

1.4 pillars of democracy

Ice Breakers

- (i) Discuss with your partner and choose the correct alternative.

1. 'Government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth'. This famous statement was made by-

Ans. Abraham Lincoln.

2. A system where the government is elected and ruled by people is called

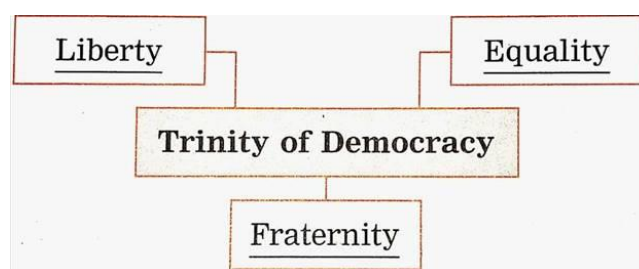
Ans. Democracy.

3. A democratic country is governed by its

Ans. Constitution.

- (i) The trinity of democracy comprises three principles. Complete the web to show the trinity of democracy.

Ans.



- (ii) Match the following. (Answers are given directly).

Ans.

| A | B (answer) |
|------------------|--|
| (1) Constitution | - It is an aggregate of fundamental principles or established precedents that constitute the legal basis of a polity, organization or other type of entity and commonly determine how that entity is to be governed. |
| (2) Liberty | - It is the freedom to go where you want, do what you want, etc. |
| (3) Equality | - It is the state of being equal, especially in status, rights or opportunities. |
| (4) Fraternity | - It is the sense of common brotherhood. |

- (iii) Pillars form a support for concrete buildings. Metaphorically speaking a strong nation, too, depends on strong pillars. Discuss with your partner and

explain the pillars of a democratic nation. Make a list of obstacles that are a threat to the progress of a nation.

Ans. [Points: (i) pillars: free and fair elections, freedom of expression, liberty, equality, fraternity, accountability, strong values, transparency, education for all, health for all, etc.

(ii) threats: apathy of the voters, corruption, lack of accountability, lack of transparency, religion/caste based politics, censorship on free speech, etc.]

BRAINSTORMING

(A1) (i) Form groups and use the following topics for discussion. Take the help of your college library and your teacher.

Need for democracy

Ans. (Points: self-government, of the people, by the people, for the people, citizens also rulers, liberty, equality and fraternity, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, language, plenty of rights, etc.)

Features of the Constitution of India.

Ans. (Points: parliamentary system of government, list of fundamental rights and duties of citizens, independent judiciary, secularism, Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha, special provision for minorities, freedom of speech, liberty, equality, fraternity, etc.)

Freedom of speech

Ans. (Points: fundamental right of human freedom to express one's views, essential for humans, necessary for growth and progress, for diversity of thought, for research, necessary to keep government in check, absent in dictatorship, etc.)

Dictatorship Vs Democracy

Ans. (Points: (1) dictatorship - single individual possesses absolute power, no freedom to citizens, no rights, complete obedience, no opposition, people lose initiative, become disinterested, fear, insecurity.

(2) democracy - self government, of the people, by the people, for the people, citizens also rulers, liberty, equality and fraternity, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, language, plenty of rights, etc.)

Qualities of an ideal politician

Ans. (Points: honesty, commitment, interest in progress, good values, empathy

for others, decision-making capabilities, efficient, conscientious, hard-working, sincere, etc.)

Equality before law

Ans. (Points: one man one value, all equal irrespective of caste, creed, gender, race, religion, etc., pillar of democracy, leads to solidarity and fraternity, humane values, fundamental right, etc.)

(ii) State whether the following statements are true or false. Correct the false statements.

(a) There is nothing wrong in being grateful to great men.

Ans. True

(b) Hero-worship leads to dictatorship.

Ans. False

Explanation - Hero-worship in 'politics' leads to dictatorship

(c) Liberty cannot be divorced from equality.

Ans. True

(d) One man one vote and one vote one value.

Ans. True

(e) Fraternity means common sense.

Ans. False

Explanation - fraternity means a sense of common brotherhood.

(iii) In his speech, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar has expressed his deep concern over the absence of two things in the then Indian society. Discuss with your partner and complete the web.

