

## CHAPTER

# 4

# GENDER, RELIGION AND CASTE

## Syllabus

- *What has been the effect of caste on politics and of politics on caste?*
- *How has the gender division shaped politics?*
- *How do communal divisions affect democracy?*



## TOPIC-1 Gender and Politics

## Quick Review

- Gender division is a form of hierarchical social division which can be seen everywhere.
- Sexual division of labour means the work is divided amongst people according to their sex.
- Social division of the Indian society is clearly indicated by casteism, gender inequality and communal divisions.
- Earlier, only men were allowed to participate in public affairs, vote and contest for public offices. Gradually the gender issue was raised in politics.
- Women in different parts of the world organised and agitated for equal rights.
- These agitations demanded enhancing the political and legal status of women and improving their educational and career opportunities.
- A man or a woman who believes in equal rights and opportunities for men and women is called a feminist.
- Most of the women's movements aim at equality in personal and family life of women. These movements are called feminist movements.
- India is still a male dominated Patriarchal society.
- Women face disadvantage, discrimination and oppression in various ways: Women are less literate, though work equally but are sometime paid lesser than men; mostly son is preferred by parents, etc.
- In India, the proportion of women in legislature has been very low.
- To solve this problem a fair proportion of women in the elected bodies has been legally made in the Panchayati Raj in India.
- One-third of seats in local government bodies – in Panchayats and Municipalities – are now reserved for women.
- Gender division is an example that some form of social division needs to be expressed in politics.

**TOPIC - 1**  
Gender and Politics ... P. 242

**TOPIC - 2**  
Religion, Communalism and Politics ... P. 245

**TOPIC - 3**  
Caste and Politics ... P. 248

## Know the Terms

- **Gender Division** : It is a form of hierarchical social division based on social expectations and stereotypes.
- **Sex Ratio** : It is defined as number of females per 1000 male in a country in a given period of time.

- **Communal Politics** : The use of religion for political purpose where one religion is shown as superior to the other religions is called communal politics.
- **Sexual Division of Labour** : A system in which all work inside the home is either done by the women of the family, or organised by them through the domestic helpers.
- **Feminist** : A person who believes in equal rights and opportunities for all human beings.
- **Patriarchy** : A system where father is the head of the family.
- **Stereotype** : An image or idea of a particular type of person or thing that has become fixed through being widely held.
- **Feminism** : It is concerned with the empowerment of women and giving women equal status in the society as men.

## Know the Link

- <http://www.icrw.org/files/publications/India%20governance%20report%20synthesis%202013.pdf>



## Very Short Answer Type Questions

(1 mark each)

- [A] Q. 1. By what term is now the person known who believes in equal rights and opportunities for women? [Board Term-I, Set (XOKQ2SB) 2015]  
OR  
[A] Define a feminist.  
[Board Term-I, Set-E, DDE-2015]  
Ans. Feminist : A person who believes in equal rights and opportunities for all human beings. 1
- [U] Q. 2. How much representation do local governments provide for women in India?  
OR  
[U] How many seats are reserved for the women in the Indian local self-government?  
[Board Term-I, Set (NLTM8TU) 2016-17]  
Ans. One-Third. 1
- [U] Q. 3. What do you mean by a patriarchal society?  
Ans. A male dominated society. 1
- [A] Q. 4. What is the aim of 'feminist movements'?  
Ans. Equality with men. 1
- [A] Q. 5. In which constitutional institution have seats been reserved for women?  
[Board Term-I, KVS-2014, DDE-2014]  
Ans. Panchayats and Municipalities. 1
- [A] Q. 6. The concept of patriarchy refers to which system?  
Ans. A system that values men more than women. 1
- [A] Q. 7. In which country is the participation of women in public life very high?  
Ans. Sweden. 1
- [A] Q. 8. What is the literacy rate amount of the Indian women?  
Ans. The literacy rate for males and females works out to 82.14 per cent and 65.46 per cent (census 2011) respectively. 1
- [A] Q. 9. Name the group of countries in which participation of women in public life is very high.  
Ans. Sweden, Norway and Finland. 1
- [U] Q. 10. At which level of government in India 1/3rd of seats are reserved for women?  
[Board Term-I, Set-E, DDE-2015]  
Ans. Local Self Government bodies. 1
- [A] Q. 11. According to the 2001 census, what was the sex ratio in India?  
Ans. In the Population Census of 2011 it was revealed that the population ratio of India 2011 is 940 females per 1000 of males. 1



## Short Answer Type Questions

(3 marks each)

