the two American athletes ? What action was taken against him for his action ?

Ans. (i) Peter Norman, wore a human rights badge on his shirt during the ceremony to show his support to the two Americans.

(ii) Norman was not included in the Australian team for the next Olympics.

Q.8. Which kind of social differences create possibilities of deep social divisions and tensions ?

Ans. Overlapping social divisions.

Q.9. Mention any two factors responsible for origin of social differences.

Ans. Birth, choice, economic status and religion.

Q.10. What are overlapping social differences ?

Ans. When one social difference overlaps another difference, It is known as overlapping social differences.

Q.11. What are cross-cutting social differences ?

Ans. When one social issue cross-cut another social issue, it is known as cross-cutting social differences.

Q.12. ‘Most of the social differences are based on accident of birth’. Explain.

Ans. The social differences are mostly based on accident of birth. Normally, we don't choose to belong to our community. We belong to it simply because we were born into it. We all experience social differences based on accident of birth in our everyday lives. People around us are male or female, they are tall and short, have different kinds of complexions, or have different physical abilities or disabilities.

Q.13. What is homogeneous society ? Give two examples.

Ans. A society that has similar kinds of people, especially where there are no significant ethnic differences. For example, Germany and Sweden.

Q.14. What is migration ? What is its impact ?

Ans. Shifting of people from one region to another within country or to another country, usually for work or other economic opportunities is known as migration.

The process of migration is converting homogeneous countries to heterogeneous countries because migrants bring with them their own culture and tend to form a different social community.

Q-15. How are the social divisions reflected in politics ? Explain.

Ans. (i) Political parties talk about social divisions, make different promises to different communities, look after due representation of various communities and make policies to redress the grievances of the disadvantaged communities.

(ii) Social divisions affect voting in most countries. People from one community tend to prefer a party more than others. In many countries, there are parties that focus only on one community.

Q.16. What Is ethnic composition of Northern Netherland ?

Ans. (i) Protestants – 53%
(ii) Roman Catholics – 44%

Q.17. “The combination of politics and social divisions is very dangerous and explosive as it may lead to conflict, violence or even disintegration of a country.” Give one example.

Ans. Political competition along religious ending ethnic lines led to the disintegration of Yugoslavia into six independent states.

Q-18. What type of society exists in Sweden and Germany ? [CBSE Comp. (O) 2008]

Ans. Homogeneous.

Q.19. Why do some people belonging to the same religion often feel that they do not belong to the same community ?

[CBSE 2009 (D)]

Ans. Because their castes or sects are different.

Q.20. Mention two similarities between Tommie Smith and John Carlos. [CBSE 2009 (D), 14]

Ans. (a) Both were African-Americans.
(b) Both were athletes.

Q.1. Examine two features of the social groups of each North Ireland and Netherlands. [CBSE Comp. 2008, 14]

Ans. (i) Both are predominantly Christians but divided between Catholics and Protestants.
(ii) In Northern Ireland, class and religion overlap with each other. If you are Catholic, you are also more likely to be poor, and you may have suffered a history of discrimination.
(iii) In the Netherlands, class and religion tend to cut across each other. Catholics and Protestants are about equally likely to be poor or rich.
(iv) The result is that Catholics and Protestants have had conflicts in Northern Ireland, while they do not do so in the Netherlands.

Q.2. The medal ceremony of 1968 Mexico Olympic became a historical landmark. Explain by giving examples.

Ans. (i) The incident provided a boost to the Civil Rights Movement in the United States.
(ii) (a) The athletes tried to draw international attention to racial discrimination in the United States during the Mexico Olympics.
(b) Their action succeeded in gaining international attention for the Civil Rights Movement in the United States.

Q.3. What action was taken by International Olympic Association against each of the three Olympians, Carlos, Smith and Norman Peter ? [CBSE 2013]

Ans. (i) The International Olympic Association held Carlos and Smith guilty of violating the Olympic spirit by making a political statement.
(ii) The medals given to Carlos and Smith were taken back.
(iii) Back home, they were subjected to a lot of criticism.
(iv) Norman too, suffered for his action and was not included in the Australian team for the next Olympics.

Q.4. Discuss the role of political parties in the determination of the outcomes of social division. [CBSE 2013]

Ans. (i) The outcome depends on how leaders of political parties raise the demands of any community.
(ii) It is easier to accommodate demands that are within the constitutional framework.
(iii) They are not at the cost of another community.
(iv) For example, the demand for 'only Sinhala' was at the cost of the interest and identify of the Tamil community in Sri Lanka.
(v) In Yugoslavia, the leaders of different ethnic communities presented their demands in such a way that these could not be accommodated within a single country.

