

OUTCOME OF DEMOCRACY

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (3 MARKS)

Previous Years' Questions

Q.1. How does democracy stand much superior to any other form of government in promoting dignity and freedom of the individual ? Explain with suitable examples. [AI2008]

Ans. Democracy is not a mere form of government. It is a form of society as well as a social order. It is always preferable and superior to any other form of government because :

- It enhances dignity of the individual by giving every person equal treatment.
 - It involves every citizen in the decision making process. Every citizen has the right to vote and choose his representatives in the government.
 - Democracy provides an effective and acceptable method to resolve conflicts and allows room to correct mistakes.
- All these justify that democratic government is people's own government.

NCERT Questions

Q.2. How does democracy produce an accountable, responsive and legitimate government ?

Ans. One of the basic outcome of democracy is that it produces a government that is accountable, representative, responsible and legitimate to the needs and expectations of the citizens.

- (i) Democracy produces an Accountable and Representative Government : In a democracy people have the right to choose their rulers and people will have control over the rulers, i.e., the representative government.
- Whenever possible and necessary, a citizen should be able to participate in decision making that affects all. Citizens have the right and the means to examine the process of decision making. This signifies that democracy produces an accountable government.
- (ii) Democracy produces Responsible and Legitimate Government : At the same time democracy is a responsible government and is responsible to the people of the country. • It promotes the formation of public opinion and cares about the opinions, needs and expectations of the citizens,
- (iii) Democracy ensures legitimate : Democracy is a legitimate government.
- It is a government of the people. After every five years the representatives of the people are elected by secret ballot.
 - The majority party or groups of political parties form the government.
 - Thus, whenever possible and necessary, citizens should be able to participate in decision making on issues that affect them all.

Q.3. Identify the challenges to democracy in the following descriptions. Also suggest policy/institutional mechanism to deepen democracy in the given situations :

- (i) Following a High Court directive a temple in Orissa that had separate entry doors for dalits and non-dalits allowed entry for all from the same door.
- (ii) A large number of farmers are committing suicide in different states of India.
- (iii) Following allegations of killing of three civilians in Gandwara in a fake encounter by Jammu and Kashmir police, an enquiry has been ordered.

Ans. (i) In the first description the challenge social inequality and untouchability is involved.

In order to check this challenge governments at every level are advised to ban any form of untouchability and must promote social equality.

- (ii) In the second description challenge of poverty is being identified due to crop failure.
As the measure, a policy on crop insurance should be launched for any type of crop uncertainty and institutions of cooperatives must be set up to provide loan to the farmers in case of any emergency.
- (iii) The third description indicates the challenge of corruption and criminalisation.
To check this challenge special police force should be arranged for the security of the people and to restore peace in Jammu and Kashmir.

Q.4. Studies on political and social inequalities in democracy show that

- (i) **democracy and development go together.**
- (ii) **inequalities exist in democracies.**
- (iii) **inequalities do not exist under dictatorship.**
- (iv) **dictatorship is better than democracy.**

- Ans.** (i) Democracy and Development go together : This statement is very much appropriate because without development political and social inequalities cannot be eliminated.
- (ii) Inequality exists in democracy : It is very true that inequality exists in democracy and cannot be removed permanently. At the most we can minimise the degree of inequality by progressive and proper planning. Even in a developed country like USA there is inequality exists.
- (iii) The statement Inequalities do not exist under dictatorship is not correct because Inequalities do exist in dictatorship in a very high degree as dictators donot care for any welfare policies and hardly implement any law to check the problem of inequalities.
- (iv) The statement dictatorship is better than democracy is far from the truth and practicality because democracy insures liberty, equality and fraternity whereas, dictatorship restrains the concepts of liberty, equality and fraternity.
- (Any three)

Additional Questions

Q.5. Examine the forms of economic inequality in democracy.

- Ans.** Regarding economic inequality in a democracy we find growing economic inequalities in some or other forms :
- (i) In a democracy a small number of ultra-rich enjoy a highly disproportionate share of wealth and incomes.
 - (ii) On the other hand those at the bottom of the society have very little to depend upon. Their incomes have been declining.
- Thus, we can say that something yet to be done to reduce economic inequality in a democracy.

Q.6. What do you mean by civil liberties ?

- Ans.** The term civil liberties denotes freedoms or rights which are thought to be especially valuable in themselves and vital to the functioning of a liberal and democratic society.
- The document of Civil Liberties comprises various basic freedoms and privileges like :
- (i) Freedom of speech and expression.
 - (ii) Freedom of religion and thought.
 - (iii) Freedom to form association and freedom to movement.
 - (iv) Legal liberty or freedom to a fair trial.

Q.7. List out the merits and demerits of democracy.

Ans. In today's world democracy is a successful form of government.

Merits of Democracy

- (i) Democracy assures Equality in every sphere of life like political, social and economic.
- (ii) It upholds basic individual liberties like freedom of speech, expression, thought, etc.
- (iii) Due or willing obedience of laws.

Demerits of Democracy

- (i) Democracy gives more importance to quantity rather than quality.
- (ii) It is not a stable or fixed form of government, there is always uncertainty regarding its functions.
- (iii) Sometimes, democracy is viewed as the government rule by ignorance. Political analysis's have condemned democracy as a perverted form of government.

Q.8. How can we measure democracy on the basis of its expected outcome ?

