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1. Which of the following does not lead to the spread of democracy?

- (a) Struggle by the people
- (b) Invasion by foreign countries
- (c) End of colonialism
- (d) People's desire for freedom

Answer: (b) Invasion by foreign countries

2. Which of the following statement is true about today's world?

- (a) Monarchy as a form of government has vanished.
- (b) The relationship between different countries has become more democratic than ever before.
- (c) In more and more countries rulers are being elected by the people.
- (d) There are no more military dictators in the world.

Answer: (c) In more and more countries rulers are being elected by the people.

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3. Use one of the following statements to complete the sentence:

Democracy in international organisations requires that ...

- (a) The rich countries should have a greater say.
- (b) Countries should have a say according to their military power.
- (c) Countries should be treated with respect in proportion to their population.
- (d) All countries in the world should be treated equally.

Answer: (c) All countries in the world should be treated equally.

4. Based on the information given in this chapter, match the following countries and the path democracy has taken in that country.

Country	Path to Democracy
(a) Chile	(i) Freedom from British colonial rule
(b) Nepal	(ii) End of military dictatorship
(c) Poland	(iii) End of one party rule
(d) Ghana	(iv) King agreed to give up his powers

Answer:

Country	Path to Democracy
(a) Chile	(ii) End of military dictatorship
(b) Nepal	(iv) King agreed to give up his powers
(c) Poland	(iii) End of one party rule

(d) Ghana

(i) Freedom from British colonial rule

5. What are the difficulties people face in a non-democratic country? Give answers drawing from the examples given in this chapter.

Answer:

Citizens of non-democratic countries face a lot of difficulties. These are listed below:

1. They are not allowed to choose their leader or raise a voice against changing their leader.
2. They aren't entitled to form political parties without the consent of the one in power. They do not have the rights to form independent trade unions or are allowed to strike.
3. They do not enjoy the right to freedom of speech and expression because there is a possibility that people can be arrested for any trivial matter.
4. For example, the military coup of 1973 in Chile and the Communist government in Poland, which ruled till 1990, are examples of oppressive undemocratic rule.

6. Which freedoms are usually taken away when a democracy is overthrown by the military?

Answer:

When a democracy is overthrown by the military, freedom is curbed and following incidents are usually witnessed:

1. The military does whatever it wishes to do and no one has the authority to question them.
2. The military government tortures, harasses, imprisons and also kills people who had gone against them during their takeover. Moreover, citizens are not allowed to show displeasure against any of their policies.
3. People are barred from expressing their opinions freely, from forming any trade unions or even having the right to vote.

7. Which of the following positions can contribute to democracy at the global level? Give reasons for your answer in each case.

- a. My country gives more money to international institutions. Therefore, I want to be treated with more respect and exercise more power.
- b. My country may be small or poor, but my voice must be heard with equal respect because these decisions will affect my country.
- c. Wealthy nations will have a greater say in international affairs. They cannot let their interests suffer just because they are outnumbered by poor nations.
- d. Big countries like India must have a greater say in international organisations.

Answer:

- a. No, it does not contribute towards democracy at a global level because every democracy's basic principle is equality. Every country or its people should enjoy equal status and rights irrespective of it being poor or rich. Also, the amount of money the country contributes towards international institutions is not the yardstick that determines the power a country can have globally.
- b. Yes, it does contribute towards democracy because it promotes a fundamental right-the right to freedom of speech and expression. When every person of the country utilises his/her right to express and be heard, he/she automatically supports democracy.
- c. No, it does not lead the democracy at the global level because at a universal level, all the countries whether rich or poor are equal. There should be no distinctions between the countries and all should be treated at par. Also, wealthy nations are not entitled to special treatments.
- d. No, it does not support democracy because geographical areas or the size of the country cannot be the criteria to determine the superiority of that country.

8. Here are three opinions expressed in a television debate on the struggle for democracy in Nepal. Which of these do you agree with and why?

Guest 1: India is a democracy. Therefore, the Indian government must support the people of Nepal who are struggling against monarchy and for democracy.

Guest 2: That is a dangerous argument. We would be in the same position as the US was in Iraq. Remember, no outside force can promote democracy.

Guest 3: But why should we bother about the internal affairs of another country? We should be worried about our business interests there, not about democracy.

Answer:

The opinion of Guest 1 can be easily agreed with.