Q.5. How did the three athletes, Tommie Smith, Johan Carlos and Peter Norman contribute to the Civil Rights Movements in US ? [CBSE 2010]

Ans. (i) Tommie Smith and Johan Carlos received their medals in Mexico Olympics, wearing black socks and no shoes to represent black poverty. With this gesture, they tried to draw international attention to racial discrimination ' in the

United States. This was supported by Peter Norman, the silver medalist, by wearing a human rights badge on his shirt. Smith and Carlos were standing with clenched fists upraised and heads bowed while the national anthem was playing.

(ii) Thus, they protested against racial discrimination of blacks. Their action succeeded in gaining international attention for the Civil Rights Movement in US.

(iii) Peter Norman's support motivated non-blacks also. The disciplinary action against them gave momentum to the movement.

VBQ

Q.1. What moral values you have learnt from the action of Tommie Smith, John Carlos and Peter Norman ?

Ans. (i) We should raise voice against social or caste discrimination.

(ii) We should not discriminate people on the basis of caste, colour, religion etc.

(iii) We should demonstrate peacefully against any kind of social injustice.

Q.2. "Assertion of social diversities in a country need not be seen as a source of danger". Explain.

Ans. In a democracy, political expression of social divisions is very normal and can be healthy. This allows various disadvantaged and marginal social groups to express their grievances and get the government to attend to these. Expression of various kinds of social divisions in politics often results in their cancelling one another out and thus reducing their intensity. This leads to strengthening of a democracy.

Q.3. "Every social difference does not lead to social division." Explain the statement. Suggest any two ways so that social differences do not lead to social divisions.

Ans. (i) People belonging to different social groups share differences and similarities cutting across the boundaries of their groups. Carlos and Smith were similar in one way (both were African-American) and thus different from Norman who was white. But they were also all similar in other ways- they were all athletes who stood against racial discrimination.

(ii) Cross-cutting social differences are easier to accommodate. For example, Catholics and Protestants had no conflict in Netherland through the people were divided.

(iii) In Netherlands, class and religion tend to cut-cross each other. Catholics and Protestants are about equally likely to be poor or rich. The result is that Catholics and Protestants have had conflicts.

Suggestions:

(i) Principle of power sharing should be followed.

(ii) Reservation of seats in the legislature, executive and judiciary for the depressed classes.

Q.4. When does a social difference become a social division? Suggest any two ways to check it.

Ans. A social difference means the difference in a group of people due to their race, religion, language or culture. It becomes a social division when some social differences are joined by another set of social differences. In other words, when two or more social differences join together, it turns into a social division. For example, the difference in the Blacks and the Whites in America is due to their different races which is a social difference.

It becomes a social division when, say, the income factor is also seen. The Blacks tend to be poor, homeless and the Whites tend to be rich and educated. This creates a division in the people making them feel that they belong to different communities.

Suggestions:

- (i) Celebrating national festivals together.
- (ii) Providing economic opportunities to all the people without any discrimination.

Q.5. How are social divisions reflected in a democratic country ? Explain.

- Ans.** (i) Political Parties : In a democracy political parties are formed on different ideologies.
(ii) Pressure Groups and Sectional Interest Groups : In a democratic nation along with political parties, Pressure and Sectional Interest Groups also works.
(iii) Communalism : Most of the democracies are divided into different communities.

Q.6. How do marginalised and deprived people react to social injustice ? Explain.

[CBSE 2013]

- Ans.** (i) People who feel marginalized, deprived and discriminated, have a to fight against the injustices.
(ii) Such a fight often takes democratic path, voicing their demands in a peaceful manner and seeking a fair position through elections.
(iii) Sometimes, social differences can take the form of unacceptable level of social inequality and injustices. The struggle against such inequalities, sometimes, takes the path of violence and defiance of state power.

Notes

◆ **African-American** : Afro-Americans, Black Americans or Blacks are terms used to refer mainly the descendants of Africans, who were brought into America as slaves between the 17th century and the early 19th century.

◆ **Civil Rights Movement** : The Civil Rights Movement in the USA (1954-1968) refers to a set of events and reform movements aimed at abolishing legal racial discrimination against African-Americans. Led by Martin Luther King, this movement practised non-violent methods of civil disobedience against racially discriminatory laws and practices.

◆ **Democracy** : Democracy is a form of government in which the ruling power is vested in the hands of the people and the government is answerable to the people who can change it through constitutional means.

◆ **The Black Power** : The Black Bower Movement emerged in 1966 and lasted till 1975, which was a more militant anti-racist movement, advocating even violence if necessary to end racism in the United States.

◆ **Homogeneous Society** : A society that has similar kinds of people, especially where there are no significant ethnic differences.

◆ **Migrant** : Anybody, who shifts from one region or country to another region within a country or to another country, usually for work or other economic opportunities.