Ans. In order to measure a democracy on the basis of its expected outcome we have to observe the following practices and institutions like :

- (i) Regular free and fair elections.
- (ii) Open public debate on major policies and legislation.
- (iii) Citizens right to information about the government and its functioning.
- (iv) The actual performance of democracies has had greater success in setting up regular and free elections in setting up conditions for open public debate.
- (v) But most democracies fall short of elections that provide a fair chance to everyone and in subjecting every decision to public debate. (Any three)

Q.9. In what ways a democratic government is better than its alternatives ?

Ans. There are some ways in which a democratic government is certainly better than its alternatives :

- (i) A democratic governments is a legitimate government. It may be slow, less efficient, not always very responsive. But a democratic government is people's own government.
 - (ii) As evidence from South Asia shows, the support exists in countries with democratic regimes as well as countries without democratic regimes.
 - (iii) People wish to be ruled by representatives elected by them. They also believe that democracy is suitable for their country.
- Hence, Democracy's ability to generate its own support is itself an outcome that cannot be ignored.

Q.10. Examine the political outcome of democracy.

Ans. Political Outcome of Democracy In a democracy, we are most concerned with ensuring that people will have the right to choose their rulers and have control over the rulers. Whenever possible and necessary citizens should be able to participate in decision making, that affects them all.

Therefore, the political outcome of democracy can be analysed in following ways :

- It produces accountable and representative government.
- if also produces responsible and legitimate government.
- Provides procedures and develops mechanism for decision making.
- Promotes free and fair election.

- Above all, it generates its own political support for itself

Q.11. Write a note on the economic outcome.

Ans. Economic Outcome of Democracy If democracies are expected to produce good governments, then is it not fair to expect that they would also produce development ? But evidences show that in practice many democracies did not fulfill this exception.

However the economic outcome includes or constitutes :

- (i) Economic development
- (ii) Reduction in economic disparities
- (iii) Economic inequalities
- (iv) Reduction in poverty

Refer to Ans-12, 13, 14, (1 Mark).

Conclusion :

On the basis of above economic outcome we can safely say that it is better to prefer democracy, as it has several other positive outcome.

Q.12. Discuss the social outcome of democracy.

Ans. Social Outcome of Democracy

Democracy produce a harmonious social life. This reduces the possibility of social tension becoming explosive or violent.

Therefore, social outcomes of democracy can be analysed as under :

- (i) Accommodation of social diversity,
- (ii) Dignity and freedom of the citizens,
- (iii) Dignity of women,
- (iv) Strengthened the claims of the disadvantage and discriminated castes.
- (v) A public expression of dissatisfaction with democracy is one of the most important outcomes of democracy.

Q.13. Explain the prerequisites of democracy.

Or

The ideals, principles and norms of democracy require certain conditions to be implemented. Explain the statement.

Ans. There are certain requirements or ideals, principles, norms of the society which every democratic government has to fulfill. And these principles and ideals require certain conditions to be implemented :

- (i) ideals of representation,
- (ii) equality of status and opportunities,
- (iii) liberty of faith, belief, and thought,
- (iv) fraternity i.e., brotherhood,
- (v) dignity of individual,
- (vi) justice to all.

These conditions are known as the prerequisites of democracy that are the essential elements in every sphere of life, like : social, economic, political.

- (i) Social Sphere : In the social sphere there should be social equality.
- (ii) Economic Sphere : Equal opportunities to all regarding employment, equal pay for equal work and equal protection against any form of economic exploitation must be guaranteed to every one in the society.

- (iii) Political Sphere : In political sphere of life a democratic form of government must provide : political equality, equal opportunities for participation in political affairs like right to vote, right to be elected in the legislature, etc. Besides, rule of law, guaranteed rights, free and fair election, right to information, right to participate in decision making process are some other conditions or privileges that must be given to the people in democratic societies.

Q.14. When was democracy introduced in India ? Examine its relevance ?

Or

Introduction of democracy in 1950 was a revolutionary step. Explain it briefly.

Ans. Democracy was introduced in India in 1950 with the enforcement of our Constitution.

- It was a very revolutionary step because in the post— British Era, India was suffering from poverty, economic disparity, agricultural backwardness, illiteracy, unemployment and above all, a very low economic growth rate.
- And the introduction of parliamentary democracy with universal adult franchise created a conducive environment for the masses and raised a new hope of prosperity.
- The first very successful attempt in this regard was the first general election of our country in 1952 based on universal adult franchise and fundamental rights. Hence, since 1950 after the introduction of democracy, our country has got a dignified nature of "Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic republic" with, "Brotherhood and Internationalism" as its goals.

Q.15. Discuss the factors that denote the successful working of democracy in India,

Ans. As democracy is the vital form of government for every society so it requires certain favorable conditions for its successful working in India, e.g.,

- (i) Aware and Vigilant Citizens,
 - (ii) Freedom of Press and Media,
 - (iii) Healthy Literacy Level,
 - (iv) High Morals,
- (i) Aware and Vigilant Citizens : Aware and vigilant citizens can exercise their Voting behaviour in a very meaningful way and contribute towards the success of democracy.
- (ii) Freedom of Press and Media : A free press and media keep the people in touch with governmental activities but also ventilates the grievances of the public.
- (iii) Healthy Literacy Level : As ignorance is one of the hurdles of our democracy so it is very much required that proper education should be imparted to the people. In this way literacy helps in the development of human resource of our country.
- (iv) High Morals: High moral people help in preventing corruption, dishonesty, negligence and ignorance. They help in the achievement of our democratic goals as well.