Being a democracy, India has to support the democratic aspirations of the Nepali people. The Government of India is within its rights to declare support for those who are struggling for establishment of democratic government. However, there has to be recognition of the fact that no country can supplant democracy in another country. The push has to come from the people of that particular nation.

9. In an imaginary country called Happyland, the people overthrew the foreign ruler and brought back the old royal family. They said: "After all their ancestors were our kings before foreigners started ruling us. It is good that we have one strong ruler, who can help us become rich and powerful".

When someone talked about democracy the wise men said it is a foreign idea. Their struggle was to throw the foreigners and their ideas out of the country. When someone demanded freedom for the media, the elders thought that too much criticism of the ruler would not help them improve their living standards. "After all, the king is so kind and interested in the welfare of all the subjects. Why create problems for him. Don't we all want to be happy? "

After reading the above passage, Chaman, Champa and Chandru made the following observations:

Chaman: Happyland is a democratic country because people were able to throw out the foreign rulers and bring back the king.

Champa: Happyland is not a democratic country because people cannot criticise the ruler. The king may be nice and may provide economic prosperity, but a king cannot give a democratic rule.

Chandru: What people need is happiness. So they are willing to allow their new ruler to take decisions for them. If people are happy it must be a democracy.

What is your opinion about each of these statements? What do you think about the form of government in this country?

Answer:

Chaman: Even though people bought an end to the foreign rule in Happyland, it cannot be called a democratic country because the king ruled as a monarch. This form of government is known as monarchy. It is only when people will enjoy the right to choose their leader, will it be called a democratic country.

Champa: A king cannot guarantee democracy because it will be a one-man rule. A government can be called a democracy only when there is a rule of the people. In other words, people should have the right to elect the nominal head of the state and their representatives.

Chandru: Happiness of the people cannot be the factor to form a democracy. The masses might be happy with the king, but he cannot establish a democracy because he is not an elected representative. For example: In olden days, people lived happily under various monarchs, but it cannot be called a democratic government, as they were chosen by the people.

NCERT Class 9 Solutions Democratic Politics <http://freehomedelivery.net/> What is Democracy? Why Democracy?

NCERT Class 9 Solutions Democratic Politics <http://freehomedelivery.net/> What is Democracy? Why Democracy?

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

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

Answer:

- (a) Undemocratic
- (b) Not sure
- (c) Democratic
- (d) Undemocratic

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

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

Answer:

- (a) Undemocratic
- (b) Democratic
- (c) Undemocratic
- (d) Undemocratic

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

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

Answer: (d) Democracies are more prosperous than others.

This is not a good argument as the prosperity of a country cannot be determined through its form of government but through its economic condition. For example, a democratic country like India is still a developing country, while a country following monarchy rule is economically strong.

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

- (a) A minister said that some laws have to be passed by the parliament in order to conform to the regulations decided by the World Trade Organisation (WTO).
- (b) The Election Commission ordered re-polling in a constituency where large-scale rigging was reported.
- (c) Women's representation in the parliament has barely reached 10 per cent. This led women's organisations to demand one-third seats for women.

Answer:

(a) Democratic: Passing of the laws by the Parliament.

Undemocratic: Conforming to the regulations decided by the World Trade Organisation.

(b) Democratic: The order to re-poll by the Election Commission.

Undemocratic: large scale rigging was reported

(c) Democratic: Demand by Women's Organisation to reserve one-third seats for women.

Undemocratic: Women's representation in the parliament is less than 10 per cent.

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

(a) Opposition parties can draw attention to hunger and starvation.

(b) Free press can report suffering from famine in different parts of the country.

(c) Government fears its defeat in the next elections.

(d) People are free to believe in and practice any religion.

Answer:

(d) "People are free to believe in and practise any religion" is not a valid reason because there are lesser chances for famine to take place in a democratic country. This is because practicing of a religion is not at all related to famine.

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

(a) Filing a case in the courts claiming that water is part of right to life.

(b) Boycotting the next elections to give a message to all parties.

(c) Organising public meetings against government's policies.

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

Answer:

(d) Paying money to government officials to get water is an undemocratic method.

7. Write a response to the following arguments against democracy.

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

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

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

Answer:

(a) Though army the most disciplined and corruption-free organisation in the country, however, it cannot be justified that they should rule the country. Primarily, because they do not form a democratic government i.e. are not elected by the people. Secondly, people will not be allowed to voice their opinion or expression as all their fundamental rights would be curtailed. Also, there would be no assurance that the army cannot turn into a ruthless dictator at any point of their rule, making the life of the people difficult. For example: people of Chile suffered under the rule of General Augusto Pinochet.