Absence of two things in the then Indian society

Ans. 1. Social and economical equality

2. Recognition of the principle of fraternity

(A2) (i) Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar has cited the quotes by John Stuart Mill and Daniel O'Connell. Go through the lesson and write down 4 to 5 lines for each of them.

Ans. (1) John Stuart Mill has given sound advice to all those who are interested in the maintenance of democracy. He says that we must never sacrifice our liberties at the feet of any man, howsoever great he may be. Neither should we trust him

by giving him powers which may enable him to overthrow or destroy institutions.

(2) Daniel O'Connell has said that while there is nothing wrong in being grateful, no man should be grateful if it compromises his honour. Similarly, no woman should be grateful and sacrifice her purity, and no nation should be grateful at the cost of its liberty.

(ii) Discuss with your partner and make a list of steps that you feel are essential to unite the people of different castes, race, religions and languages in India.

Ans. (1) Make value-based, quality school education available to everyone in every corner of the country at very nominal cost. Make this compulsory.

(2) Delete the word 'caste' and 'religion' from all application forms.

(3) Have groups in every neighbourhood that will maintain peace and encourage harmony.

(4) Have more articles, stories, serials, etc. on TV and other media that unite different castes.

(5) Punish those who make distinctions based on caste, religion, etc.

(6) Let merit be the criteria for all jobs and educational opportunities.

(iii) Write your views/opinions in brief on the following topics.

(a) We must always cast our vote.

Ans. In a democratic country like ours, voting is not only a right but it is also a responsibility. Our government is built on the votes of the people. If we do not like the way the government functions, we can change it through our votes. The process of voting gives every citizen a say in the way his/her country is run. Therefore, he must always cast his vote. Every individual may feel that his single vote does not matter. It certainly does, for if everyone thinks like he does, lakhs of people will not vote, and the edifice of democracy will crumble.

(b) Liberty, equality and fraternity lead to an ideal nation.

Ans. A nation is a large body of people united by common descent, history, culture, or language, inhabiting a particular country or territory. The main word here is 'united'. If we are to call ourselves an ideal nation, there should be complete unity among the citizens. Liberty represents freedom, a word that stands for being able to make one's own decisions freely and having the opportunity to be able to express one's own beliefs without fear. Equality means being equal in law, and with the same rules, status, rights, respect, opportunities

and privileges applied to all. Fraternity is a sense of common brotherhood, which makes people feel that they are one. If all these principles are followed, it will lead to unity and solidarity, It will bind people together; this in turn will lead to people helping each other and being empathetic to each other's problems. This ultimately leads to social stability and to an ideal nation.

(c) Steps to be taken to eradicate inequality

Ans. Economic inequality can be eradicated by increasing minimum wages, making education a state responsibility and free to all, creating opportunities for employment, taking strict measures to prevent tax evasion, etc. Social inequality can be eradicated by education, merit-based opportunities in employment and education, transparency in all dealings by the government, etc.

(d) Role of youth in creating social awareness

Ans. The youth of today are the citizens of tomorrow. They have energy and enthusiasm. History shows them the mistakes made by their elders. They can work upon these mistakes and create social awareness as well as awareness of the need for solidarity, unity and a feeling of empathy. They can be an active part of society, the government, religious associations, etc. and steer them in the right direction. They can object to distinctions based on caste and creed. With access to information via the internet, they can inculcate the good values of other nations, like a sense of punctuality, cleanliness, etc.

(A3) (i) Let's use the Thesaurus.

Along with your partner, go to library or search the internet for a standard Thesaurus to complete the following table. One is done for you.

Ans.

| Sr.No. | Word | Type | Synonyms |
|--------|------------|-----------|--|
| 1 | Observe | Verb | Notice, discern, detect, mark |
| 2 | Abandoned | Adjective | Forsaken, rejected, forgotten, ignored |
| 3 | Grateful | Adjective | Thankful, obliged, indebted |
| 4 | Initiative | Noun | Action, drive, dynamism |
| 5 | Peril | Noun | Danger, risk, menace, threat |
| 6 | Separation | Noun | Segregation, division, split |

(table continue here)

| Antonyms |
|---------------------------------------|
| Ignore, overlook |
| Saved, accepted, recovered |
| Ungrateful, thankless, unappreciative |

| |
|------------------------------------|
| Apathy, inactivity, lethargy |
| Safety, security, certainty |
| Association, togetherness, oneness |

(ii) **Homograph:** Homograph is a word spelt and pronounced like another word but with a different meaning.

