

# Outcomes of Democracy

## Fastrack Revision

- ▶ Democracy is formed by two Greek words—*demos* and *kratos*. *Demos* means 'people' and *kratos* means 'power', and thus democracy literally means 'people's power'.
  - ▶ More than 100 countries of the world claim and practice some kind of democratic politics.
  - ▶ The popularity of democratic government is due to the following reasons:
    - Promotes equality among citizens.
    - Enhances the dignity of the individual.
    - Improves the quality of decision-making.
    - Provides a method to resolve conflicts.
    - Allows room to correct mistakes.
    - Democracy as a form of government creates conditions for the citizens to achieve their goals.
  - ▶ Every democracy has three outcomes—political, economic and social.
  - ▶ The most basic outcome of democracy should be that it produces a government that is accountable to the citizens, and responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens.
- ▶ Democratic government is a legitimate government. It may be slow, less efficient, not always very responsive or clean. But a democratic government is people's own government.
  - ▶ The economic outcomes of democracy can be studied under the following two heads:
    - Economic growth and development.
    - Reduction of inequality and poverty.
  - ▶ Democracies are based on political equality. All individuals have an equal role in electing representatives but with this, economic inequality is also growing among individuals.
  - ▶ Democracies accommodate various social divisions. It usually develops a procedure to conduct competition which reduces the possibility of tensions becoming explosive or violent.

### Knowledge BOOSTER

*In democracy, majority always needs to work with the minority, so that the government functions to represent the general view.*

### Knowledge BOOSTER

*Democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation. Its decisions are both more acceptable to the people and more effective.*

- ▶ Democracy allows the right to examine the process of decision-making which is thus referred to as transparency. A democratic government develops a mechanism for citizens to take active part in decision-making.
- ▶ Democracy is attentive to the needs and demands of the people and is largely free of corruption.
- ▶ Democracy stands much superior to any other form of government in promoting dignity and freedom of the individuals. The passion for respect and freedom of the citizens is the basis of democracy.
- ▶ Democracy in India has strengthened the claims of the disadvantaged and discriminated castes for equal status and opportunity.
- ▶ Democracy always strives towards a better goal and people constantly demand more benefits in a democracy. There are always more expectations.



## Practice Exercise



### Multiple Choice Questions

**Q 1. Why democracy is a better form of government?**

- a. It promotes equality among citizens
- b. It enhances the dignity of the individual
- c. It provides a method to resolve conflicts
- d. All of the above

**Q 2. No deliberation and negotiation for taking decisions is part of:**

- a. Democratic government
- b. Non-democratic government
- c. Monarchy
- d. Dictatorship

**Q 3. Which of the following statements is correct?**

- a. Most of the democracies have constitutions, they hold elections, have parties and they guarantee rights to citizens
- b. Democracies are very much different from each other in terms of their social, economic and cultural achievements
- c. All democracies are similar as far as social, economic and cultural conditions are concerned
- d. Both a. and b.

**Q 4. Which regime usually develops a procedure to conduct social competition and reduce the possibility of social tension?**

- a. Democratic regime      b. Dictatorial regime
- c. Non-democratic regime      d. None of these



- Q 5. Most democracies have failed on which of the following issues?**
- Corruption
  - Removal of poverty
  - Political equality
  - Both a. and b.
- Q 6. Which country has democratic government since independence?**
- India
  - Pakistan
  - Bhutan
  - Nepal
- Q 7. Choose the correct statement.**
- Democracy is not to lag behind dictatorship
  - Democracy is not guarantee of economic development
  - Economic growth is better in non-democratic government
  - USA is a democratic government but has remarkable economic development
- Q 8. Democracy is felt to be not so good in its:**
- practice
  - outcomes
  - Both a. and b.
  - None of these
- Q 9. We can judge democracy by its:**
- people
  - outcomes
  - political parties
  - None of these
- Q 10. How many countries of the world have democratic set-up of government?**
- More than hundred countries
  - Less than hundred countries
  - Less than fifty countries
  - More than fifty countries
- Q 11. What is meant by an accountable government?**
- In an accountable government, people have the right to elect the leaders to form government and if possible they participate in decision-making process
  - In an accountable government, people do not have the right to elect the leaders
  - In an accountable government, people are a part of decision-making process
  - In an accountable government, only privileged section of the society is allowed to vote
- Q 12. On which of the following practices and institutions can be the accountability of government and involvement of people in decision-making process in a democracy be measured?**
- Regular, free and fair elections
  - Public debate on major policies and legislations
  - Citizens' right to Information about government and its functioning
  - All of the above
- Q 13. In actual life, democracies do not appear to be very successful in:**
- reducing economic inequalities
  - maintaining dignity of each individual
  - ensuring equality of all
  - All of the above
- Q 14. Which of the following statements is correct?**
- Democracies can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups
  - Dictatorships can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups
  - No regime can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups
  - Both a. and b.
- Q 15. Which factor is often missing from a non-democratic government?**
- Efficiency
  - Effectiveness
  - Transparency
  - None of these
- Q 16. Which type of government take such decisions that are likely to be more acceptable to the people and more effective?**
- Democratic government
  - Non-democratic government
  - Military dictatorship
  - Theocracy
- Q 17. Which type of government is likely to be more acceptable to the people in the world? (CBSE 2023)**
- Democratic
  - Military
  - Dictatorship
  - Theocratic
- Q 18. More than half of population of which country lives in poverty?**
- India
  - Bangladesh
  - Sri Lanka
  - All of these

## Knowledge BOOSTER



Countries like Bangladesh are dependent on the rich countries even for food supplies.