(b) Such a thing would be against the principle of the Universal Adult Franchise, wherein every person above the age of 18 yrs in our country irrespective of religion, caste, sex, socio-economic background etc. has the right to vote. Everyone has the right to participate equally in the formation of the government. Therefore ignoring some sections of the society would be unfair. Moreover, wise men need not be necessarily good administrators.

(c) Those who say that the country should be ruled by religious leaders are making a very risky statement. Because in a multi-religious country bringing religion into politics can cause serious conflict among the people. Moreover, religious leaders can bring trouble to the country due to their mutual conflicts of ideologies. Besides, many even do not have any experience in administration. Thus, it is very necessary for them to run their own religious institutions and need not meddle in the political affairs of the country.

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

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

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

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

Answer:

(a) The statement made is an undemocratic statement as the girl is being denied as opportunity to voice her opinion and choose her partner. As per our Constitution, every citizen who is 18 or above has the right to marry according to his/her choice.

(b) The statement made is undemocratic as the student is being denied the right to ask questions/clear his doubts. The best the teacher can do is to ask the student to ask his query at the end of the lecture; however, stopping him from doing so is incorrect.

(c) The statement made is a democratic statement because here the employees are asking for their fundamental right. Within the norms of the company, the employees are always entitled to ask or request their office for something.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Answer:

(a) Two important features of democracy are regular elections and universal adult franchise.

(b) A democratic government works for the welfare of the country and enhances dignity of the citizens. Therefore, it cannot perform any functions which go against the welfare of the country and its people. Moreover, it does not allow an international agency to interfere in the internal matters of a country.

(c) The national language can be a single language because such a concept will bring about national integrity but other languages also should be encouraged to cultivate in their respective regions.

(d) Democracy provides people the right to strike or the right to free speech and demonstrations.

(e) A very important part of democracy is the freedom of the press. Therefore, the total control of media shows that there is no freedom of speech and expression and right to speak against the government. Thus, though the country is democratic in some manners, it is also undemocratic in some ways.

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

Answer:

Democracy and poverty have been inextricably linked in India ever since her birth. Political independence of our country had been achieved through mass participation of the rural poor in the national movement. However, and unfortunately, since then this rural poor mass of the Indian population has seen its influence shrink in national politics. As decade by decade India has cultivated its resources and added to its national financial wealth, the rich have grown richer, and the poor have grown abysmally poorer. We have the distinction of being the largest democracy in the world, but we are also one of the world's poorest countries, with gaping economic cleavages within our society.

The inequality of income is a concern that gets reflected directly in the operation of the democratic process of our republic. Research has firmly established the fact that though the majority of Indian voters come from the rural Indian hinterland, their influence on their elected representatives and on the whole, on the

process of national policy making is shrinking with each passing year. On the other hand, the richer sections of our society, though they do not necessarily vote or have any discernible concern for their civic responsibilities, exercise leverage on the policymaking in this country grossly disproportionate to their actual size in the population.

Moreover, the culture of corporate funding of political parties has fast spawned its offspring in the realms of the government establishment. It has made political parties and their leaders less dependent on their actual electorate and has allowed them to ignore the real concerns of the public like agrarian reforms, fine tuning of the Public Distribution System, agricultural subsidies and educational reforms.

To encapsulate, as we take pride in us being the largest democracy in the world, it is also necessary to recognise and act on the fact that the phenomenon of gross economic inequalities is putting a major limitation on its workability.

Constitutional Design NCERT Class 9 Democratic Politics <http://freehomedelivery.net/> Extra Questions

Constitutional Design NCERT Class 9 Democratic Politics <http://freehomedelivery.net/> Extra Questions Question-1

Write a short note on Nelson Mandela.

Solution:

Nelson Mandela fought against white domination in South Africa. He cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities.

The South African government tried him for treason and imprisoned him for daring to oppose the apartheid regime in his country. Mandela spent 28 years in South Africa's most dreaded prison, Robben Island. After 28 years of imprisonment, Nelson Mandela was released. On 26th April 1994, the new national flag of the Republic of South Africa was unfurled marking the newly born democracy in the world. Nelson Mandela was made the first President of this new democracy.

Question-2

What is a Constitution?