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Question-1

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

Solution:

Family laws of all religions discriminate against women.

There are reports of various kinds of harassment, exploitation and violence against women. Urban areas have become particularly unsafe for women.

In India, the proportion of women in legislature has been very low. For example, the percentage of elected women members in Lok Sabha has never reached even 10 per cent of its total strength. Their share in the state assemblies is less than 5 per cent. In this respect, India is among the bottom group of nations in the world.

Question-2

State different forms of communal politics with one example each.

Solution:

The most common expression of communalism is in everyday beliefs. These routinely involve religious prejudices, stereotypes of religious communities and belief in the superiority of one's religion over other religions. This is so common that we often fail to notice it, even when we believe in it.

A communal mind often leads to a quest for political dominance of one's own religious community. For those belonging to majority community, this takes the form of majoritarian dominance. For those belonging to the minority community, it can take the form of a desire to form a separate political unit.

Question-3

State how caste inequalities are still continuing in India.

Solution:

Caste has not disappeared from contemporary India. Some of the older aspects of caste have persisted. Even now most people marry within their own caste or tribe. Untouchability has not ended completely, despite constitutional prohibition. Effects of centuries of advantages and disadvantages continue to be felt today. The caste groups that had access to education under the old system have done very well in acquiring modern education as well. Those groups that did not have access to education or were prohibited from acquiring it have naturally lagged behind. That is why there is a disproportionately large presence of 'upper caste' among the urban middle classes in our country. Caste continues to be closely linked to economic status.

Question-4

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

Solution:

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.

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.

Question-5

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

Solution:

In India, the proportion of women in legislature has been very low. For example, the percentage of elected women members in Lok Sabha has never reached even 10 per cent of its total strength. Their share in the state assemblies is less than 5 per cent. In this respect, India is among the bottom group of nations in the world. India is behind the averages for several developing countries of Africa and Latin America. In the government, cabinets are largely all-male even when a woman becomes the Chief Minister or the Prime Minister.

Question-6

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

Solution:

There is no official religion for the Indian state. Unlike the status of Buddhism in Sri Lanka, that of Islam in Pakistan and that of Christianity in England, our Constitution does not give a special status to any religion.

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

LAQ

Q.1. Name the movements which agitate for women's rights. How have these movements helped in improving women's conditions ?

Ans. Feminist Movements.

- (i) Political expression of gender division and political mobilisation on this question helped to improve the women's role in public life.
- (ii) Now, women are working in occupations such as scientists, doctors, engineers, lawyers, managers, and college and university teachers which were earlier not considered suitable for women.
- (iii) In some parts of the world, for example, (») By reserving some seats in the Lok Sabha in the Scandinavian countries such as Sweden, Norway and Finland, the participation of women in public life is very high.

Q.2. Mention any four steps which can be undertaken to improve the women's representation in politics.

Or

Suggest any three steps to improve the women's participation in politics. [CBSE Sept. 2010]

- Ans.**
- (i) To make it legally binding to have a fair proportion of women in the elected bodies
 - (ii) By reserving some seats in the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies for women.
 - (iii) Political parties should also give due representation to women members.
 - (iv) By raising the literacy rate.

Q.3. What is casteism ? How is casteism in India different as compared to other societies ?

Or

Describe any five features of the caste system prevailing in India. [CBSE 2012]

Ans. (i) Organisation of people into social groups for the purpose of marriage, work and diet is known as the caste system.

(ii) The social structure of India is based upon the caste system. All societies have some kind of social inequality and some form of division of labour, but the Indian caste system is an extreme form of division of labour based on birth.

(iii) Although in most societies, occupations are passed on from one generation to another, but in India, it is different from other societies as in this system hereditary occupational division was sanctioned by rituals.

(iv) The Indian caste system was very rigid. Members of the same caste group were supposed to form a social community that practised the same or similar occupation, married within the caste group, and did not eat with members from other caste groups.

(v) Indian caste system continues to be closely linked to economic status.

Q.4. Mention any positive role of caste in politics.

Or

Describe the positive and negative aspects of relationship between caste and politics [CBSE 2013, 14]

Ans. (i) In some situations, expression of caste differences in politics gives many disadvantaged communities the space to demand their share of power.

(ii) In this sense, caste politics has helped people from the Dalits and the OBC castes to gain better access to decision making.

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(ii) In this sense, caste politics has helped people from the Dalits and the OBC castes to gain better access to decision making.

(iii) Several political and non-political organisations have been demanding and agitating for the end

of discrimination against particular castes, for more dignity and more access to land, resources and opportunities.

Negative :

(i) It disrupts social harmony.

(ii) It can divert attention from other pressing issues like poverty, corruption, etc.

Q.5. Why is the idea of communal politics fundamentally flawed ?