**Q 19. Democracy is preferred over dictatorship everywhere except:**

- Nepal
- Pakistan
- India
- Bangladesh

**Q 20. The successful democracy needs:**

- right to vote
- freedom
- periodic elections
- All of these

**Q 21. The record of democracies is not impressive because:**

- it often frustrates the needs of the people
- it often ignores demands of a majority of its population
- Both a. and b.
- None of the above



**Q 22. People should be vigilant and participate actively in the process of:**

- a. representation
- b. governance
- c. choosing party
- d. All of the above

**Q 23. Choose the wrong statement about democracy.**

- a. Promotes equality among citizens
- b. Enhances the dignity of the individual
- c. Provide a method to resolve conflicts
- d. Does not have room to correct mistakes

**Q 24. What is meant by economic inequality?**

- a. It is a situation of equal distribution of wealth
- b. It is the unequal distribution of income and opportunity between different groups in society
- c. It is the distribution of wealth on the basis of gender
- d. It is the distribution of wealth on the basis of education

**Q 25. In the context of assessing democracy which among the following is the odd one out? Democracies need to ensure:**

- a. free and fair election
- b. dignity of the individual
- c. majority rule
- d. equal treatment before law

**Q 26. On which of the following pair of factors, economic development does not depend?**

- a. Country's population size and global situation
- b. Cooperation from other countries and country's economic priorities
- c. Global situation and resources available in the country
- d. Both a. and b.

**Q 27. Which of the following outcome of democracy cannot be ignored?**

- a. Democracy's ability to generate its own support
- b. Democracy often frustrates the needs of the people
- c. Democracy often ignores the demands of a majority of its population
- d. All of the above

**Q 28. What do studies on political and social inequalities show in democracy?**

- a. Democracy and development go together
- b. Inequalities exist in democracies
- c. Inequalities do not exist under dictatorship
- d. Dictatorship is better than democracy

**Q 29. Why is there a delay in decision-making and implementation in a democracy?**

- a. The government don't want to take decisions
- b. The government is hesitant in taking decisions
- c. Democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation
- d. A democratic government is not interested in taking quick decisions

**Q 30. Least expectation from democracy is that:**

- a. it cannot accommodate various social life
- b. It should produce a harmonious social life
- c. it develops procedure to conduct competition
- d. It reduces the possibility of violent tensions

**Q 31. Democracy attain people happiness by:**

- a. government function to represent general view
- b. equal distribution of resources
- c. better governance
- d. All of the above

**Q 32. Democracy even ensures the decision-making based on:**

- a. norms
- b. procedures
- c. Both a. and b.
- d. None of these

**Q 33. In which area does democracy fail to achieve the same results as in dictatorship?**

- a. Social development
- b. Economic development
- c. Political development
- d. Development on the basis of religion

**Q 34. Why is the cost of time that democracy pays for arriving at a decision worth?**

- a. Decisions are taken following due procedures
- b. Decisions are always in favour of people
- c. Decisions are more likely to be acceptable to the people and more effective
- d. None of the above

**Q 35. Which system can reduce the possibility of tension and conflict among different groups of society?**

- a. Monarchy
- b. Anarchy
- c. Communism
- d. Democracy

**Q 36. Study the following cartoon and answer the question that follows:**



**Which of the following options best signifies above cartoon?**

- a. Demand for separate state from democratic government
- b. Democratic government is facing territorial issues with the bordering states
- c. Democratic government is coping with multiple pressures through accommodation
- d. Democratic government accepts demands based on separate state



**Q 37. Which of the following features is not associated with a democratic government?**

- Democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation
- There is transparency in decision-making.
- Decisions are taken quickly and are often forced upon people
- None of the above

**Q 38. Which one of the following is not true about a democratic government?** (CBSE 2023)

- Democratic government is a legitimate government.
- Democratic government is a responsive government.
- Democratic government is the people's own government
- It does not allow room to correct mistakes.

### Knowledge BOOSTER

*Decisions are taken quickly and are often forced upon people is the feature of dictatorship while in democracy, decisions are taken slowly and it's a time-consuming process but whatever decisions are taken, is accepted by the people.*

**Q 39. Which of the following statement is against the spirit of democracy?**

- Democracy promotes equality among citizens
- It enhances the dignity of the individual
- It does not allow room to correct mistakes
- It provides method to resolve conflicts

**Q 40. Choose the correctly matched option from the following:**

Column I	Column II
1. Democracy is accountable	A. to the needs and expectations of its citizens
2. Democracy is responsive	B. to its citizens
3. Democracy is legitimate	C. as it is people's own government
4. Democracy ensures	D. to organise free and fair elections

- a. 1-A      b. 2-B      c. 3-C      d. 4-D

**Q 41. Match the following:**

Column I	Column II
A. Transparency and decision-making	1. Economic outcome of democracy
B. Dignity and freedom of women	2. Political outcome of democracy
C. Economic growth and development	3. Social outcome of democracy

- A B C      A B C  
a. 2 3 1      b. 3 2 1  
c. 1 2 3      d. 3 1 2

**Q 42. Read the information given below and answer the question that follow by choosing the correct option:**

**No society can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups. But we can certainly learn to respect these differences and we can also evolve mechanisms to negotiate the differences. Democracy is best suited to produce this outcome. Non-democratic regimes often turn a blind eye to or suppress internal social differences.**

**What does this information reflect?**

- Reduction of inequality and poverty
- Dignity and freedom of disadvantaged groups
- Accommodation of social diversity
- Economic growth and development

**Q 43. Read the statements carefully and choose the correct option:**

**Statement (I): Most societies across the world were historically male dominated societies.**

**Statement (II): Equal treatment of women is not a necessary ingredients of a democratic society.**

- Statement (I) is correct and (II) is incorrect
- Statement (I) is incorrect and (II) is correct
- Both statements are incorrect
- Both statements are correct

**Q 44. Read the statements carefully and choose the correct option:**

**Statement (I): Democratic government is certainly better than its alternatives.**

**Statement (II): Democratic government may be slow, less efficient but it is legitimate and people's own government.**

- Statement (I) is correct and (II) is incorrect
- Statement (I) is incorrect and (II) is correct
- Both statements are incorrect
- Both statements are correct



### Assertion & Reason Type Questions

**Directions (Q.Nos. 45-50):** In the following questions given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

- Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
- Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.