- [U] Q. 1. Define Feminist Movements. Write their objectives. [Board Term-I, Set (580014, 20, 16) 2011 ]  
Ans. Definition : Agitations or movements demanding enhancement in the political and legal status of women and improving their education and career opportunities are called Feminist Movement.  
Main Objective : The main objective of Feminist Movement is to attain equality among men and women.  $1\frac{1}{2} + 1\frac{1}{2} = 3$
- [A] Q. 2. Explain the status of women's representation in India's legislative bodies.  
[Board Term-I, Set (X30T4XE) 2014]  
Ans. The status of women's representation in India's legislative bodies are as follows :
- (i) **Central Legislature** : Less than 10% of its total strength are women.
- (ii) **State legislatures** : Less than 5% of their total strength are women.
- (iii) **Panchayati Raj** : One-third of the seats are reserved for women.  $1 \times 3 = 3$
- [A] Q. 3. Suggest any three measures to enhance the participation of woman in politics?  
[Board Term-I, Set-E, DDE-2015]  
Ans. (i) Women should be given proper education, so that they are aware of their rights and duties and participate actively in all political occasions.  
(ii) Every woman should be self reliant, so that she enjoys a respectable position in the society and is

confident about her meaningful contribution in politics as well.

- (iii) It should be legally binding to have a fair proportion of woman in the elected bodies. That is why 1/3rd of seats in local government bodies in panchayats and in municipalities are now reserved for women.

$$1 \times 3 = 3$$

- Q. 4. Suppose a politician seeks your vote on the religious ground. Why is his act considered against the norms of democracy? Explain.**

[Board Term-I, Set-6AP67LB, 2015]

**Ans.** His act is against the spirit of democracy as the said politician is not working as per the Constitution.

- (i) It also exploits the social difference.
- (ii) It may create social discard and may lead to social division.
- (iii) It is also biased attitude and neglects the principle of equality.

(CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015)  $1 \times 3 = 3$



## Long Answer Type Questions

(5 marks each)

- Q. 1. What was the Feminist Movement? Explain the political demands of the Feminist Movement in India.**

[Board Term-I, Set (35) 2012]

[Board Term-I, Set-E, DDE-2015]

**Ans.** Feminist Movement was a radical movement which demanded equality for women in personal and family life also apart from politics, society and educational field.

**The political demands of the Feminist Movements in India were :**

- (i) More women representatives in local government.
- (ii) More political representatives for women by having elected women representatives.
- (iii) Reserving at least one-third of the seats in Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies for women.

$2 + 3 = 5$  (CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015)

- Q. 2. What is sexual division of labour? Mention the main demands of the worldwide women's agitations?**

[Board Term-I, Set (34), 2012]

**Ans.** Sexual division of labour means division of work on the basis of the gender difference and according to this concept, all house work and responsibility of bringing up children is women's work.

**Women all over the world have been demanding:**

- (i) Equal voting rights.
- (ii) Enhancement of political and legal status of women.
- (iii) Improvement of educational and career opportunities for women.

(CBSE Marking Scheme, 2012)  $2 + 3 = 5$

- Q. 3. Examine the standard of women's representation in India's legislative bodies.**

[Board Term-I, (WQ7FXWC) 2014]

OR

**Assess the status of women's representation in India's legislative bodies.**

[Board Term-I, Set (82) 2012]

**Ans.** The status of women's representation in India's legislative bodies is as follows :

- (i) **Central Legislature :** Less than 10% of its total strength are women.

- (ii) **State Legislature :** Less than 5% of its total strength are women.

- (iii) **Panchayati Raj :** One-third of the seats are reserved for women.

- (iv) India is among the bottom group of nations in the world, in this aspect.

- (v) Women's organizations and activists have been demanding a similar reservation of at least one-third of seats in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. But the bill to this effect has not been passed.

$1 \times 5 = 5$  (CBSE Marking Scheme, 2012)

- Q. 4. Describe any five ways in which women in India are still discriminated and oppressed.**

[Board Term-I, (10S) 2013, Set (33) 2012]

OR

- Q. 4. "In our country, women still lag much behind than men despite some improvements since independence." Support the statement by giving five reasons.**

[Board Term-I, (580017, 31, 40) 2011]

OR

- Q. 4. Explain with five examples that women are still discriminated in India.**

[Board Term-I, Set (580021, 27) 2011]

OR

- Q. 4. How "Women in India still face discrimination and oppression in various ways". Support the statement with five examples.**

[Board Term-I, Set (38), 2012]

OR

- Q. 4. What are the problems faced by Indian women which affect their social status? Explain any five.**

[Board Term-I, Set (47), 2012]

**Ans.** In our country, women still lag much behind men despite some improvements since Independence. **Women face disadvantage, discrimination and oppression in various ways :**

- (i) The literacy rate among women is only 54 percent as compared with 76 percent among men.
- (ii) Similarly, a smaller proportion of girl students go for higher studies. Girls are performing as well as boys in school. But they drop out because parents prefer to spend their resources for their boys' education rather than spending equally on their sons and daughters.