Ans. Most of these beliefs are fundamentally not true. People of one religion do not have the same interests and aspirations in most of the contexts. Every individual has his/her own choices, roles, positions and identities. There are many voices inside every community. All these voices have a right to be heard. Therefore, any attempt to bring all followers of one religion together in contexts other than religion is bound to suppress many voices within that community.

Q.6. What are Feminist Movements? What were their major demands ? [CBSE Sept. 2010, 2012]

Or
What was the Feminist Movement ? Explain the political demands of the Feminist Movement in India. [CBSE 2013]

Ans. These are the movements which are organised by various women organisations to create equality for women in personal and family life.

(i) These feminist movements demand equal rights for women in all spheres of life.

(ii) There were agitations in different countries for the extension of voting rights to women.

(iii) The agitations demanded enhancing the political and legal status of women.

(iv) The movements also demanded in improving the educational and career opportunities for the women.

Q.7. Explain the relationship between religion and politics.

Or
How are religious differences expressed in politics ? [CBSE Sept. 2011]

Ans. (i) Views of Gandhiji : Gandhiji used to say that religion can never be separated from politics. What he meant by religion was not any particular religion like Hinduism or Islam, but the moral values that are there in all religions. According to him, politics must be guided by ethics drawn from all religions.

(ii) Views of Human rights groups : Human rights groups in our country have argued that most of the victims of communal riots in our country are people from religious minorities. They have demanded that the government should take special steps to protect religious minorities.

(iii) Women's Movements : 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-8. How can religion influence politics ? Explain.

Ans. (i) Gandhiji believed that politics must be guided by ethics drawn from all religions.

(ii) Ideas, ideals and values drawn from different religions can and perhaps should play a role in politics.

(iii) People should be able to express in politics, their needs, interests and demands as a member of a religious community.

(iv) Those who hold political power should sometimes be able to regulate the practice of religion so as to prevent discrimination and oppression.

(v) These political acts are not wrong as long as they treat every religion equal.

Q.9. What is communal politics ? Explain.

Or

When does the communal problem become acute ?

Ans. Religion is used in politics in exclusive and partisan terms. This manner of using religion in politics is communal politics.

The communal problem becomes acute when :

- Religion is seen as the basis of the nation.
- When one religion and its followers are discriminated against another.
- When people start believing that beliefs of one religion are superior to those of other religions.
- When the demands of one religious group are formed in opposition to another.
- When the state power is used to establish the domination of one religious group over the rest.

Q.10. What is communalism ? What are the major beliefs of communal people ?

Ans. Communalism is a situation when a particular community tries to promote its own interest at the cost of other communities.

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 should be the same. Any difference that they may have is irrelevant or trivial for community life.
- Communalism 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.
- Sometimes, 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.

Q.11. State any four provisions of the Indian Constitution which makes it a secular state. [CBSE Sept. 2010, 2011, 2012]

Ans. (i) No official religion : There is no official religion of the Indian state. Unlike the status of Buddhism in Sri Lanka, Islam in Pakistan and Hinduism in Nepal, our Constitution does not give a special status to any religion.

(ii) Fundamental Rights : Under the Right To Freedom of Religion, our Constitution provides to all citizens freedom to profess, practice and propagate any religion, or not to follow any.

Under the Cultural and Educational Right, our Constitution prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion.

(iii) Equality : The Constitution allows the state to intervene in the matters of religion in order to ensure equality within religious communities. To ensure equality, untouchability has been banned.

(iv) Intervention of the state within religious communities : The Constitution allows the state to intervene in the matters of religion in order to ensure equality within the different religious communities.

Q.12. 'Politics too influences the caste system.' Explain.

Or

In what ways does politics influence caste system ? [CBSE Sept. 2010]

Or

How caste is politicised ? Explain any three points. [CBSE Sept. 2010]

Ans. Politics too influences the caste system and caste identities by bringing them into the political arena. Thus, it is not politics that gets caste-ridden, it is the caste that gets politicised. Politics in caste normally takes the following forms :

- (i) Wide base : Each caste tries to widen its base to gain majority. Each caste group tries to become bigger by incorporating within it, the neighbouring castes or sub-castes which were earlier excluded from it.
- (ii) Coalition : Various caste groups are required to enter into a coalition with other castes or communities, and thus enter into a dialogue and negotiation. This strengthens the basic structure of democracy.
- (iii) New groups : New kinds of caste groups have come up in the political arena like 'backward' and 'forward' caste groups.