- Q 45. Assertion (A): Democracy is a legitimate government.  
Reason (R): Regular, free and fair elections are the spirit of democracy.



## Source Based Questions

### Source 1

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

In a democracy, we are most concerned with ensuring that people will have the right to choose their rulers and people will have control over the rulers. Whenever possible and necessary, citizens should be able to participate in decision making that affects them all. Therefore, the most basic outcome of democracy should be that it produces a government that is accountable to the citizens, and responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens. Some people think that democracy produces less effective government. It is, of course, true that non-democratic rulers are very quick and efficient in decision making and implementation, whereas, democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation. So, some delay is bound to take place. But, because it has followed procedures, its decisions may be both more acceptable to the people and more effective. Moreover, when citizens want to know if a decision was taken through the correct procedures, they can find this out. They have the right and the means to examine the process of decision making. This is known as transparency. This factor is often missing from a non-democratic government. There is another aspect in which democratic government is certainly better than its alternatives: democratic government is legitimate government. It may be slow, less efficient, not always very responsive, or clean. But a democratic government is people's own government.

(CBSE SQP 2021 Term-1)

**TIP**  
Democracies are legitimate because they are products of people's popular choices through free and fair elections that form its spirit. People choose representatives which make democracies widely acceptable and legitimate.

- Q 46. Assertion (A): Democracy stands much superior to any other form of government in promoting dignity and freedom of individuals.  
Reason (R): The passion for respect and freedom of citizens is the basis of democracy.
- Q 47. Assertion (A): Democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation.  
Reason (R): Democratic government develops a mechanism for citizens to take active part in decision-making.
- Q 48. Assertion (A): Democracy is a guarantee of economic development.  
Reason (R): The difference in the rates of economic development between less developed countries with dictatorships and democracies is negligible.
- Q 49. Assertion (A): Bangladesh is a country where more than half of its population lives in luxury.  
Reason (R): Sometimes the poor find it difficult to meet their basic needs of life, such as food, clothing, house, education and health.
- Q 50. Assertion (A): Democracy increases not only expectations but also complaints.  
Reason (R): Complaining is itself a testimony to the success of democracy.

(CBSE SQP 2023-24)

### Answers

- |         |         |         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (d)  | 2. (b)  | 3. (d)  | 4. (a)  | 5. (d)  |
| 6. (a)  | 7. (b)  | 8. (c)  | 9. (b)  | 10. (a) |
| 11. (a) | 12. (d) | 13. (a) | 14. (c) | 15. (c) |
| 16. (a) | 17. (a) | 18. (b) | 19. (b) | 20. (d) |
| 21. (c) | 22. (d) | 23. (d) | 24. (b) | 25. (c) |
| 26. (c) | 27. (a) | 28. (b) | 29. (c) | 30. (a) |
| 31. (d) | 32. (c) | 33. (b) | 34. (c) | 35. (d) |
| 36. (c) | 37. (c) | 38. (d) | 39. (c) | 40. (c) |
| 41. (a) | 42. (c) | 43. (a) | 44. (d) | 45. (a) |
| 46. (a) | 47. (b) | 48. (d) | 49. (d) | 50. (b) |

- Q 1. People's right to choose their own rulers is called as the:

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| a. Right to Initiate | b. Right to Plebiscite |
| c. Right to Vote     | d. Right to Referendum |

- Q 2. Which of the following options helps in promoting transparency in the governance?

- |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|
| a. Right to education             |
| b. Right to information           |
| c. Right against exploitation     |
| d. Right to speech and expression |

- Q 3. .... make/s the government legitimate.

- |                               |
|-------------------------------|
| a. Credibility of politicians |
| b. People's movements         |
| c. Free and fair elections    |
| d. Holding of power           |



**Q 4. Decisions in a democracy are more acceptable to the people because they are:**

- a. Taken swiftly and Implemented quickly
- b. Taken by giving privileges to the people
- c. Taken through elites' votes
- d. Taken after following due processes

### Answers

1. (c)    2. (b)    3. (c)    4. (d)

## Source 2

*Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:*

Most societies across the world were historically male dominated societies. Long struggles by women have created some sensitivity today that respect to and equal treatment of women are necessary ingredients of a democratic society. That does not mean that women are actually always treated with respect.

But once the principle is recognised, it becomes easier for women to wage a struggle against what is now unacceptable legally and morally. In a non-democratic set-up, this unacceptability would not have legal basis because the principle of individual freedom and dignity would not have the legal and moral force there. The same is true of caste inequalities. Democracy in India has strengthened the claims of the disadvantaged and discriminated castes for equal status and equal opportunity. There are instances still of caste-based inequalities and atrocities, but these lack the moral and legal foundations. Perhaps it is the recognition that makes ordinary citizens value their democratic rights.

Expectations from democracy also function as the criteria for judging any democratic country, what is most distinctive about democracy is that its examination never gets over. As democracy passes one test, it produces another test. As people get some benefits of democracy, they ask for more and want to make democracy even better. That is why, when we ask people about the way democracy functions, they will always come up with more expectations, and many complaints. The facts that people are complaining is itself a testimony to the success of democracy, it shows that people have developed awareness and the ability to expect and to look critically at power holders and the high and the mighty. A public expression of dissatisfaction with democracy shows the success of the democratic project, it transforms people from the status of a subject into that of a citizen.