- (iii) The proportion of women among the highly paid and valued jobs is still very small. On an average an Indian woman works one hour more than an average man everyday.
- (iv) The Equal Wages Act provides that equal wages should be paid to equal work. However in almost all areas of work, from sports and cinema, to factories and fields, women are paid less than men, even when both do exactly the same work.

- (v) In many parts of India, parents prefer to have sons and find ways to have the girl child aborted before she is born. Such sex selective abortion led to a decline in child sex ratio.
- (vi) Women face harassment, exploitation and violence on the domestic front.

(Any five) 1×5=5  
(CBSE Marking Scheme, 2013)



## TOPIC-2

### Religion, Communalism and Politics

#### Quick Review

- Indian democracy faces the problem of casteism, communalism, illiteracy, unemployment and poverty.
- Communities having a relatively small population in a society are called minorities.
- A system of separate electorate and representation for people belonging to different communities is known as communal representation.
- The laws that deal with family-related matters, such as marriage, divorce, etc. are known as family laws.
- Buddhism is the major religion of Sri Lanka and Hinduism is the major religion of Nepal.
- The use of religion in politics is known as communal politics.
- Ideas, ideals and values drawn from different religions can and perhaps should play a role in politics.
- People should be able to express in politics their needs, interests and demands as a member of a religious community.
- Communal politics is based on the idea that religion is the principal basis of social community.
- **Communalism can take various forms in politics :**
  - The most common expression of communalism is in everyday beliefs.
  - A communal mind often leads to a quest for political dominance of one's own religious community.
  - Political mobilisation on religious lines is another frequent form of communalism.
  - Sometimes communalism takes its most ugly form of communal violence, riots and massacre.
- In a secular state like India, there is no official religion for the Indian state.
- The Constitution provides to all individuals and communities freedom to profess, practice and propagate any religion, or not to follow any. **Some of its features are :**
  - The Constitution prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion.
  - At the same time the Constitution allows the state to intervene in the matters of religion in order to ensure equality within religious communities.

#### Know the Terms

- **Communalism :** It means attempts to promote religious ideas between groups of people as identified by different communities.
- **Family Laws :** The laws that deal with family related matters such as marriage, divorce, adoption, inheritance, etc. in our country, different family laws apply to followers of different religions.
- **Literacy Rate :** Literacy rate is the ratio of educated people among the whole population of a country.
- **Prejudice :** An unreasonable dislike or preference for a person, group, custom, etc., especially when it is based on their race, religion, sex, etc.
- **Secular State :** A state which does not have any official religion. It provides equal status to all religions.
- **Secularism :** A belief that religion should not be involved in the organization of society.
- **Urbanisation :** Shift of population from rural areas to urban areas.

## Know the Links

- [www.preservearticles.com/201105206806/what-are-the...](http://www.preservearticles.com/201105206806/what-are-the...)
- [mkgandhi.org/articles/communalism.htm](http://mkgandhi.org/articles/communalism.htm)
- <http://communalism.blogspot.in/2004/01/india-communalism-and-political-issues.htm>



## Very Short Answer Type Questions

(1 mark each)

- A Q. 1. Which type of state is India?**  
**Ans.** Secular. 1
- U Q. 2. Communalism refers to a division based on which idea?**  
**Ans.** Religion. 1
- A Q. 3. On which idea is communal politics based?**  
**Ans.** Religion. 1
- U Q. 4. What do we call a person who does not discriminate against others on the basis of religious beliefs?**  
**Ans.** Secular. 1
- U Q. 5. Which feature is against the spirit of Indian secularism?**  
**Ans.** The religious community in majority is given a prominent place in the government. 1
- U Q. 6. Who said that religion can never be separated from politics?**  
**Ans.** Mahatma Gandhi. 1
- A Q. 7. Which country has no official religion of its own?**  
**Ans.** India. 1



## Short Answer Type Questions

(3 marks each)