Q.13. Explain the different aspects of life in which women are discriminated or disadvantaged in India. [CBSE 2008 (D), Sept. 2010, 2012]

Or

How women in India still face discrimination and oppression in various ways ? Explain. [CBSE Sept. 2010]

Or

In our country, women still lag much behind than men despite some improvements since independence. Justify this statement by giving four reasons. [CBSE Sept. 2010]

Ans. (i) Literacy rate : The literacy rate among women is only 65.46 (2011 census) per cent as compared to 82.14 (2011 census) per cent among men. Similarly, a smaller proportion of girl students go for higher studies because parents prefer to spend their resources for their boys education than spending equally on their daughters.

(ii) Unpaid work : The proportion of women among the highly paid and valued jobs is still very small. Though on an average, the Indian woman works one hour more than an average man everyday, but most of them are not paid equally and therefore, their work is often not valued.

(iii) Sex ratio : In many parts of India, parents prefer to have sons, and find ways to have the girl child aborted before she is born. This has led to a decline in the child sex ratio (the number of girl children per thousand boys) in the country is merely 940.

(iv) Domestic violence : There are reports of various kinds of harassment, exploitation and violence against women. Both urban as well as rural areas have become unsafe, for women. They are not safe even within their own homes from beating and other forms of domestic violence.

Q.14. Explain the various forms that communalism can take in politics. [CBSE Sept. 2011, 2012]

Or

What is communalism ? Explain the various forms that communalism take in politics. [CBSE 2013]

Or

Explain the main features of Communalism. What form does it take in politics ? [CBSE 2013]

Or

What is communalism ? How is communalism a hinderance in the functioning of our democracy ? Explain. [CBSE 2012]

Ans. Communalism can take several forms in politics – in everyday beliefs, formation of parties based on communities, campaigning or asking for votes, formation of government, etc.

(i) Communalism in daily beliefs : The most common expression of communalism is in everyday life. These routinely involve religious prejudices, stereotypes of religious communities and the beliefs in the superiority of one religion over the other religions. This is so common that we often fail to notice it, even when we believe in it.

(ii) Formation of political parties on the basis of communities : All the communities of the world have a quest for political dominance of one's own religious community. For those belonging to the majority

community, this takes the form of majoritarian dominance. For those belonging to the minority community, it can take the form of a desire to form a separate political unit.

(iii) Political mobilisation on communal lines : It is another frequent form of communalism. Parties based on a particular community make use of sacred symbols, religious leaders, emotional appeal and create fear in order to bring the followers of one religion together in the political arena. In electoral politics, this often involves a special appeal to the interests or emotions of voters of one religion in preference to others.

(iv) Communal riots: Sometimes, communalism takes the most ugly form of communal violence, riots and massacre. India has suffered some of the worst communal riots at the time of partition. The post independence period has also seen large- scale communal violence.

Q.15. “The focus on caste in politics can sometimes give an impression that elections are all about caste and nothing else. That is far from true.” Explain by giving examples.

Ans. (i) Constituencies are a mixture of people belonging to different castes :

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) Different choices even within caste : No party wins the votes of all the voters of a caste or community because even within the community, people have different choices. When people say that a caste is a ‘vote bank’ of one party, it usually means that about two-thirds of the voters of that community.

(iii) Hunt for a dominating caste : Most of the political parties may put up candidates from the majority caste. But even this cannot guarantee their victory because some voters have more than one candidate from their castes, while many voters have no candidate from their castes.

History of elections : According to history of Indian elections, the ruling party and the sitting Member of the Parliament (MP) or Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) frequently lose elections in our country. This proves that though casteism and communalism play a major role in politics, but elections are not about caste and communalism.

Q.16. What forms can caste take in politics ?

Or

Explain any four forms of casteism in Indian Politics. [CBSE 2009 (D), 2010(O)]

Or

Explain the role of caste in Indian politics. [CBSE Sept. 2010]

Or

Explain any three forms of caste politics in India. [CBSE Sept. 2010]

Ans. (i) While choosing candidates : 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) While forming a government : When the governments are formed, political parties usually take care that representatives of different castes and tribes find a place in it.

(iii) While campaigning : Political parties and candidates in elections make appeals to people to give them their votes on the basis of caste. Some political parties are known to favour some castes, and are seen as their representatives. .

(iv) Universal adult franchise and the principle of one-person-one-vote, has compelled the political leaders to raise the caste-based issues during elections. They do so to mobilise and secure political support. It also brought new consciousness among the people of castes that were hitherto treated as inferior and low.

SAQ

Q.1. “There is urgent need to combat communalism”. Explain. [CBSE 2014]

Ans. Communal politics is based on the idea that religion is the principal basis of social community.

(i) 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.

(ii) A communal mind often leads to a quest for political dominance of one’s own religious community. For those belonging to majority community, this takes the form of majoritarian dominance. For those belonging to the minority community, it can take the form of a desire to form a separate political unit.