**Q 1. What is regarded as the necessary ingredients of a democratic society?**

- a. Respect to women
- b. Equal treatment of women
- c. Both a. and b.
- d. None of the above

**Q 2. The principle of individual freedom and dignity is not a legal and moral force in .....**

- a. democracy
- b. dictatorship
- c. Both a. and b.
- d. None of these

**Q 3. Caste based inequalities and atrocities lack ..... in India.**

- a. legal foundation
- b. political support
- c. moral foundation
- d. Both a. and c.

**Q 4. It is tendency of ..... that people always come up with more expectations and complaints.**

- a. dictatorship
- b. monarchy
- c. democracy
- d. None of these

**Q 5. Which of the following function as the criteria for judging any democratic country?**

- a. Success of democracy
- b. Democratic rights
- c. Expectations from democracy
- d. Principle of Individual freedom and dignity

**Q 6. .... has strengthened the claims of the disadvantaged and discriminated castes for equal status and opportunity.**

- a. Non-democratic set-up
- b. Democracy
- c. Majority opinion
- d. Long struggles by women

### Answers

1. (c)    2. (b)    3. (d)    4. (c)    5. (c)    6. (b)

## Source 3

*Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow:*

**Source: How do We assess Democracy's Outcomes?**

Over a hundred countries of the world today claim and practice some kind of democratic politics: they have formal constitutions, they hold elections, they have parties and they guarantee rights of citizens. While these features are common to most of them, these democracies are very much different from each other in terms of their social situations, their economic achievements and their cultures. Clearly, what may be achieved or not achieved under each of these democracies will be very different.

(CBSE 2020)

**Q 1. Explain the fascination for democracy amongst various countries.**

**Ans.** The fascination for democracy amongst various countries is due to the following reasons:

- (i) It gives its people freedom of life and freedom of speech.



- (ii) A democratic country has a strong economic system and all the people get equal opportunities.

**Q 2. Explain democracy on the basis of expected and actual outcome.**

**Ans.** Democracy can be explained on the basis of expected outcome as follows:

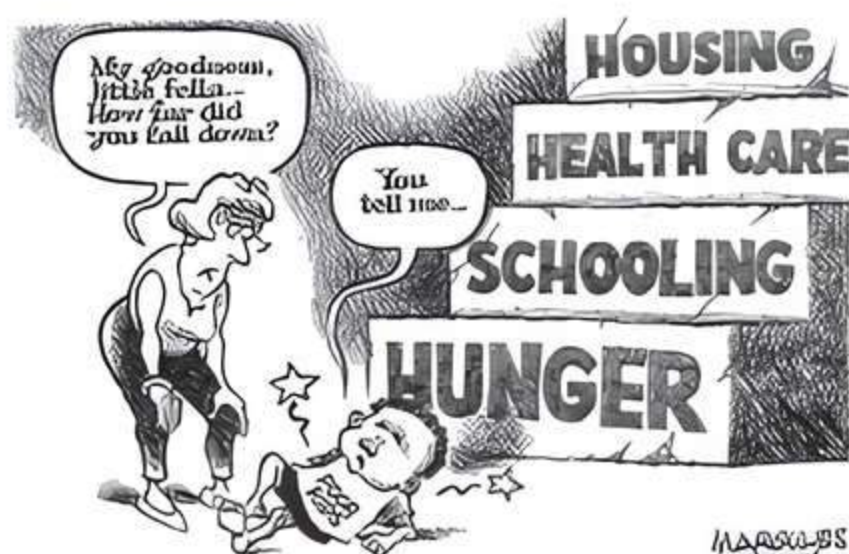
- (i) There are regular, free and fair elections, open public debate on major policies and legislations.
- (ii) Citizens get the right to information about the government and its functioning.

On the basis of actual outcomes, democracy can be explained as follows:

- (i) Not every decision comes forward in a public debate.
- (ii) Sharing information with people rarely happens.
- (iii) Democracies have never been free of corruption and government has failed to pay attention to the needs and expectations of people.

## **Very Short Answer** Type Questions ➡

**Q 1. Study the picture and answer the question that follows:**



**What are the problems faced by poor children?**

**Ans.** The poor children do not have access to housing, healthcare, schooling and proper nutritious food.

**Q 2. Why is a democratic government popular? Give any one reason.**

**Ans.** Democratic government is popular because it promotes equality among citizens.

**Q 3. Mention any two common features of democratic politics.** (CBSE 2016)

**Ans.** The two common features of democratic politics are:

- (i) It follows the principle of one person, one vote, one value.
- (ii) Major decisions are taken by elected leaders.

**Q 4. How can democratic reforms be carried out by politically conscious citizens?**

**Ans.** Democratic reforms can be carried out by politically conscious citizens by increasing and improving the quality of political participation of people i.e., their active participation in the functioning of the government.

**Q 5. How can democratic reforms be carried out by movements?**

**Ans.** Democratic reforms carried out by movements increase and improve the quality of political participation.

**Q 6. What is meant by transparency?**

**Ans.** To examine the process of decision-making in a democracy is known as transparency.

**Q 7. Which type of government develops mechanisms for citizens to hold the government accountable?**

**Ans.** Democratic government develops mechanisms for citizens to hold the government accountable.

**Q 8. How is democracy based on political equality in India?** (CBSE 2017)

**Ans.** Democracy is based on political equality in India because it grants every individual the right to vote and to contest elections irrespective of his/her caste, religion, creed, economic status etc.

**Q 9. What do you understand by economic growth?**

**Ans.** Increase in domestic production and services leading to all round growth in people's standard of living is known as economic growth.

**Q 10. What are the factors which affect the economic development of a country?**

**Ans.** Economic development is affected by the country's population, global situation, cooperation from other countries and economic priorities adopted by the country.