- U Q. 1. What is communalism? How is communalism a hindrance in the functioning of our democracy? Explain. [Board Term-I, Set (580042) 2011]**  
**Ans.** **Communalism** : When beliefs of one religion are presented as superior to those of other religions, when the demands of one religious group are formed in opposition to another and when state power is used to establish domination of one religious group over the rest, we call it as communalism.  
**Communalism is a hindrance in the functioning of our democracy as :**
- (i) Communalism leads to the belief that people belonging to different religions cannot live as equal citizens within one nation. Either, one of them has to dominate the rest or they have to form different nation.
  - (ii) Any attempt to bring all followers of one religion together in context other than religion is bound to suppress many voices within that community. 1+2=3
- A Q. 2. Suggest any two measures to check communalism in India. [Board Term-I, Set (WQ7FXWC) 2014]**  
**Ans.** (i) Communal prejudices and propaganda need to be countered in everyday life.  
 (ii) Religion based mobilisation needs to be countered in the arena of politics. 1½+1½=3
- U Q. 3. Explain any three forms of communalism in the Indian politics. [Board Term-I, Set (R9UJGYG), (WQYFXWC) 2014]**  
**Ans.** **Communalism can take various forms in the Indian politics :**
- (i) The most common expression of communalism is in everyday life. These routinely involve religious prejudices, stereotypes of religious communities and the beliefs in the superiority of one religion over the other religions.
  - (ii) All the communities of the world have a quest for political dominance of one's own religious community. For those belonging to the majority community, this takes the form of majoritarian dominance. For those belonging to the minority community, it can take the form of a desire to form a separate political unit.
  - (iii) Political mobilisation is another frequent form of communalism. Parties based on a particular community make use of sacred symbols, religious leaders, emotional appeal and create fear in order to bring the followers of one religion together in the political arena. 3
- U Q. 4. How can communalism pose a great threat to Indian democracy? [Board Term-I, NCT-2014]**  
**OR**  
**How can religion be a source of danger to democratic politics? Explain your view points.**  
**Ans.** **Communalism can pose a great threat to Indian democracy as :**
- (i) It leads to the belief that people belonging to different religions cannot live as equal citizens within one nation. Either one of them has to dominate the rest or they have to form different nations.
  - (ii) Any attempt to bring followers of one religion together in a context other than religion is bound to suppress many voices within that community. 1½+1½=3
- R Q. 5. How does religion influence the political set up in our country? Explain. [Board Term-I, Set (OEQL2HT) 2016-17]**



**Ans.** The religion in politics is not dangerous as it seems to us. Ethical values of each religion can play a major role in politics. As a member of any religious community, people should express their political needs. The political leaders regulate the practice of religion so that there should be no discrimination and oppression. If all religions are treated equally then these political acts are correct in any way.

(CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016) 3

**[A] Q. 6. Why did the Muslim Ulama in India want to introduce religious reforms in Islam? Give any three reasons.**

[Board Term-I, Set (NLTMT8TU) 2016-17]

- Ans.** (i) Muslim clergy want to introduce religious reforms in Islam.  
 (ii) In north India, the ulama were deeply anxious about the collapse of Muslim dynasties.  
 (iii) They feared that colonial rulers would encourage conversion, change the Muslim personal laws.  
 (iv) To counter this, they used cheap lithographic presses, published Persian and Urdu translations of holy scriptures and printed religious newspapers and tracts.  
 (v) The Deoband Seminary, founded in 1867, published thousands upon thousands of fatwas.  
 (vi) Telling Muslim readers how to conduct themselves in their everyday lives, and explaining the meanings of Islamic doctrines.

$\frac{1}{2} \times 6 = 3$  (CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016)

**[U] Q. 7. How are religious differences expressed in politics?** [Board Term-I, Set (580011) 2011]

**Ans.** The religious differences are often expressed in the field of politics, i.e.:

- Gandhiji used to say that religion can never be separated from politics, what he meant by religion was not any particular religion like Hinduism or Islam, but moral values that inform all religions. He believed that politics must be guided by ethics drawn from religion.
- Human right groups in our country have argued that most of the victims of communal riots in our country are people from religious minorities. They have demanded that the government take special steps to protect religious minorities.
- Womens' movement has agreed that family laws of all religions discriminate against women. So they have demanded that government should change these laws to make them more equitable.  $1 \times 3 = 3$

**[A] Q. 8. "The Government of India gives holidays for the festivals of most of the religions." Why is it so? Give your view point.**

[Board Term-I, Set (X30T4XE) 2014]

**Ans.** It is so because :

- India is a secular state, there is no official religion in our country.
- The Constitution provides freedom to all to profess, practice and propagate any religion or not to follow any.
- The Constitution prohibits discrimination on the ground of religion.  $1 \times 3 = 3$



## Long Answer Type Questions

(5 marks each)

**[A] Q. 1. Define communalism. Explain any three forms of Communalism in the Indian Politics.**

[Board Term-I, Set (OEQL2HT & CB4QHT1) 2016-17]

**Ans.** (i) Communalism is a situation when beliefs of one religion are presented as superior to those of other religions. When the demands of one religious group are formed in opposition to another and when state power is used to establish domination of one religious group over the rest.