(iii) Sometimes communalism takes its most ugly form of communal violence, riots and massacre. For example, communal riots in UP Bihar, Gujarat, etc. ,

(iv) Communalism should not be seen as a threat to some people in India. It threatens the very idea of India. That is why communalism needs to be combated.

Q.2. . “In India women’s political representation is very low”. Justify.

Or

Explain the need for more representation for women as elected representatives. How can it be achieved ?

Or

What is the status of women representation in India’s legislative bodies ? [CBSE 2013]

Ans. (i) The percentage of elected women members in Lok Sabha has never reached even 10 percent of its total strength.

(ii) The share of women in the State Assemblies is less than 5 percent. In this respect, India is among the bottom group of nations in the world. India is behind the averages for several developing countries of Africa and Latin America.

(iii) In the government, Cabinets are largely all male even when a women becomes the Chief Minister or the Prime Minister.

(iv) There is urgent need to increase women representation in the legislature to empower women.

Q.3. How has the principle of Universal Adult Franchise helped in combating casteism ?

Ans. (i) Under the universal adult franchise all the citizens of India who are at least 18 years of age are a voter to elect the representatives to the Parliament and the State Legislatures. They possess this right without any discrimination of caste, creed, colour, sex, religion or belief.

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

(iii). It also brought new consciousness among the people of castes that were hitherto treated as inferior and low.

Q.4. What were Gandhiji’s views regarding religion and politics ? Explain.

Ans. Gandhiji used to say that religion can never be separated from politics. What he meant by religion was not any particular religion like Hinduism or Islam but moral values that form the basis of all religions. He believed that politics must be guided by ethics drawn from religions.

Q.5. ‘Political mobilisation on religious lines is a frequent form of communalism.’ Explain.

Ans. Political mobilisation on communal lines involves the use of sacred symbols, religious leaders, emotional appeal and plain fear in order to bring the followers of one religion together in the political arena. In electoral politics, this often involves special appeal to the interests or emotions of voters of one religion in preference to others.

Q.6. Besides caste, which other factors do in matter in electoral politics ? Explain.

[CBSE 2013]

Ans. (i) Voting on the basis of community : Political leaders pursue the voters to cast their vote on the basis of communal lines.

(ii) Political Mobilization on Religious lines : Political mobilization on religious lines is another frequent form of communalism. This involves the use of sacred symbols, religious leaders, emotional appeal and plain fear in order to bring the followers of one religion together in the political arena. In electoral politics this often involves special appeal to the interests or emotions of voters of one religion in preference to others.

(iii) Performance of the government : Along with caste and community people also check the performance of the political party or the agenda of the party.

Q.7. Write the appropriate term :

(i) A person, who says that religion is the principal basis of community.

(ii) A person, who believes in equal rights and opportunities for women and men.

(iii) A person who does not discriminate other on the basis of religious beliefs.

Ans. (i) Communalist (ii) Feminist (iii) Secularist

VSAQ

Q.1. What do you mean by sexual division of labour ?

Ans. 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.

Q.2. What are feminist movements ? [CBSE 2014]

Ans. The movements which aimed at equality of men and women in all spheres of life.

Q.3. Define sex ratio.

Ans. Number of girl children per thousand boys.

Q.4. What is sex ratio of India ?

Ans. 940 (Census 2011).

Q.5. Name any two countries in which the participation of woman in public life is very high.

Ans. Sweden and Norway

Q.6. What is patriarchal society ?

Ans. This is a system that values men more and gives them power over women.

Q.7. What is literacy rate among men and women in India ?

Ans. Men – 76%

Women = 65.46%

Q.8. What is Equal Wages Act ?

Ans. According to this Act equal wages should be paid to equal work.

Q.9. Mention any two basis of social division in India.

Ans. (i) Religion (ii) Community

Q.10. Who said, “Religion can never be separated from politics ?”

Ans. Gandhiji

Q.11. What are family laws ? [CBSE 2014]

Ans. Those laws that deal with family related matters such as marriage, divorce, adoption, inheritance, etc. In our country, different family law apply to followers of different religions.

Q.12. What were Gandhiji’s views regarding religion and politics ?

Ans. Gandhiji used to say that religion can never be separated from politics. What he meant by religion was not any particular religion like Hinduism or Islam but moral values that form the basis of all religions. He believed that politics must be guided by ethics drawn from religions.

Q.13. ‘The most common expression of communalism is in every-day beliefs’. Explain.

Ans. These routinely involves religious prejudices, stereotypes of religious communities and belief in the superiority of one’s religion over other religions.

Q.14. ‘Political mobilisation on religious line is frequent form of communalism’.

Explain.

Ans. Political mobilisation on communal lines involves the use of sacred symbols, religious leaders, emotional appeal and plain fear in order to bring the followers of one religion together in the political arena. In electoral politics this often involves special appeal to the interests or emotions of voters of one religion in preference to others.

