

Challenges to Democracy

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (3 MARKS)

Additional Questions

Q.1. How can the principles of democracy be applied to all spheres of life ?

Ans. The principles of democracy can be applied in such a way like :

- (i) A democratic decision involves consultation with and the consent of all those who are affected by the decision.
 - (ii) Every individual irrespective of his wealth, status and power has the same right in decision-making. This can equally apply to a government, a family or any other organisation.
- Thus, principles of democracy can be applied to any sphere of life.

Q.2. Is the idea of democracy shrinking ?

Ans. No, the idea of democracy is not shrinking. Democracy is the dominant form of government in the contemporary world. We traced the expansion of democracy all over the world in the last hundred years.

- Presently, democracy does not face a serious challenger or rival. But this does not mean that democracy does not face any challenges. Many political thinkers and observers believe that without social and economic prerequisites, political conditions of democracy cannot be achieved. So it is very essential for society to have a minimum level of social and economic development. For instance,
- The framers of the Indian Constitution were fully committed to this view and made provisions for the universal adult franchise.

Q.3. Discuss briefly foundational challenge of making transition to democracy.

Ans. The foundational challenge is meant for non-democratic countries of the world. At least one fourth of the globe is still not under democratic government. Hence, the challenge for democracy in these parts of the world is very stark.

- (i) These non-democratic countries face the foundational challenge of making the transition to democracy and then instituting a democratic government.
- (ii) This challenge involves :
 - bringing down the existing non-democratic regime.
 - keeping military away from controlling government and
 - establishing a sovereign and functional state.

Q.4. "Challenge of expansion is very common which an established democracy faces." Comment.

Ans. Most of the established democracies face the challenge of expansion because it involves applying the basic principle of democracy or democratic government across all the regions, different social groups and various institutions.

- (i) Challenge of expansion includes some other aspects like :
 - Ensuring greater power to local governments.
 - Extension of federal principle to all the units of the federation.
 - Inclusion of women and minority groups.

Q.5. Write a note on the challenge of "deepening democracy".

Ans. The challenge of deepening of democracy is faced by every democracy in one form or another. This challenge involves strengthening of the institutions and practice of democracy.

- (i) In general terms, challenge of deepening of democracy means strengthening those institutions that help people's participation and control.
- (ii) All these aspects require an attempt to bring down the control and influence of the rich and powerful people in making government decisions.

Q.6. Write a note on the expanded definition of Democracy.

Ans. Commonly democracy is a form of government in which rulers are elected by the people. But after observing cases and challenges, thinkers have expanded the definition slightly to add some more qualifications :

- The rulers elected by the people must take all the major decisions :
- Elections must offer a choice and fair opportunities to the people to change the current rulers :
- This choice and opportunity should be available to all the people on an equal basis and
- The exercise of this choice must lead to a government limited by basic rules of the Constitution and citizens' right.

(Any three)

Q.7. Discuss the expanded scope of democracy in the modern world.

Ans. In the modern society, democracy is not limited to its very common definition but its area or scope has been widened under the influence of global concepts and some socio-economic changes.

- (i) Democratic rights are not limited to the right to vote, to stand in elections and form political organisation. A Democracy should grant some social and economic rights to its citizens.
- (ii) The very spirit of power sharing in democracy is extended to the "power sharing between governments and social groups.
- (iii) Modern democracy cannot value only the voice of majority but it respects the voice of minority as well.
- (iv) Now, the democracy has extended its scope from government and its activities to eliminating discrimination based on caste, religion and gender. (Any three)

Q.8. Why is a democracy considered the best form of government ?

Ans. Democracy is considered as the best form of government on the basis of its merits and advantageous nature over any other form of government like :

- (i) Democracy Produces Accountable Government : A democratic government is a better government because it is a more accountable and responsible form of government. It responds to the needs of the people in a better way than any other form of government.
- (ii) Based on Consultation and Discussion : Another reason why democracy is a better government is that it is based on "consultation and discussion". This reduces the chances of rash or irresponsible decisions,
- (iii) Accommodates Social Diversities : Democracy also accommodates social diversities. It provides a method to deal with differences and conflicts. In democracy, no one is a permanent winner and no one is a permanent loser. Different groups can live with one another peacefully. In a diverse country like India, democracy keeps our country together.
- (iv) Ensures Dignity of Individual : As democracy is based on the principle of political equality, so it enhances the dignity of citizens. Here people are not subjects of a ruler, they are the rulers themselves.
- Finally, democracy is better than other forms of government because it allow us to correct our own mistakes. There is a space for public discussion on any type of mistakes and there is arow for corruption as well. Conclusion : To conclude we can safely say that though democracy cannot get up every thing and is not a solution to all problems. But yet it is clearly better than any other alternative and is considered the best form of government,