(ii) **Various forms of communalism in politics :**

- The most common expression of communalism is in every day beliefs.
- A communal mind often leads to a quest for political dominance of one's own religious community.
- Political mobilisation on religious lines is another frequent form of communalism. This involves the use of sacred symbols, religious leaders, emotional appeals and plan fear.

$2 + 3 = 5$  (CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016)

**[U] Q. 2. What form does communalism take in politics?** [Board Term-I, Set-M; (580012) 2011, DDE-2015]

OR

**[U] Explain any three forms of communal politics, with examples.**

[Board Term-I, Set (580015, 25, 34, 38), 2011]

OR

**[U] Explain how communalism is being expressed in politics?** [Board Term-I, Set (37) 2012]

OR

**[U] What does the term communalism mean? Explain any four forms which communalism takes in politics.**

[Board Term-I, Set (10S) 2013, Set (49) 2012]

**Ans. Communalism :** It means attempts to promote religious ideas between groups of people which are identified as different communities.

**Communalism can take various forms in politics :**

- The most common expression of communalism is in everyday beliefs. These routinely involve religious prejudices, stereotype of religious communities and belief in the superiority of one's religion over other religions. This is so common that we often fail to notice it, even when we believe in it.

(ii) A communal mind often leads to a quest for political dominance of one's own religious community. For those belonging to majority community, this takes the form of majoritarian dominance. For those belonging to the minority community, it can take the form of a desire to form a separate political unit.

(iii) Political mobilisation on religious lines is another frequent form of communalism. This involves the use of sacred symbols, religious leaders, emotional appeal and plain fear in order to bring the followers of one religion together in the political arena.

(iv) Sometimes communalism takes its most ugly form of communal violence, riots and massacre.

1+4=5 (CBSE Marking Scheme, 2013)

**Q. 3. How can the relationship between politics and religion be beneficial and problematic at the same time? Explain.** [Board Term-I, Set (61) 2012]

OR

**It is inevitable to ignore the relationship between politics and religion. It what away does this relationship impacts modern day politics? Explain.** [Board Term-I, (Set-C5)NEVD) 2015]

**Ans. Beneficial :**

- (i) Influence of religion can make politics value based.
- (ii) Religious communities can politically express their needs and interests.
- (iii) Political authorities can monitor and control religious discrimination and oppression.

**Problematic :**

- (i) Religion can become the base for the development of nationalist sentiments which can lead to conflicts.
- (ii) Political parties will try to make political gains by pitting one group against the other.
- (iii) State power may be used to establish the domination of one religious group over another.

2½+2½=5 (CBSE Marking Scheme, 2012)

**Q. 4. Describe any five constitutional provisions that make India a secular.**

[Board Term-I, Set (R9UJGYG) 2014]

OR

**What is the meaning of "Secularism"? How does the constitution make India a secular state? Explain.** [Board Term-I, Set (39) 2012]

OR

**"The makers of the Indian Constitution chose the model of a secular state for India." Which constitutional provisions make India a secular state in the light of the above statement?**

[Board Term-I, Set (55) 2012]

OR

**What is a secular state? How does the Constitution of India ensure that India remains a secular state? Explain.** [Board Term-I, Set (65) 2012]

OR

**How does the Constitution of India ensure secularism?**

[Board Term-I, Set (580013, 33, 37, 43) 2011]

**Ans.** Secularism means no special status is given to any religion. It is just not an ideology of some parties or persons.

- (i) There is no official religion for the Indian states, unlike the status of Buddhism in Sri Lanka, or that of Islam in Pakistan.
- (ii) The constitution provides freedom to all to protest, practice and propagate any religion, or not to follow any.
- (iii) The Constitution prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion.
- (iv) The Constitution allows state to intervene in the matters of religion in order to ensure equality within religious communities. For example, it bans untouchability.

1+4=5 (CBSE Marking Scheme, 2012)



## TOPIC-3

### Caste and Politics

### Quick Review

- A behaviour which inspires the high caste people to hate the lower caste people is known as casteism.
- Caste system was based on exclusion of and discrimination against the 'outcaste' groups. They were subjected to the inhuman practice of untouchability.
- Gandhiji was against untouchability.
- Jyotiba Phule, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Mahatma Gandhi and Periyar Ramaswami Naicker worked to end the caste system in India.
- With economic development, large scale urbanisation, growth of literacy and education, occupational mobility and the weakening of the position of landlords in the villages, the old notions of caste hierarchy are breaking down.