Solution:

Unlike a monarchy, in a democracy the rulers are not free to do what they like. Certain basic rules have to be followed by the citizens and the government. These rules put together are called the Constitution. As the supreme law of the country, the constitution determines the rights of citizens, the powers of the government and how the government should function.

Question-3

What was basis of the apartheid regime in South Africa?

Solution:

The apartheid regime differentiated people on the basis of their skin colour. The native people of South Africa who were black skinned were called 'blacks'. They made up about three-fourth of the population. People of mixed races who were called 'coloured'. The White Europeans were called 'Whites'. The white rulers treated all non-whites as inferior.

Question-4

How were the non-whites discriminated?

Solution:

The non-whites did not have any voting rights. The apartheid regime was particularly oppressive for the 'blacks' and the 'coloured'. They were forbidden from living in white areas. They could work in white areas only if they had a permit.

There were separate trains, buses, taxis, hotels, hospitals, schools and colleges, libraries, cinema halls, theatres, beaches, swimming pools and public toilets, for the whites and blacks. The blacks were not allowed into the Churches frequented by the whites. There were not allowed to form any association to represent their problems. This system of racial discrimination, unique to South Africa, was called Apartheid.

Question-5

Which was the first organisation that led the first against Apartheid?

Solution:

The African National Congress (ANC) was the first organisation that led the struggle against Apartheid.

Question-6

Why is South Africa called a 'rainbow nation' today?

Solution:

There is no social or any discrimination based on skin colour in free south Africa, today. Blacks, whites and coloured people, men and women, live as free citizens, in total harmony. This is why they call South Africa a 'rainbow nation'.

Question-7

What was the situation at the time India achieved independence?

Solution:

At that time of independence, the people of India were emerging from the status of subjects to that of citizens. India and Pakistan were born through a partition on the basis of religious differences. This was a traumatic experience for the people of India and Pakistan. Lakhs of people were killed on both sides of the border in partition related violence. The British had left it to the rulers of the princely states to decide whether they wanted to merge with India or with Pakistan or remain independent. This created a lot of turmoil.

Question-8

Write a short note on the first Constituent assembly.

Solution:

Elections to the first Constituent Assembly were held in July 1946. The elected members drafted the document called the Constitution. The Constituent Assembly held its first meeting in November 1946. Soon after the country was divided into India and Pakistan. The Constituent Assembly was also divided into the Constituent Assembly of India and that of Pakistan. The Indian Constituent assembly had 299 members. The Assembly adopted the Constitution on 26 November 1949. The constitution only came into effect on January 26, 1950. So Republic Day is celebrated on the 26th of January, every year.

Question-9

How is the South African Constitution looked upon today?

Solution:

The South African constitution inspires democrats all over the world. South Africa was a State which was looked down upon by many during the Apartheid regime. Today the determination of the people of South Africa to work together, without bearing any grudges against the white regime is looked upon with great respect.

The South African Constitution sees people of all skin colours as equal. Men and women are treated equally.

Question-10

What is a Preamble? Quote the Preamble of our constitution.

Solution:

A Preamble is an introductory statement in a constitution which states the reasons and guiding values of the constitution.

" We, the people of India having solemnly resolved to constitute India into SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC and secure to all its citizens justice, social, economic and political. Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship. Equality of status and of opportunity and to promote among them all fraternity, assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation, in our constitutional assembly, this 26th day of November. 1949, do hereby adopt, enact and give to ourselves this constitution."

Question-11

Who constituted the Constituent assembly?

Solution:

The Assembly was dominated by the Indian National Congress, which led India's freedom struggle. The Indian National Congress included a variety of political groups. These different groups had different opinions.

The Assembly also had many members who did not agree with the Congress. On the social platform, the Assembly was represented by members from different language groups, castes, classes, religions and occupations.

Question-12

What is secularism?

Solution:

When a Government treats all religious beliefs and practices with equal respect it is called a secular government. There is no official religion. Citizens have complete freedom to follow any religion.

Question-13

Define ' Democratic Republic'.

Solution:

' Democratic Republic' is a form of government where people enjoy equal political rights, elect their rulers and hold them accountable. The government is run according to some basic rules. The head of the state is an elected person and not a hereditary ruler.

Question-14

Write a brief note on the following personalities.