Q.15. What is a secular state ? [CBSE 2014]

Ans. A state in which the constitution provides to all individuals and communities freedom to profess, practice and propogate any religion, or not to follow any.

Q.16. Mention any two provisions of Indian Constitution which makes India a secular state.

Ans. (i) There is no official religion for the Indian state,
(ii) The Constitution prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion.

Q.17. Name any four social reformers who advocated and worked to establish a society in which caste inequalities are absent.

Ans. Jotiba Phule, Gandhiji, B.R. Ambedkar and Periyar Ramaswami.

Q.18. Suggest any two ways to break caste hierarchy.

Ans. (i) Spread of education
(ii) Urbanisation

Q.19. Write the appropriate term :

(i) A person who says that religion is the principal basis of community.

(ii) A person who believes in equal rights and opportunities for women and men.

Ans. (i) Communalist (ii) Feminist.

Q.20. What is the population percentage of Scheduled castes according to 2001 census? [CBSE 2012]

Ans. 16.2%.

Q.21. What is communalism ?

Ans. It is a situation when a particular community tries to promote its own interests at the cost of other communities.

Q.22. What is the basis of communal politics ?

Ans. Communal politics is based on the idea that religion is the principal basis of social community.

Q.23. Mention any one provision in the Indian Constitution which makes India a secular state.

Ans. Under the Right to Freedom of Religion all citizens are free to profess, practise and propogate any religion, or not to follow any.

HOTS

Q.1. How do social divisions affect politics ? Explain with examples. [CBSE 2009 (D), Sept. 2010, 2011, 14]

Ans. Gender, religion and caste are the most important factors responsible for social divisions.

(i) Gender and politics : The share of women in the Parliament is less than 10%. Women's organisations and activists have been demanding reservation of some seats for women in the legislature.

(ii) Religion and politics : People or political parties use religious symbols, religious leaders, to appeal to the people or the followers of one religion to come under the same umbrella. Political parties also keep it in mind while choosing a candidate for a constituency.

(iii) Caste and 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 tribes find a place in it.

Q.2. (i) Which caste or community has a very high percentage of population living below the poverty line ?

(ii) Define below the poverty line.

(iii) Mention any two factors due to which castes and caste system in modern India have undergone great changes.

Percentage of population living below the poverty line, 1999-2000

WE ARE WITH YOU.....

Percentage of population living below the poverty line, 1999-2000

Caste and Community groups	Rural	Urban
Scheduled Tribes	45.8	35.6
Scheduled Castes	35.9	38.3
Other Backward Classes	27.0	29.5
Muslim Upper Castes	26.8	34.2
Hindu Upper Castes	11.7	9.9
Christian Upper Castes	9.6	5.4
Sikh Upper Castes	0.0	4.9
Other Upper Castes	16.0	2.7
All Groups	27.0	23.4

Ans. (i) SCs and STs,

(ii) Below the poverty line means those, who spent ? 327 or less per person per month, in the rural areas and ? 454 or less per person per month in the urban areas.

(iii) (a) Economic development (b) Urbanisation and the growth of literacy.

Q.3. "Caste has not still disappeared from contemporary India". Give any three examples to justify the statement. [CBSE Sept. 2010, 2012]

Ans. (i) Even now most people marry within their own caste or tribe.

(ii) Untouchability has not ended completely despite constitutional prohibition.

(iii) Caste continues to be closely linked to economic status.

Notes

- ◆ **Sexual division of labour** : A system in which all work inside the home is either done by the women of the family, or organised by them through the labour of domestic workers.
- ◆ **Feminist**: A woman or a man who believes in equal rights and opportunities for women and men. ‘
- ◆ **Patriarchy** : Literally, rule by father, this concept is used to refer to a system that values men more, and gives them power over women. [CBSE 2008 (O)]
- ◆ **Family laws** : Those laws that deal with family related matters such as marriage, divorce, adoption, inheritance, etc. In our country, different family laws apply to followers of different religions.
- ◆ **Urbanisation** : Shift of population from rural areas to urban areas.
- ◆ **Occupational mobility** : Shift from one occupation to another, usually when a new generation takes up occupations other than those practised by their ancestors.
- ◆ **Caste hierarchy** : A ladder like formation in which all the caste groups are placed from the ‘highest’ to the ‘lowest’ castes.
- ◆ **Feminist movements** : The movements which aimed at equality of men and women in all spheres of life.
- ◆ **Sex ratio** : Number of girl children per thousand boys.
- ◆ **Secular state** : A state in which the constitution provides to all individuals and communities freedom to profess, practice and propogate any religion, or not to follow any.
- ◆ **Casteism** : Organisation of people into social groups for the purpose of marriage, work and diet is known as the caste system

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Question-1

In what ways do pressure groups and movements exert influence on politics?