- Constitution of India prohibited any caste-based discrimination and laid the foundations of policies to reverse the injustices of the caste system.
- **Caste can take various forms in politics :**
  - When parties choose candidates in elections, they keep in mind the caste composition of the electorate and nominate candidates from different castes. So as to muster necessary support to win elections.
  - Political parties and candidates in elections make appeals to caste sentiment to muster support.
  - Universal adult franchise and the principle of one-person-one-vote compelled political leaders to gear up to the task of mobilising and securing political support.
- No parliamentary constituency in the country has a clear majority of one single caste.
- Politics too influences the caste system and caste identities by bringing them into the political arena.
- It is not politics that gets caste ridden; it is the caste that gets politicised. This takes several forms:
  - Each caste group tries to become bigger by incorporating within it neighbouring castes or sub-castes.
  - New kinds of caste groups have come up in the political arena like 'backward' and 'forward' caste groups.
- Several political and non-political organizations have been demanding and agitating for an end to discrimination against particular castes, for more dignity and more access to land, resources and opportunities.
- Exclusive attention to caste can divert attention from other pressing issues like poverty, development and corruption.
- In some cases caste division leads to tensions, conflict and even violence.

## Know the Terms

- **Urbanisation** : Shift of population from rural areas to urban areas.
- **Casteism** : Casteism is the hereditary system of occupation, political power, endogamy, social culture and social class. It can also be defined as a class structure that is determined by birth.
- **Dalits** : The Scheduled Castes (SCs) are commonly known as Dalits.
- **Adivasis** : The Scheduled Tribes (STs) are known as Adivasis.
- **Caste Hierarchy** : A ladder like formation in which all the caste groups are placed from the highest to the lowest castes.
- **Electorate** : All the people in a country or area who are entitled to vote in an election.
- **Universal Adult Franchise** : It means that all citizens whose age is 18 years or above have the right to vote.
- **Occupational Mobility** : Shift from one occupation to another, usually when a new generation takes up occupations other than those practiced by their ancestors.

## Know the Links

- <http://www.halfmantr.com/display-national-issues/1080-caste-and-politics>.
- [www.yourarticlelibrary.com/politics/relationship-between](http://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/politics/relationship-between)



## Very Short Answer Type Questions

(1 mark each)

Q. 1. What does caste hierarchy mean?

Ans. A ladder like formation in which all caste groups are placed from the highest to the lowest. 1

Q. 2. According to the census of India, 2001, what is the population percentage of scheduled castes?

Ans. 16.2%. 1

Q. 3. Which division is unique to India?

Ans. Caste division. 1



## Short Answer Type Questions

(3 marks each)

Q. 1. Describe the three factors which determine the outcome of the politics of social divisions.

[Board Term-I, Set (OEQL2HT) 2016-17]

Ans. Factors that decide the outcome of the politics of social divisions.

- (i) **The people's perception of their identities** : When this is singular, the accommodation of other identities becomes difficult.

(ii) **Representation of a community by political leaders**: While representing a community, if politicians raise demands that are constitutional, then, it is easier to accommodate those demands.

(iii) **The government's reaction** : If the reasonable demands of a community are suppressed by the government, then it leads to social divisions, which in turns threaten the integrity of the country.

1×3=3



**Q. 2. Describe three advantages of the political expression of caste differences.**

[Board Term-I, (Set-XOKG2SB) 2015]

**Ans. Advantages of the political expression of caste differences are :**

- (i) It gives disadvantaged groups the opportunity to demand a share in power and decision-making.
- (ii) Many political parties take up the issue of ending caste discrimination.
- (iii) Measures for uplifting the status of the backward castes will be undertaken.  $1 \times 3 = 3$

**Q. 3. Describe the adverse effects of caste in politics in India.** [Board Term-I, Set (580023, 29, 35, 45) 2011]

**Ans. Adverse effects of caste in politics in India :**

- (i) Political parties try to use caste to gain votes.
- (ii) Promise to take care of interests and demands of different castes.
- (iii) Leads to conflicts and tensions among various caste groups.  $1 \times 3 = 3$

**Q. 4. How does caste get politicised? Give three points.**  
[Board Term-I, Set (AZ) 2011, Set (AZ) 2010]

- Ans.**
- (i) Each caste group tries to become bigger by incorporating within its neighbouring castes or sub-castes which were earlier excluded from it.
  - (ii) Various caste groups are required to enter into a coalition with other castes or communities and thus enter into a dialogue and negotiation.
  - (iii) New kinds of caste groups have come up in the political area like 'backward' and 'forward' caste groups.  $1 \times 3 = 3$

**Q. 5. Why are caste barriers breaking down in India? Explain with three reasons.**

[Board Term-I, Set (580024, 32, 36) 2011]

**Ans. Caste barriers are breaking down in India due to the following reasons :**

- (i) With the economic development, large scale urbanisation, growth of literacy and education, occupational mobility and the weakening of the

position of landlords in the villages, the old notions of caste hierarchy are breaking down.