- (a) Jawaharlal Nehru
- (b) Sarojini Naidu
- (c) Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar

Solution:

(a) Jawaharlal Nehru was born in the year 1889 and died in the year 1964. He was born in the state of Uttar Pradesh. He was a lawyer by profession. He was the Prime Minister of the interim government. As a Congress leader he advocated socialism, democracy and anti-imperialism. Later he was appointed the First Prime Minister of India.

(b) Sarojini Naidu was born in the year 1879 and died in the year 1949. She was born in Andhra Pradesh. She was a poet, writer and political activist. She was among the foremost women leaders in the Congress. Later she was appointed the Governor of Uttar Pradesh.

(c) Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar was born in the year 1891 and died in the year 1956. He was born in Maharashtra. He was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution. He was a Social revolutionary thinker and agitated against caste divisions and caste based inequalities. He was made the Law minister in the first cabinet of post independence India.

Question-15

Was Mahatma Gandhi a member of the Constituent Assembly?

Solution:

No, Mahatma Gandhi was not a member of the Constituent Assembly.

Electoral Politics NCERT Class 9 Democratic Politics <http://freehomedelivery.net/> Extra Questions

Electoral Politics NCERT Class 9 Democratic Politics <http://freehomedelivery.net/> Extra Questions

Question-1

What are the minimum conditions needed for a democratic election?

Solution:

There are five minimum conditions needed for a democratic election. They are :-

- Everyone should have the right to vote and every vote should have equal value.
- Parties and candidates should be free to contest elections and they should offer some real choice to the voters.
- Elections must be held regularly .
- Candidates preferred by the people should be elected.
- Elections should be conducted in a free and fair manner.

Question-2

Can elections be considered as competition ?

Solution:

Elections can be considered as a competition. It is a political competition. The competition is among political parties. At the constituency level, it is a competition among several candidates. If there is no competition, elections will become pointless.

An electoral competition also has many demerits . It creates a sense of disunity and 'factionalism' in every locality. Different political parties and leaders often level allegations against one another. Parties and candidates often use dirty tricks to win elections.

Some good people who may wish to serve the country do not enter this arena because of this unhealthy competition.

Question-3

What is our system of elections?

Solution:

Elections for the Lok Sabha are held every 5 years. After five years the term of all the elected representatives comes to an end. The Lok Sabha stands 'dissolved'.

Elections for the Lok Sabha are held in all constituencies on the same day or within a few days. This is called a general election. Sometimes election is held only for one constituency to fill the vacancy caused by death or resignation of a member. This is called a by-election.

Question-4

What are electoral constituencies?

Solution:

India is divided into different areas for purposes of elections. These areas are called electoral constituencies. We follow an area-based system of representation. The voters who live in a particular constituencies elect one person to represent their constituencies.

Question-5

How many constituencies do we have in India?

Solution:

India is divided into 543 constituencies for Lok Sabha elections. The representative elected from each constituency is called a Member of Parliament.

Similarly, each state is divided into a number of Assembly constituencies, depending on its population and its size. The elected representative of the Assembly constituencies are called the Member of Legislative Assembly or an MLA.

Each Parliamentary constituency has several Assembly constituencies .

Question-6

What are Reserved Constituencies ?

Solution:

Reserved Constituencies are constituencies that are set aside for certain weaker sections of the society.

Weaker sections of the society may not stand a good chance to get elected to the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies. They may not have the required resources, education and contacts to contest and win elections against others. Those who are influential and resourceful may prevent them from winning elections.

As our Constitution entitles every citizen to elect its representative, Reserved Constituencies are a necessity.

Question-7

Who can vote and who cannot vote in India ?

Solution:

In India , all the citizens above the age of 18 can vote in an election. They have the right to vote, regardless of their caste, religion or gender.

The government gets the names of all the eligible voters and prepares the voters' list. As new persons attain voting age names are added to the voters' list. Names of those who move out of a place or those who are dead are deleted. A complete revision of the list takes place every five years.

Criminals and persons with unsound mind are denied the right to vote.

Question-8

What should a citizen do if he or she wants to contest the elections?

Solution:

Every person who wishes to contest an election has to fill a 'nomination form' and pay a 'security deposit'. They are requested to present a declaration. The legal declaration has to have the following details:-

1. Details of any serious criminal cases pending against them. (If applicable).
2. Details of the assets and liabilities they have and that of their family members.
3. Educational qualifications.

This information will be made public. This provides an opportunity to the voters to voice their objections, if any, and make the right decision during elections.

Question-9

What are the two methods of voting?

Solution:

The two methods of voting are ...

