

North Ex Public School  
(Session 2020-2021)  
Subject- S. P. L. ,  
Class VIII, Chapters 2,  
Understanding Secularism  
WORKSHEET NO. 6

Before attempting this worksheet kindly go through the following link which will help you in attempting this worksheet

**NOTE:** if students are not having printer facility at home , they can copy the worksheet in a separate notebook and can write answers in that copy.

Link:- <https://youtu.be/p9QXXdCZHt8>

Topic :- Understanding secularism

Social & Political Life  
Chapter - 2 (Class - VIII)  
Understanding Secularism

The State does not interfere in religious matters & religion has no role to play in the governance of the country. It does not endorse any religion.

**WHY SECULARISM?**

India preferred secularism over embracing one religion as the state religion because of its belief in the basic principle of equality. India is home to many religions & each has contributed in shaping the culture of India.

**RELIGION, STATE & POLITICS :-**

In a democracy, it is very important that religion & state power are separated. Some religions are practised widely & some are followed by a smaller no. of people. The basic tenets of democracy - liberty & equality, ensure that discrimination on the basis of religion is eradicated irrespective of the number of people following it.

**INTERPRETATION OF RELIGION**

A modern democratic polity offers the freedom to practise a religion of your choice. An individual cannot be forced to practise the religion he or she is born into if he or she wishes to follow another religion. In secular India, citizens enjoy the freedom to follow any religion of their choice.

SECULARISM IN INDIA :-

Acc. to the Constitution of India, a secular state must ensure there is no inter-religious community domination. there is no intra-religious community domination. there is no state religion; and the religious freedom of individuals is guaranteed.

**PRACTICES WHICH EXPLAIN THE SECULAR NATION OF THE INDIAN STATE ARE :-**

- ★ Displaying national symbols and not religious symbols in government and other important public buildings.
- ★ Avoiding restriction of the morning prayers to any one religion in all the government schools.
- ★ Celebrating all the religions with fervour & enthusiasm in all the public offices.

**WHY SECULARISM IS IMPORTANT**

The basic aim of secularism is to prevent anyone from mistreating anyone else on grounds of religious belief. In particular, secularism aims to:

- ★ Prevent one religious community from dominating another.
- ★ Prevent one group within a religious community from dominating another.
- ★ Prevent the state from forcing the people to follow any particular religion or from taking away their religious freedom.

This is important for any democracy because a democratic government is supposed to ensure that all citizens are treated equally irrespective of their religious belief.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WESTERN SECULARISM :-

In Western countries, secularism means complete breach between state & religion. The legislature did not interfere in matters of religion.

INDIAN SECULARISM :-

To ensure equality of all citizens & religious communities if the state has to intervene by making laws & allowing or banning certain practices. For e.g. the state can intervene in the Hindu caste system & abolish the practice of untouchability. Every religious community is allowed to run its own institutions, including educational institutions.

The real spirit of Indian secularism is tolerance and peaceful coexistence.

**SUMMARY**

1. In a secular country, the state is not aligned to any religion. People of all religious faiths have equal rights & the freedom to practise their religion.
2. In India, the state may prohibit religious practices if they violate the rights & freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution.
3. India also relaxes laws to allow people the freedom to practise their religion.

**IMPORTANT TERMS :-**

**ENDORSE :-** declare one's public approval or support of

**TENETS :-** a principle or belief

## Questions

- 1) Define Secularism in brief.
- 2) What is the basic aim of secularism?
- 3) Explain : "In a secular country the state is not aligned to any religion".
- 4) Secularism is the need of the world today. Give reason.
- 5) Fill in the blanks :-
  - a) India is a -----country.
  - b) A theocratic nation follows a-----religion.
- 6) Write true or false.
  - a) People cannot change their religion in a secular country.
  - b) Religious processions and meetings are not allowed in India because religion is a personal affair.
  - c) In India, certain laws are relaxed to make room for religious practices.

## Answers

- 1) In a secular country, the state is not aligned to any religion. People of all religious faiths have equal rights and the freedom to practice their religion.
- 2) The basic aim of secularism is :-
  - a) Prevent one religious community from dominating another.
  - b) Prevent one group within a religious community to dominating another.
  - c) Prevent the State from forcing the people to follow any particular religion or from taking away their religious freedom.
- 3) The State neither favours any particular religion, nor discriminate against any religion. The State does not impose any penalty on people for holding a particular religious beliefs. Nor does it grant favours to people for belongings to any particular religious community.
- 4) Religion is an entirely personal affair. The State does not interfere and tell people how to or how not to practice their religion. People are free to belong to any religious faith they like and to convert from one religion to another. No one can do anything which is unlawful, or which harms others or the State.
- 5)
  - a) Secular
  - b) personal
- 6)
  - a) False
  - b) False
  - c) True