**Q 11. Give any one example of economic development in dictatorial regimes.** (CBSE 2020)

**Ans.** Dictatorships have higher rates of economic growth as compared to democracies. For example, China's growth rate is higher than most of the other democracies in the world.

**Q 12. Does democracy promote dignity and freedom of the citizens?**

**Ans.** Yes, democracy promotes dignity and freedom of the citizens.

**Q 13. Is a democratic government transparent?**

**Ans.** Yes, a democratic government is transparent. It allows the right to examine the process of decision-making.

**Q 14. Decision-making in non-democratic government is quick. Why?**

**Ans.** It is because a non-democratic government does not bother about deliberation in assemblies or majorities and public opinion.

**Q 15. Why is there an overwhelming support to democracy all over the world? Explain one reason.**

**Ans.** Democracy is a form of government that people approve of. It is legitimate, transparent and accountable. As people are able to choose their ruler which makes it a legitimate government, so people support it overwhelmingly.





## Short Answer Type Questions

**Q 1. What do you mean by democracy? Explain any three characteristics of democracy.** (CBSE 2017)

**Ans.** Democracy has been derived from two Greek words—'demos' and 'kratos'. Demos means the 'people' and kratos means 'power'. Thus, democracy is a form of government in which the administration of the country is run by representatives who are elected by the people.

The three main characteristics of democracy are:

- It provides equality among citizens.
- It looks after the interest of the people.
- It allows room to correct mistakes.

**Q 2. "Transparency is the most important feature of a democracy". Support the statement.** (CBSE 2023)

**Ans.** Transparency is the most important feature of a democracy because:

- Democracy ensures that decision-making will be based on certain norms and procedures.
- The citizen has the right and the means to examine the process of decision-making.

**Q 3. 'Some people think that democracy produces a less effective government.' Analyse the statement.** (CBSE 2015)

**Ans.** It is true that some people think that democracy produces a less effective government because of the following reasons:

- Democratic governments do not have a very good record when it comes to sharing information with citizens.
- Non-democratic rulers do not have to bother about deliberation in assemblies or worry about majorities and public opinion.
- They can be very quick and efficient in making and implementation of decisions.
- Democracy often frustrate the needs of the people and often ignore the demands of a majority of their population.

**Q 4. What are the different aspects of democracy?**

**Ans.** There are three aspects of democracy:

- Social Aspect:** It means the removal of all inequalities and no discrimination on the basis of caste, religion, sex, language, region, etc.
- Economic Aspect:** It implies the removal of wide gap between rich and the poor and stopping the exploitation of the poor and working class by the rich.
- Political Aspect:** It means that all the citizens should enjoy equal political rights.



## TIP

Students should mention about all the three aspects of democracy.

**Q 5. Discuss any three factors that describe the successful working of democracy in India.**

**Ans.** The factors which describe the successful working of democracy in India are:

- In India, there is an autonomous Election Commission. Free and fair elections are held periodically. The people elect their representatives through the election procedure.
- The local governments take care of the issues related to their regions. The Panchayati Raj system enables people to participate in governance.
- In India, there are a large number of political parties having different bases. They compete with each other to get public support and participate in the democratic process.
- Freedom of press and media enables the people to be well informed about the governmental activities.
- In India, an Independent Judiciary is very important for the success of democracy.

(Any three)

**Q 6. What are the differences between democratic and non-democratic governments in the decision-making process?**

**Ans.** Difference between democratic governments and non-democratic governments in the decision-making are:

S. No.	Basis of Difference	Democratic Governments	Non-democratic Governments
(i)	Basis	It takes <u>decisions based on the ideas of deliberations and negotiations.</u>	<u>No such deliberations and negotiations are held.</u>
(ii)	Working	They take into account <u>public opinions before reaching a decision.</u>	<u>They do not care for public opinions.</u>
(iii)	Time-taken	There is some <u>delay in taking a decision due to negotiations</u> but these decisions are more acceptable to the people and more effective.	It can <u>take quick decisions</u> but these are sometimes less effective and are not accepted by the people.

**Q 7. "Democracies have had greater success in setting regular, free and fair elections." Analyse the statement.** (CBSE 2019)

**Ans.** Democracies have had greater success in setting regular, free and fair elections. This can be understood in the following ways:

- In a democracy, all the people above a certain age have the right to vote as well as to stand in elections.



- (ii) Elections are free and fair in a democracy as there is an independent body i.e. Election Commission to monitor all activities impartially.
- (iii) A re-election is conducted in the constituencies in case of any malpractices during elections.

**Q 8. Why is democratic government known as legitimate government?**

**OR**

**'Democratic government is legitimate government.' Support the statement with arguments. (CBSE 2016)**

**Ans.** A democratic government is called a legitimate government due to the following reasons:

- (i) It is one in which laws and actions of the government are revealed to the people and government functions in a transparent manner.
- (ii) The government is legitimately elected through a transparent election process, which is organised by an independent statutory body. The procedure laid down in the Constitution is strictly followed to elect the government.
- (iii) People wish to be ruled by representatives elected by them. Democracy's ability to generate its own support makes it more legitimate.

**Q 9. How is democratic government known as responsive government? Explain with example.**

**OR**

**How is democracy accountable and responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens? Analyse. (CBSE 2015, 2023)**

**Ans.** A democratic government is known as a responsive and accountable government because of the below mentioned reasons:

- (i) In democracy, people have the right to choose their rulers and people have control over the rulers.
- (ii) In democracy, citizens have the right and the means to examine the process of decision-making.
- (iii) They have the right to participate in decision-making which affects them all.
- (iv) Democracy is responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens.

For example, in democracy, each and every issue is first discussed in the Parliament and then such a decision is taken which will promote common good.