- The Ballot Paper

A ballot paper is a sheet of paper on which the names of the contesting candidates along with their party name and symbols are listed. The voters indicate whom they want to vote for by putting a stamp on the ballot paper.

- Electronic Voting

Electronic voting machines (EVM) are used to record votes. The machine shows the names of the candidates and the party symbols. The voter has to press the button corresponding to the name of the person he wants to vote. Then the vote gets registered automatically.

Independent candidates too have their own symbols, allotted by election officials. Voting is conducted in total secrecy.

Question-10

Why do we need elections?

Solution:

Elections are essential for any representative democracy. In an election the citizens have many choices. They are :-

- They can choose the people who will make laws.
- They can choose the government that will rule them.
- They can decide on the party whose policies they prefer.

Question-11

What is the percentage of reservation for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Lok shaba?

Solution:

In the Lok Sabha, 79 seats are reserved for the Scheduled Castes and 41 for the Scheduled Tribes. This

number is proportionate to their population. This reservation does not lessen the legitimate share of any other social group.

Question-12

What is called a ticket in politics?

Solution:

Party's nomination of a candidate is often called party 'ticket'.

Question-13

Mention a few successful slogans that were used during election campaigns.

Solution:

The most successful slogans used during election campaigns were:-

- Garibi Hatao or Remove poverty.

This slogan was used by the Congress party led by Indira Gandhi in the Lok Sabha elections of 1971. The party promised to remove poverty from the country.

- Save Democracy. This slogan used by Janata Party in the Lok Sabha election held in 1977. The party promised to undo the excesses committed during Emergency and restore civil liberties.

- Land to the Tiller. This slogan was used by the Left Front in the West Bengal Assembly elections held in 1977.

- Protect the Self-Respect of the Telugus. This slogan used by N. T. Rama Rao, the leader of the Telugu Desam Party in Andhra Pradesh Assembly elections in 1983.

Question-14

Write a brief note on the Election Commission.

Solution:

The Election Commission is independent and very powerful . It enjoys the same kind of independence that the judiciary enjoys. The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) is appointed by the President of India. He heads the Election Commission. After his election the C E C is not answerable to the President or the government. It is impossible for the government to remove the CEC, even if it is dissatisfied with him. The powers of the Election Commission of India are as follows:-

- EC takes decisions on every aspect of conduct and control of elections from the announcement of elections to the declaration of results.

- It implements the Code of Conduct and punishes any candidate or party that violates it

- During the election period, the EC can order the government to follow some guidelines, to prevent use and misuse of governmental power to enhance its chances to win elections, or to transfer some government officials

- When on election duty, government officers work under the control of the EC and not the government.

Question-15

What is meant by rigging?

Solution:

Fraud and malpractices indulged by a party or candidate to increase its votes, in an election is called rigging.

- Using the votes of others

- Recording multiple votes by the same person.

- Bribing polling officers to favour a candidate are considered as rigging during elections.

Question-1

If you are elected as the president of India which of the following decision can you take on your own?

- (a) Select the person you like as Prime Minister.
- (b) Dismiss a Prime Minister who has a majority in Lok Sabha.
- (c) Ask for reconsideration of a bill passed by both the Houses.
- (d) Nominate the leaders of your choice to the Council of Ministers.

Solution:

- (c) Ask for reconsideration of a bill passed by both the Houses.

Question-2

Who among the following is a part of the political executive ?

- (a) District Collector
- (b) Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- (c) Home Minister
- (d) Director General of Police

Solution:

- (c) Home Minister.

Question-3

Which of the following statements about the judiciary is false ?

- (a) Every law passed by the parliament needs approval of the Supreme Court.
- (b) Judiciary can strike down a law if it goes against the spirit of the Constitution.
- (c) Judiciary is independent of the Executive.
- (d) Any citizen can approach the courts if her rights are violated.

Solution:

- (a) Every law passed by the Parliament needs approval of the Supreme Court.

Question-4

Which of the following institutions can make changes to an existing law of the country?

- (a) The Supreme Court
- (b) The President
- (c) The Prime Minister
- (d) The Parliament

Solution:

- (d) The Parliament

A parliament is a legislature. More specifically, “parliament” may refer only to a democratic government’s legislature. The term is derived from the French parlement, the action of parler a parlement is a discussion. The term came to mean a meeting at which such a discussion took place. It acquired its modern meaning as it came to be used for the body of people who would meet to discuss matters of state.