Solution:

Like an interest group, a movement group also attempts to influence politics rather than directly take part in electoral competition. But unlike the interest groups, movements have a loose organisation. Their decision making is more informal and flexible. They depend much more on spontaneous mass participation than an interest group.

Question-2

Describe the forms of relationship between pressure groups and political parties?

Solution:

In most cases the relationship between parties and interest or movement groups is not so direct. They often take positions that are opposed to each other. Yet they are in dialogue and negotiation. Movement groups have raised new issues that have been taken up by political parties. Most of the new leadership of political parties comes from interest or movement groups.

Question-3

Explain how the activities of pressure groups are useful in the functioning of a democratic government.

Solution:

The pressure groups and movements have deepened democracy. Putting pressure on the rulers is not an unhealthy activity in a democracy as long as everyone gets this opportunity. Governments can often come under undue pressure from a small group of rich and powerful people. Public interest groups and movements perform a useful role of countering this undue influence and reminding the government of the needs and concerns of ordinary citizens.

Question-4

What is a pressure group? Give a few examples.

Solution:

Pressure groups are organisations that attempt to influence government policies. But unlike political parties, pressure groups do not aim to directly control or share political power. These organisations are formed when people with common occupation, interest, aspirations or opinions come together in order to achieve a common objective.

The struggle in Nepal was called a movement for democracy. We often hear the word people's movement to describe many forms of collective action: Narmada Bachao Andolan, Movement for Right to Information, Anti-liquor Movement, Women's Movement, Environmental Movement.

Question-5

What is the difference between a pressure group and a political party?

Solution:

Pressure groups are organisations that attempt to influence government policies. But unlike political parties, pressure groups do not aim to directly control or share political power. These organisations

are formed when people with common occupation, interest, aspirations or opinions come together in order to achieve a common objective.

In some instances the pressure groups are either formed or led by the leaders of political parties or act as extended arms of political parties. For example, most trade unions and students' organisations in India are either established by or affiliated to one or the other major political party. Most of the leaders of such pressure groups are usually activists and leaders of party. Sometimes political parties grow out of movements. For example, when the Assam movement led by students against the 'foreigners' came to an end, it led to the formation of the Asom Gana Parishad. The roots of parties like the DMK and the AIADMK in Tamil Nadu can be traced to a long drawn social reform movement during the 1930 and 1940s.

Question-6

Organizations that undertake activities to promote the interests of specific social sections such as workers, employees, teachers, and lawyers are called _____ groups.

Solution:

Organizations that undertake activities to promote the interests of specific social sections such as workers, employees, teachers, and lawyers are called Sectional interest groups.

Question-7

Which among the following is the special feature that distinguishes a pressure group from a political party?

- (a) Parties take political stances, while pressure groups do not bother about political issues.
- (b) Pressure groups are confined to a few people, while parties involve larger number of people.
- (c) Pressure groups do not seek to get into power, while political parties do.
- (d) Pressure groups do not seek to mobilise people, while parties

Solution:

(c) Pressure groups do not seek to get into power, while political parties do.

Question-8

What were the three demands that were made by the SPA in Nepal?

Solution:

The three demands were Restoration of parliament

Power to an all-party government

A new constituent assembly

Question-9

Solution:

The World Bank pressurised the government of Bolivia, which is a poor country in Latin America, to give up its control of municipal water supply. These rights were sold for the city of Cochabamba to a multi-national company (MNC), and the cost of water was increased. There was a protest among the people since one-fourth of the income had to be paid for water.

In January 2000 a successful four-day general strike was organised in the city by a new alliance of labour, human rights and community leaders. The strike was called off when the government agreed to negotiate. In February 2000, since the government had not taken any action the people agitated again, and the police took brutal action. In April 2000, another strike followed and the government imposed martial law. The officers of the MNC were forced to flee the city and the government was made to concede to all the demands of the protesters, due to the power of the people. Water supply was restored to the municipality at old rates and the contract with the MNC was cancelled. This was known as Bolivia's water war.

Question-10

Define pressure groups.

Solution:

Government policies are influenced by a few organisations called Pressure groups. Pressure groups do not aim to control or share political power directly, unlike political parties. When people with

common occupation, interest, aspirations or opinions come together in order to achieve a common objective these organisations are formed.

Question-11

Write a brief note on the Narmada Bachao Movement.

Solution:

Narmada Bachao Andolan in India was a Issue specific movement. The specific issue of this movement was the displacement of the people by the creation of Sardar Sarovar dam on the Narmada river.

Its objective was to stop the dam from being constructed. It gradually became a wider movement that Questioned all such big dams and the model of development that required such dams.