- (ii) Due to socio-economic changes, i.e., now, most of the times, in urban areas it does not matter much who is walking along next to us on street or eating at the next table in a restaurant.
- (iii) The Constitution of India prohibited any caste-based discrimination and laid the foundations of policies to reserve the injustices of the caste system.  $1 \times 3 = 3$

**Q. 6. Explain the impact of caste system on Indian democracy.** [Board Term-I, Set (580024) 2011]

**Ans. Impact of caste system on Indian democracy :**

- (i) Expression of caste differences in politics gives many disadvantaged communities the space to demand this share of power. In this sense caste politics has helped people from Dalits and OBC caste to gain better access to decision-making.
- (ii) Several political and non-political organizations have been demanding and agitating for an end to discrimination against particular castes, for more dignity and more access to land, resources and opportunities.
- (iii) Exclusive attention can produce negative results as well. It can divert attention from other pressing issues such as poverty, development and corruption. In some cases it leads to violence.  $1 \times 3 = 3$

**Q. 7. "Caste has not still disappeared from contemporary India." Write any three examples to justify the statement.** [Board Term-I, Set (580041) 2011]

**Ans. Caste has not disappeared from contemporary India. Some of the older aspects of caste which are persisting are as follows :**

- (i) Even now most people marry within their own caste or tribe.
- (ii) Untouchability has not ended completely, despite constitutional prohibition.
- (iii) Effects of centuries of advantages and disadvantages continued to be felt today.  $1 \times 3 = 3$



## Long Answer Type Questions

(5 marks each)

**Q. 1. Explain the factors that have led to the weakening of the caste system in India.**

[Board Term-I, Set (X30T4XE), 2014]

OR

**Q. Explain any five reasons for the declining caste system in India.** [Board Term-I, Set (40) 2012]

OR

**Q. What factors have brought about a change in the Indian caste system in modern times? Explain.**

[Board Term-I, Set (45) 2012]

OR

**Q. Explain any five socio-economic changes responsible for breaking down the old notion of caste hierarchy in India.**

[Board Term-I, Set (6HTQGTF) 2016-17]

[Board Term-I, Set (60) 2012]

**Ans. Decline of the caste system in India :**

- (i) Efforts of social reformers like Phule, Gandhiji, Ambedkar against caste system have helped to promote a casteless society.
- (ii) Economic development has reduced the emphasis on caste.
- (iii) Large scale urbanisation has diminished the awareness of caste, as people rub shoulders in buses, trains and offices.
- (iv) Growth of literacy and education has helped to decrease the belief in caste.
- (v) Occupational mobility is possible now and children are not compelled to continue the profession of the family or father.
- (vi) Weakening of the position of landlords in the villages has led to decline of the rigid caste barriers in villages.

(vii) Constitutional provisions such as Right to Equality of all before law have helped to prevent discrimination legally.

(viii) Policy of reservation of seats in local self-government bodies and legislatures as well in educational institutes have helped to uplift the political, social and economic position of lower castes.

(Any five)  $1 \times 5 = 5$   
(CBSE Marking Scheme, 2012)

**A Q. 2. The focus on caste in politics can sometimes give an impression that elections are all about caste and nothing else. Do you agree? Explain.**

[Board Term-I, Set (6AP67LB) 2015]

**Ans.** No, I do not agree. The focus on caste in politics can sometimes give an impression that elections are all about caste and nothing else.

**This is far from true because :**

- (i) No parliamentary constituency in the country has a clear majority of one single caste. So, every candidate and party needs to win the confidence of more than one caste and community to win elections.
- (ii) No party wins the votes of all the voters of a caste or community. When people say that a caste is a 'vote bank' of one party, it usually means that a large proportion of the voters from the caste vote for the party.
- (iii) Many political parties may put up candidates from the same caste (if that caste is believed to dominate the electorate in a particular constituency). Some voters have more than one candidate from their caste while many voters have no candidates from their caste.
- (iv) The ruling party of the sitting M.P. or M.L.A. frequently loses elections in our country. That could not have happened if all castes or communities were frozen in their political preferences.  $1 + 4 = 5$

**A Q. 3. How can caste take different forms in politics? Explain with examples.**

[Board Term-I, Set (67) 2012]

OR

**A Analyse the role of caste in Indian politics.**

[Board Term-I, (Set-E) DDE-2015]

**Ans. Influence of caste on politics :**

- (i) While choosing candidates for election, political parties consider the caste composition of the voters to win support.
- (ii) When the government is formed, political parties take care that representative from different castes find place in the government.
- (iii) Political parties make appeal to the caste sentiments to win votes.
- (iv) Some political parties are known to favour some particular caste.
- (v) Universal adult franchise and the principle of one-person one-vote have compelled the political leaders to bring caste sentiments into politics to muster support.