Question-5

Match the ministry with the news that the ministry may have released.

(a) A new policy is being made to increase the jute exports from the country.

(b) Telephone services will be made more accessible to rural areas.

(c) The price of rice and wheat sold under the Public Distribution System will go down.

(d) A pulse polio campaign will be launched.

(e) The allowances of the soldiers posted on high altitudes will be increased.

Solution:

(a) A new policy is being made to increase the jute exports from the country.

(b) Telephone services will be made more accessible to rural areas.

(c) The price of rice and wheat sold under the public distribution system will go down.

(d) A pulse polio campaign will be launched

(e) The allowances of soldiers posted on high altitudes will be increased

Question-6

Of all the institutions that we have studied in this chapter, name the one that exercises the powers on each of the following matters.

(a) Decision on allocation of money for developing infrastructure like roads, irrigation etc. and different welfare activities for the citizens.

(b) considers the recommendation of a Committee on a law to regulate the stock exchange.

(c) Decides on a legal dispute between two state governments.

(d) Implements the decision to provide relief for the victims of an earthquake.

Solution:

(a) The prime Minister and the Council of Minister

(b) The Parliament

(c) Supreme Court of India

(d) The Civil Servants working together.

Question-7

Why is the Prime Minister in India not directly elected by the people ? Choose the most appropriate answer and give reasons for your choice.

(a) In a parliamentary democracy only the leader of the majority party in the Lok Sabha can become the Prime Minister.

(b) Lok Sabha can remove the Prime Minister and the Council of Minister even before the expiry of their term.

(c) Since the Prime Minister is appointed by the president there is no need for it.

(d) Direct election of the Prime Minister will involve lot of expenditure on election.

Solution:

The most appropriate answer is (a). This is because in India, only the leader of the majority party/parties in the Lok Sabha can become the Prime Minister. Moreover, if the directly elected Prime Minister who does not have the support of majority is appointed as the Prime Minister, there are chances that policies or laws suggested by him would not be passed in the Lok Sabha. This would lead to government being run ineffectively.

Question-8

Three friends went to watch a film that showed the hero becoming Chief Minister for a day and making big changes in the state. Imran said this is what the country needs. Rizwan said this kind of a personal rule without institutions is dangerous. Shankar said all this is a fantasy. No minister can do anything in one day. What would be your reaction to such a film?

Solution:

Such films are only for entertainment purposes as real life is strikingly different. Governance in a democracy means taking everyone along with you. In addition, in a vast and diverse country like India, it is very difficult to consider only an individual's decision. Moreover, decision implementation needs to be coordinated among various organs of the government.

Question-9

A teacher was making preparations for a mock parliament. She called two students to act as leaders of two political parties. She gave them an option : Each one could choose to have a majority either in the mock Lok Sabha or in the mock Rajya Sabha. If this choice was given to you, which one would you choose and why?

Solution:

I would choose to have a majority in the mock Lok Sabha. This is because of the following reasons:

1. The leader of the Lok Sabha is directly answerable to the public, as they are directly elected by them.
2. Any ordinary law needs to be passed by both the houses. However, in an undecided situation, the decision of Lok Sabha always prevails due to more members.
3. Lok Sabha exercises more power in cases related to money bills as they originate here.
4. The Council of Ministers are controlled by the Lok Sabha.
5. Lok Sabha has more powers compared to the Rajya Sabha.

Question-10

After reading the example of the reservation order, three students had different reactions about the role of the judiciary. Which view, according to you, is a correct reading of the role of judiciary ?

- (a) Srinivas argues that since the Supreme Court agreed with the government, it is not independent.
- (b) Anjaiah says that judiciary is independent because it could have given a verdict against the government order. The Supreme Court did direct the government to modify it.
- (c) Vijaya thinks that the judiciary is neither independent nor conformist, but acts as a mediator between opposing parties. The court struck a good balance between those who supported and those who opposed the order.

Solution:

(a) The argument given by Srinivas is not correct. After hearing arguments of both the sides the Supreme Court declared the order of the Government of India on reservations as valid. Agreeing with the valid order of the government does not mean that the judiciary is not independent. Moreover, the Supreme Court directed the government to modify its original order. This also proves that judiciary is independent.

(b) The view of Anjaiah is correct.

(c) The view of Vijaya is not correct. The job of the courts is not to act as a mediator between the two parties, but decide the case according to its merits and the law.