**Q 10. Explain the economic growth and development in a democratic set up. (CBSE 2017)**

**OR**

**Analyse the outcomes of democracy in terms of economic growth and development.**

*(CBSE 2022 Term-2)*

**Ans.** Economic development depends on country's population size, global situation, cooperation from other countries, and economic priorities

adopted by the country. The important points in context of economic growth and development are as follows:

- (i) Studies have shown that the rate of economic development for democratic countries is not particularly high.
- (ii) Between 1950 and 2000, the dictatorships had a slightly higher rate of economic growth. Even today the differences in the rates of economic development in democracies and dictatorships are negligible.
- (iii) Economic inequalities are also found in a democracy.

**Q 11. 'Democracy accommodates social diversities.' Support the statement with examples. (CBSE 2016)**

**Ans.** The given statement can be supported with the following examples:

- (i) Democracies develop a procedure to conduct their competition which reduces the possibility of social tensions to become violent.
- (ii) Democratic regimes have the ability to handle social differences, divisions and conflicts.
- (iii) Democracy can never resolve conflicts among different groups but it can ask people to respect the differences and can evolve a mechanism to negotiate these differences.

For example, Belgium has successfully negotiated differences among its ethnic population which reduces the possibility of tensions.

**Q 12. Describe the favourable conditions generally provided to people under a democratic rule.**

**Ans.** The favourable conditions generally provided to people under a democratic rule are:

- (i) It promotes dignity to every individual irrespective to their caste, creed or religion.
- (ii) It ensures freedom of the individual.
- (iii) It provides equal status and opportunity to all.
- (iv) It provides positive reservation for women and other advantages for discriminated groups.

**Q 13. 'Complaints are treated as testimony to the success of democracy.' Support the statement with examples.**

**Ans.** The complaints of citizens are treated as testimony to the success of democracy as:

- (i) It shows that people are aware of their problems and are criticising the government for not solving them. People cannot criticise the government in case of dictatorship.
- (ii) A public expression of dissatisfaction with democracy shows the success of democratic project because the government is allowing its own criticism and opposition by the public.



- (iii) The criticism of government by the people keeps the power holders in check.
- (iv) It transforms people from the status of a subject into that of a citizen.

**Q 14. Analyse the need of political parties in the democracy.** (CBSE 2023)

**Ans.** The need of political parties in the democracy are:

- (i) Political parties help in the formulation of public opinion.
- (ii) They contest elections.
- (iii) The party that secures a majority in the election, forms the government.
- (iv) The party with minority membership forms the opposition.



## Long Answer Type Questions

**Q 1. What are the characteristics of democracy?**

**Ans.** The main characteristics of democracy are:

- (i) Elections are held to elect the representatives. All adult citizens have the rights to take part in the elections.
- (ii) In democracy, the representatives elected by the people make laws and frame policies of the government.
- (iii) One more characteristic of democracy is that it grants top civil liberties to the citizens as they enjoy freedom of speech, expression and information.
- (iv) It ensures the rule of law. Law is supreme and all the citizens are equal in the eyes of law.
- (v) Independence of Judiciary is an essential characteristic of democracy. Judiciary must be free from any control of the executive or the legislature.
- (vi) Democracy is also characterised by the presence of organised opposition parties.
- (vii) In democracy, people enjoy freedom to adopt any religion and practice it.

## Knowledge BOOSTER



Every citizen who is of 18 years and more can vote in India.

**Q 2. 'Democratic system is better than any other form of governments.' Support the statement with examples.** (CBSE 2020)

OR

**"Democracy is a better form of government than any other form of government." Justify the statement.** (CBSE 2019)

OR

**How are the democratic governments better than the other form of governments? Compare.** (CBSE 2016)

OR

**'Democracy is better than any other alternative government'. Justify the statement.** (CBSE 2022 Term-2)

**Ans.** Democracy is a better form of government when compared with other form of government because of the following reasons:

- (i) Democracy promotes equality among citizens. Every citizen of the country has equal rights before the law, and all individuals have equal weight in electing the representatives.
- (ii) Democracy enhances the dignity of the individual by giving its citizens equal rights. Democracy gives equal treatment and respect to women as well as deprived and discriminated castes.
- (iii) Democracy improves the quality of decision-making, as there is open debate in major issues in democracy.
- (iv) Democracy provides a method to resolve conflicts and reduces the possibility of social tension that leads to a peaceful social life and helps to correct mistakes.
- (v) A democratic government is a legitimate government. Democracy gets the popular support of the people by holding regular, free and fair elections.



## TIP

Mention only the advantages of a democratic government and not its disadvantages.

**Q 3. Describe the importance of democratic government as an accountable and legitimate government.**

(CBSE 2019)

OR

**'Democracy is accountable, responsive and legitimate government'. Justify the statement.**

(CBSE 2022 Term-2, CBSE 2023)

**Ans.** Democratic government is an accountable, responsive and legitimate government in the following ways:

- (i) Democracy produces a government that is accountable to citizens. It responds to the needs and expectations of citizens.
- (ii) Democracy ensures that decision-making will be based on norms and procedures for transparency making it accountable.
- (iii) In a democracy, all the laws are equally applicable to all the citizens whether they are rich or poor.
- (iv) There is a political equality in a democracy i.e. every vote count has an equal weightage.
- (v) It is the responsibility of the government to follow procedures before taking any decision. If the government has made wrong decision, then it has to accept that and rectify it immediately.
- (vi) As democratic government is elected by the people, it is people's own government. It promotes the formation of public opinion and takes care of the needs and expectations of the people.