Go through the text again and make a list of meanings of all the homographs that are found in the text. Also make a list of such words that you know, have heard or read somewhere.

Ans. (1) fast: (a) to hold firmly

(b) to abstain from food

(c) opposite of slow.

(2) way: (a) a method or manner of doing something

(b) a path or route

(c) a specified direction

(3) social: (a) relating to society

(b) a party

(c) needing companionship

(4) live: (a) remain alive

(b) reside

(c) be remembered

(5) principle: (a) a fundamental truth or idea

(b) morality or ethics

(A4) (i) Go through the statement taken from the text - 'The social democracy means a way of life which recognises liberty, equality and fraternity',
The underlined part of the statement provides us some fact/information about social democracy. The remaining part or the sentence which is not underlined can be converted into a wh-question.

What does social democracy mean?

Now go through the underlined part of the statements/sentences given below and change them into questions by using the appropriate Wh-forms.

(a) In Politics we will be recognizing the principle of 'one man one vote' and 'one vote one value'.

Ans. Which principle will we be recognizing in politics?

(b) The politically minded Indians preferred the expression 'the Indian nation'.

Ans. Which expression did the politically minded Indians prefer?

(c) Fraternity means a sense of common brotherhood of all Indians.

Ans. What does fraternity mean?

(A5) How to prepare a speech.

With the help of the steps given above, write speeches on the following topics.

(1) Duties of an ideal citizen:

Ans. Duties of an ideal citizen

Respected Principal, teachers and my dear friends,

Let me begin by wishing you all a very good morning. Today is Independence Day, that unforgettable day when we got our freedom from the British. On this momentous day I, XYZ, would like to share my views with you on the topic 'Duties of an ideal citizen'.

An ideal citizen not only has rights but responsibilities too. We are a democratic nation, and one of the first duties of a citizen is to cast his/her vote during elections. An ideal citizen also obeys the laws and pays taxes. He respects himself, he respects others and he also respects the environment. He contributes to society and community, not only economically but also socially. He is honest and compassionate. He helps his country to become a better place.

An ideal citizen understands the three pillars of democracy, namely liberty, equality and fraternity, and makes every attempt to strengthen them. I shall always strive to be an ideal citizen, and hope that others will, too. I end by saying a big "Thank you" to all of you for your patience in listening to me and to the organizers for their hard work in making this programme a success. Jai Hind.

(2) Equality - A Blessing :

Ans. Equality: A Blessing

Respected Principal, teachers and my dear friends,

The topic of my short speech today is 'Equality: A Blessing'. I, ABC, will begin with a couple of straight **questions** : How many of us think that all human beings are equal? How many of us treat everyone in the same manner? The reply: very few, I'm sorry to say.

One of the pillars of democracy is equality. What exactly do we mean by the word 'equality'? Equality means ensuring that individuals or groups of individuals are not treated differently or in a biased manner, on the basis of their caste, creed, race, gender, religion, etc. This is not a very easy thing to do, in a country like India which has thousands of different castes, and a variety of

religions. In politics we have equality, and we recognize the principle of 'one man one vote one value', but in our social and economic life we still have inequality. This will put our democracy in peril. We must remove this inequality as soon as possible. Only then will our nation progress, for equality is indeed a blessing, which will unite our country and make it a great nation.

I conclude this brief speech by thanking our school cultural team for organizing this competition and to my audience for their patient listening.

(3) Merits of democracy:

Ans. Merits of democracy

Honourable Principal, Respected Professors and my dear friends,

I begin my speech by saying that I am able to stand here on this dais today and discuss the merits of democracy only because I, XYZ, live in a democratic nation, where freedom of speech is promised to all. Many other forms of government would have censored my speech.

Good morning. Let me start by repeating something we all know: Democracy is government of the people, by the people, and for the people. It is self-government, where people are satisfied and contented as they are directly or indirectly associated with the affairs of the country. They are not only the citizens but also the rulers. This makes the citizen interested in his country and gives him a deep sense of responsibility.