NCERT Class 9 Solutions Democratic Politics <http://freehomedelivery.net/> Democratic Rights

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1. Which of the following is not an instance of an exercise of a fundamental right?

- (a) Workers from Bihar go to the Punjab to work on the farms
- (b) Christian missions set up a chain of missionary schools
- (c) Men and women government employees get the same salary
- (d) Parents' property is inherited by their children

Answer:

- (d) Parents' property is inherited by their children

2. Which of the following freedoms is not available to an Indian citizen?

- (a) Freedom to criticise the government
- (b) Freedom to participate in armed revolution
- (c) Freedom to start a movement to change the government
- (d) Freedom to oppose the central values of the Constitution

Answer:

- (b) Freedom to participate in armed revolution

3. Which of the following rights is available under the Indian Constitution?

- (a) Right to work
- (b) Right to adequate livelihood
- (c) Right to protect one's culture
- (d) Right to privacy

Answer:

- (c) Right to protect one's culture

4. Name the Fundamental Right under which each of the following rights falls:

- (a) Freedom to propagate one's religion
- (b) Right to life
- (c) Abolition of untouchability
- (d) Ban on bonded labour

Answer:

- (a) Right to freedom of religion
- (b) Right to freedom
- (c) Right to equality
- (d) Right against exploitation

5. Which of these statements about the relationship between democracy and rights is more valid?

Give reasons for your preference.

- (a) Every country that is a democracy gives rights to its citizens.
- (b) Every country that gives rights to its citizens is a democracy.
- (c) Giving rights is good, but it is not necessary for a democracy.

Answer:

The most valid statement is (a). This is because every country that is democratic is a system wherein the government is elected by the people. Therefore, it is essential for it to provide rights to its citizens.

6. Are these restrictions on the right to freedom justified? Give reasons for your answer.

- (a) Indian citizens need permission to visit some border areas of the country for reasons of security.
- (b) Outsiders are not allowed to buy property in some areas to protect the interest of the local population.
- (c) The government bans the publication of a book that can go against the ruling party in the next elections.

Answer:

- (a) This statement is justified as the citizens are protected from loss of life or property.
- (b) This statement is not justified as it infringes on the right to freedom of citizens from other parts of the country.
- (c) This statement is not justified as it violates the right to freedom of speech and expression.

7. Manoj went to a college to apply for admission into an MBA course. The clerk refused to take his application and said You, the son of a sweeper, wish to be a manager! Has anyone done this job in your community? Go to the municipality office and apply for a sweeper's position. Which of Manoj's fundamental rights are being violated in this instance? Spell these out in a letter from Manoj to the district collector.

Answer:

In this case, the Right to Freedom and Right to Equality are being violated.

Letter

To,

The District Collector,

ABC District

Sub: Redressal required for violation of my Right to Equality

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, XYZ wished to inform you that my admission for pursuing a course leading to the MBA degree in a college in your district has been refused. It was done by a clerk of the college who remarked that "You, the son of a sweeper, wish to be a manager! Has anyone done this job in your community? Go to the municipality office and apply for a sweeper's position". This is a total violation of my rights and it is unfair. I am fully qualified to apply for the course having completed my graduation.

Kindly look into the matter at the earliest.

Thanking You,

Sincerely,
XYZ

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8. When Madhurima went to the property registration office, the Registrar told her. "You can't write your name as Madhurima Banerjee d/o A. K. Banerjee. You are married, so you must give your husband's name. Your husband's surname is Rao. So your name should be changed to Madhurima Rao." She did not agree. She said "If my husband's name has not changed after marriage, why should mine?" In your opinion who is right in this dispute? And why?

Answer:

In this dispute, Madhurima is correct. She is entitled to right to equality and therefore she can choose to use either her maiden name or her husband's surname. Forcing her to use to her husband's surname will result in infringement of her right.

9. Thousands of tribals and other forest dwellers gathered at Piparia in Hoshangabad district in Madhya Pradesh to protest against their proposed displacement from the Satpura National Park, Bori Wildlife Sanctuary and Panchmarhi Wildlife Sanctuary. They argue that such a displacement is an attack on their livelihood and beliefs. Government claims that their displacement is essential for the development of the area and for protection of wildlife. Write a petition on behalf of the forest dwellers to the NHRC, a response from the government and a report of the NHRC on this matter.

Answer:

As the answers may vary, please attempt this question on your own with the help of your subject teacher or elders.