**Q 4. "Democracy's ability to generate its own support is itself an outcome that cannot be ignored". Support the statement with example. (CBSE SQP 2022 Term-2)**

**Ans.** The given statement can be supported with the following examples

- (i) Democracy ensures that decision making will be based on norms and procedure.
- (ii) Every citizen has the right and means to examine the process of decision making which is called as transparency.
- (iii) Democratic governments are accountable, legitimate and transparent governments.
- (iv) People have the right to choose their rules.
- (v) Democracy gives its citizens the right to share information about the government and its functioning.
- (vi) Democracy is attentive to the needs and demands of the people and is largely free of corruption.
- (vii) A democratic government is the people's own government and it is run by the people.

**Q 5. 'Democracies do not appear to be very successful in reducing economic inequalities'. Justify the statement. (CBSE 2019)**

**Ans.** The given statement can be justified as follows:

- (i) The democracy doesn't guarantee economic development. In most of the democracies, a small number of ultra-rich enjoy a highly disproportionate share of wealth and income. For example, countries like South Africa and Brazil, 20% people take away more than 60% of the national income.
- (ii) Unfortunately, those who are at the bottom of the society have a very little share (less than 3%) to depend upon.
- (iii) Even in India, the elected government looks reluctant to take necessary steps for the upliftment of large sections of poor in our society.
- (iv) The situation is much worse in some other countries. In Bangladesh, more than half of its population lives in poverty.
- (v) People in several poor countries are now dependent on the rich countries even for food supplies.

Thus, it can be concluded that in actual life, democracies do not appear to be very successful in reducing economic inequalities.

**Q 6. How is social diversity accommodated in democracy? (CBSE 2017)**

**OR**

**What are the two conditions to accommodate social diversities in a democracy? Mention any one exception to this. (CBSE 2015)**

**OR**

**What are the conditions under which democracies accommodate social diversities? (NCERT)**

**Ans.** The conditions under which democracies accommodate social diversities are as follows:

- (i) Mostly every country in the world has social diversities in terms of caste, religion, culture, race, language, etc. Democracy must fulfil these conditions in order to achieve the outcome.
- (ii) It is also necessary that the rule of majority does not become rule by the majority community in terms of religion or race or linguistic group.
- (iii) It is necessary to understand that democracy is not simply ruled by majority opinion. The majority always needs to work with the minority so that the government functions to represent the general view.
- (iv) People from weaker sections of society are given the right to vote and contest elections.
- (v) In some countries like India, seats are reserved for the members of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in Parliament and State Legislatures.
- (vi) Seats have also been reserved for women in Local Government institutions.

**Q 7. 'There is an overwhelming support for the idea of democracy in South Asia.' Support the statement with examples. (CBSE SQP 2022 Term-2)**

**Ans.** The given statement can be supported with the following examples:

- (i) A democratic government may be slow, less efficient and not always responsive but it is people's own government.
- (ii) Countries from South Asia want democratic rights for people.
- (iii) Countries want to elect their representatives by themselves.
- (iv) Democracy provides dignity and freedom to its citizens, so, it stands much superior to any other form of government.
- (v) Democracy accommodates social diversity and thus, develops a procedure that reduces the possibility of social tensions becoming explosive or violent.
- (vi) Democracy is based on the idea of discussion and negotiation.



**TiP**

*Economic inequalities between rich and poor should be discussed in the answer.*



Q 8. 'Democracies lead to peaceful and harmonious life among citizens.' Support the statement with examples. (CBSE 2020)

OR

**'Democracies lead to peaceful and harmonious life among citizens.' Justify this statement.** (CBSE 2018)

**Ans.** Democracy leads to a peaceful and harmonious life among citizens as it gives to them a sound political system based on social equality. We can prove the statement by citing the following facts:

- (i) Democracy provides a conducive political environment to citizens for their popular participation in politics.
- (ii) Every citizen has the right to vote and right to contest election. This ensures peaceful relations amongst them.
- (iii) Democracy stands for equal economic status to all citizens.
- (iv) In democracy, government undertakes extensive social welfare schemes and achieve universal literacy rate.
- (v) In the social sphere, democracy tries to help its citizens by accommodating various social divisions and providing social equality to its citizens.
- (vi) Democratic governments try to resolve differences, respect differences and try mechanisms which can negotiate differences.

Q 9. **On the basis of which values will it be a fair expectation that democracy should produce a harmonious social life? Explain.** (CBSE 2017)

**Ans.** The fair expectation that democracy should produce a harmonious social life is based on the following values:

- (i) A democratic country looks into the needs and aspirations of every section of society and is able to handle social conflicts, divisions and differences.
- (ii) The Government of Belgium was able to negotiate differences between two linguistic communities after framing policies which accommodated the major ethnic communities in the country.
- (iii) The rule of the majority should not be taken only in the religious or in the linguistic sense.
- (iv) A democratic country is based on the social accommodation and respecting each other's cultures and freedom.
- (v) Democracy accommodates the demands of minority communities that reduces the possibility of problems to become violent. The majority should cooperate with the minority in works in a democratic country.

Q 10. 'Democracy stands much superior in promoting dignity and freedom of the citizens.' Justify the statement. (CBSE 2016)

OR

**'Democracy stands much superior to any other form of government in promoting dignity and freedom of the individual.' Justify this statement.**

(CBSE 2018, CBSE 2023)

OR

**'Democracy promotes dignity and freedom of citizens.' Explain.**

**Ans.** Democracy is considered to be the best form of government and most of the countries in the world have adopted it. There are the following merits of democratic form of government which makes it superior in promoting dignity and freedom of citizens:

- (i) Democracy is based on the principle of equality. All citizens are equal in the eyes of law.
- (ii) Democracy creates proper environment for the development of personality and cultivating good habits.
- (iii) Real power lies in the hands of the people who exercise it by electing the representatives who are responsible to them.
- (iv) Democratic administration is based on public will and public opinion. It is not based on fear of authority. It stands on consensus, not on power. It admits the existence of state for individual, not individual for the state.
- (v) Democracy in India has strengthened the claims of the disadvantaged and discriminated groups for equal status and equal opportunities.