However powerful the ruling party is, it cannot become tyrannical as the opposition parties keep a check on all the decisions. The government has always to explain its policies and decisions. This strengthens the feeling of patriotism and the feeling of being a part of the process.

In a democracy, every individual is at liberty to follow the religion of his choice and speak the language of his choice. He can study where he wants to, and work where he wants to. He can dress as he pleases and go where he pleases. He has liberty, equality and fraternity. What more can one wish for?

And finally, thank you one and all for giving me the freedom and opportunity to present my views. Jai Hind.

(4) Freedom of Speech :

Ans. Freedom of Speech

Dear friends,

I have been asked to say a few words on a topic which is very close to my heart. Yes, today, I, XYZ, will say a few words about 'freedom of speech'.

When does a bird understand the value of freedom? Only when it is caged. Similarly, we will understand the true value of freedom of speech only when we have to watch our words every time we speak; that is, when our speech is censored and curbed. We are living in a democracy which guarantees liberty; hence we do not realize the value of free speech; we do not appreciate the freedom we have to criticize our government, our leaders, etc.

If we look at some other nations today, or we go through the history of the world, we will know that all countries are not as lucky as we are. They cannot speak their minds; their media cannot report everything that goes on in their nation. Everything is censored.

The freedom to say what we want is one of our fundamental rights, and we must fight tooth and nail if we feel at any time that this right is in jeopardy. In the three pillars of democracy, freedom of speech occupies an important place in the liberty that we have, and which I hope we will always have.

And finally, I cannot exit from this dais without saying a big 'Thank you' to all of you my friends, for letting me use my right to freedom of speech. At the same time, I also thank the 'Debating and Elocution Society' of our school for taking the trouble to organize this programme. Thank you.

(5) Advantages of education :

Ans. Advantages of education

Dear friends,

People may say that there are advantages and disadvantages to everything. But in the case of education, I can only think of the merits; I cannot think of even a single demerit worth its name. Through my short speech today, I, XYZ, will tell you in brief of the advantages of education.

One of the most important benefits of education is that it improves personal lives. An educated person can take his own decisions after weighing the pros and cons of issues. He is not likely to get cheated easily, and even if he is, he has enough knowledge to get justice. He knows how to invest his money; he knows how to behave in society; he knows how to behave in different cultures and countries. Education also helps him to fight with failure and accept success gracefully. It teaches him to learn from the experiences and mistakes of others.

Education is the only single thing that can remove corruption, unemployment, and environmental problems. However, education does not mean only bookish knowledge; it also means the development of strong values. Skills without values will lead to the downfall of society. Many economists agree that education is directly correlated with economic growth and stability. Countries thrive when their educational systems thrive. And finally, to quote Nelson Mandela: 'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.'

Thank you, friends for listening to me with so much of patience. A big thanks to our Literary Club too for making this programme possible. Thank you.

(6) Unity in diversity

Ans. Unity in diversity

Honourable judges, Respected teachers and friends,

The phrase 'Unity in diversity' has often been used, but what exactly does it mean? Why is it used with such pride, especially where our country is concerned? Let me, ABC, try to explain.

India is an excellent example of 'unity in diversity'. Now, we all know what is unity, but what is diversity? Diversity basically means differences. We have so many languages, religions, sects, beliefs, customs and rituals in India. Yet, there is unity when we call ourselves 'Indians', following the rule of law as per the parameters laid by the Constitution of India. There is the existence of oneness even after these various differences. Of course, minor setbacks and quarrels will always be there which family doesn't quarrel? But when there is a disaster, don't we all come together and lend a hand? Don't we all pitch in and contribute? When there is trouble from other countries, don't we all become one?

Generally, we learn to enjoy each others' food habits, cultures, festivals, etc. We accept our differences and live together in harmony. We don't allow our differences to divide us, but we stay united. That is the meaning of unity in diversity, and I hope all Indians will understand and respect this. Thank you one and all for lending me your ear. Good day.

(A6) There are many career opportunities that a graduate can avail himself/herself of. Discuss and make a list of various opportunities available in the legal field, economics, management, commerce, administration etc.

Ans. (Student Do it your own)

(A7) Project:

Visit your college library or search the internet to find at least five speeches of different renowned personalities of the world. Write the speeches in your notebook and submit them to your teacher.

Ans. (Student Do it your own)