Q 11. 'Respect and equal treatment of women are necessary ingredients of a democratic society'. Examine the statement.

OR

**'Dignity and equal treatment of women are necessary ingredients of a democratic society' Justify the statement.** (CBSE 2022 Term-2)

**Ans.** Respect and equal treatment of women are necessary ingredients of a democratic society in the following ways:

- (i) Economic independence or access to self-generated or on inherited income is considered to be the major means of empowering women.
- (ii) Women have equal political and civil rights as men.
- (iii) There are ways of autonomy and freedom.
- (iv) There is a policy of distributive justice to reduce inequalities in resources and power.



(v) Love, universal brotherhood, sincerity, honesty and integrity of character, firm attitude of rendering help are the important constituents.

(vi) This helps to remove various social evils including violence, torture, humiliation etc.

**Q 12. 'Democracy in India has strengthened the claim for equal status and equal opportunities.' Justify the statement.** (CBSE 2022 Term-2)

**Ans.** The given statement can be justified by the following points:

(i) Democracy is based on the principle of political equality. It recognises that the poorest and the least educated have the same status as the rich and the educated.

(ii) The long struggles by women have created some sensitivity that respect and equal treatment of women are necessary ingredients of a democratic society.

(iii) Democracy allows for methods to deal with differences and conflicts.

(iv) Freedom rights allow one to develop to their fullest potential and be responsible for their own actions.

(v) Democracy eliminates the potential of any violent fallout in case the citizens are disaffected by the ruling government.



## Chapter Test

### Multiple Choice Questions

**Q 1. Which type of government take such decisions that are likely to be more acceptable to the people and more effective?**

- a. Democratic government
- b. Non-democratic government
- c. Military dictatorship
- d. Theocracy

**Q 2. Why is there a delay in decision-making and implementation in a democracy?**

- a. The government don't want to take decisions
- b. The government is hesitant in taking decisions
- c. Democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation
- d. A democratic government is not interested in taking quick decisions

**Q 3. In a democracy, a citizen who wants to know if a decision was taken through the correct procedures can find this out this is the hallmark of:**

- a. transparency
- b. lack of transparency
- c. opacity
- d. ambiguity

**Q 4. Which of the following features is not associated with a democratic government?**

- a. Democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation
- b. There is transparency in decision-making.
- c. Decisions are taken quickly and are often forced upon people
- d. None of the above

**Q 5. Read the information given below and answer the question that follow by choosing the correct option:**

No society can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups. But we can certainly learn to respect these differences and we can also evolve mechanisms to negotiate the differences. Democracy is best suited to produce this outcome. Non-democratic regimes often turn a blind eye to or suppress internal social differences.

**What does this information reflect?**

- a. Reduction of inequality and poverty
- b. Dignity and freedom of disadvantaged groups
- c. Accommodation of social diversity
- d. Economic growth and development.

### Assertion and Reason Type Questions

**Directions (Q. Nos. 6-7):** In the following questions given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

- a. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- b. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- c. Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
- d. Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

**Q 6. Assertion (A): Democracies had greater success in setting up regular and free elections and in setting up conditions for open public debate.**

**Reason (R): Democratic governments have a very good record when it comes to sharing information with citizens.**



**Q 7. Assertion (A):** Bangladesh is a country where more than half of its population lives in luxury.

**Reason (R):** Sometimes the poor find it difficult to meet their basic needs of life, such as food, clothing, house, education and health.

### **Source Based Question**

**Q 8.** Read the sources given below and answer the questions that follow:

#### **Source A:**

In a democracy, we are most concerned with ensuring that people will have the right to choose their rulers and people will have control over the rulers. Whenever possible and necessary, citizens should be able to participate in decision-making that affects them all. Therefore, the most basic outcome of democracy should be that it produces a government that is accountable to the citizens, and responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens.

#### **Source B: Economic Growth and Development**

The difference in the rates of economic development between less developed countries with dictatorships and democracies is negligible. Overall, we cannot say that democracy is a guarantee of economic development. But we can expect democracy not to lag behind dictatorships in this respect.

#### **Source C: Dignity and Freedom of the Citizens**

Democracy in India has strengthened the claims of the disadvantaged and discriminated castes for equal status and equal opportunity. There are instances still of caste-based inequalities and atrocities, but these lack the moral and legal foundations. Perhaps it is the recognition that makes ordinary citizens value their democratic rights.

**Source A:** Accountable, Responsive and Legitimate Government

(i) How does democratic government develop mechanism for citizens to be the part of political decision-making?

**Source B:** Economic Growth and Development

(ii) To what extent we can say democracy work for economic development? Elucidate your answer in two points.

**Source C:** Dignity and Freedom of the Citizens

(iii) To what extent democracy promote dignity and freedom of individual? Elucidate with an example.

### **Very Short Answer Type Questions**

**Q 9.** Mention any two common features of Democratic politics.

**Q 10.** How is democracy based on political equality in India?

**Q 11.** Why is there an overwhelming support to democracy all over the world. Explain one reason.

### **Short Answer Type Questions**

**Q 12.** What are the two conditions to accommodate social diversities in a democracy? Mention any one exception to this.

**Q 13.** 'Democratic governments in practice are known as accountable.' Support the statement with arguments.

**Q 14.** 'Democracy accommodates social diversities'. Support the statement with examples.

**Q 15.** 'Complaints are treated as testimony to the success of democracy.' Support the statement with examples.

### **Long Answer Type Questions**

**Q 16.** Describe any five factors that make democracy a better form of government than other alternatives.

**Q 17.** 'Democracy stands much superior in promoting dignity and freedom of the citizens'. Justify the statement.