(CBSE Marking Scheme, 2012)  $1 \times 5 = 5$

**A Q. 4. "Caste has not still disappeared from contemporary India." Support the statement with suitable examples.**

[Board Term-I, Set (WQ7FXWC) 2014]

OR

**A "Caste has not still disappeared from contemporary India". Do you agree with the statement? Justify your answer with suitable argument.**

[Board Term-I, Set (36) 2012]

**Ans.** Yes, I agree with the statement.

**Arguments :**

- (i) Most people marry within their own caste or tribe.
- (ii) Untouchability has not ended despite provisions in the constitution.
- (iii) Effects of centuries of advantages and disadvantages continue to be felt today.
- (iv) A large mass of low caste people still do not have access to education.
- (v) Caste is continued to be linked to economic status. (Or any other relevant argument)

**Note :** Marks will also be awarded, if somebody disagrees and gives suitable arguments.

(CBSE Marking Scheme, 2012)  $1 \times 5 = 5$

**U Q. 5. Describe the positive and negative aspects of relationship between caste and politics.**

[Board Term-I, KVS-2014]

OR

**U Describe three advantages and two disadvantages of the political expression of caste differences.**

[Board Term-I, Set (48) 2012]

OR

**U Analyse any five advantages and disadvantages of the political expression of caste differences?**

[Board Term-I, Set (62) 2012]

**Ans. Advantages :**

- (i) It gives disadvantaged groups the opportunity to demand a share in power and decision-making.
- (ii) Many political parties take up the issue of ending caste discrimination.
- (iii) Measures for uplifting the status of the backward castes will be undertaken.

**Disadvantages :**

- (i) Caste-based politics diverts attention from main issues such as poverty, corruption etc.
- (ii) Caste based politics leads to tensions, conflicts and violence.

$3 + 2 = 5$  (CBSE Marking Scheme, 2012)

**A Q. 6. Assess the influences of politics on caste system.**

[Board Term-I, Set (69) 2012]

**Ans. Influence of politics on Caste :**

- (i) Each caste group tries to become bigger by incorporating within it sub-castes.
- (ii) Various caste groups are required to enter into a coalition with other caste or communities.
- (iii) New kinds of caste groups have entered politics like 'backward' and 'forward' castes.

(iv) Politics in caste has allowed many disadvantaged caste groups to demand their share of power.

(v) Caste politics has helped the dalits and OBCs to gain better access to decision-making.

1×5=5 (CBSE Marking Scheme, 2012)



## High Order Thinking Skills (HOTS) Questions

**Q. 1. How is gender division understood in Indian society? To what extent does political mobilisation on gender basis help to improve women's role in public life?**

[Board Term-I, Set (NLTM8TU) 2016-17]

- Ans. (i)** In Indian society, gender division tends to be understood as natural and unchangeable. It is based on social expectations and stereotypes.
- (ii)** This attitude leads to sexual division of labour i.e., boys and girls are brought up to believe that the main responsibility of women is house work and bringing up children whereas all the outside works are to be done by men.
- (iii)** The result of this division of labour is that though the women constitute almost half the population, their role in public life is minimal.
- (iv)** Political expression and political mobilisation on this question helped to improve women's role in public life. We now find women working as scientists, doctors, engineers, teachers, etc.

Now with lot of efforts 33% seats are reserved for women in local government bodies.

(Any three) (Any other relevant point may be explained)(CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016)

1×3=3

**Q. 2. "Gender division is not based on biology but on social expectations and stereotypes." Support the statement.** [Board Term-I, Set-E, DDE-2015]

[Board Term-I, (3K) 2013, Set (52) 2012, DDE-2014]

**Ans.(i)** Gender division is a form of hierarchical social division based on social expectation and stereotypes.

**(ii)** Boys and girls are brought up to believe that the main responsibility of women is house work and bringing up children.

**(iii)** There is a sexual division of labour in most families where women do all the household chores and men work outside the home.

**(iv)** Majority of women do some paid work in addition to domestic labour both in rural and Urban areas but work is not valued and does not get recognition.

**(v)** Women constitute half of the humanity, their role in public life, especially politics is minimal in most societies.

**(vi)** In our country, women still lag behind men as ours is still a male dominated patriarchal society. Women face disadvantage, discrimination and oppression in various ways.

(Any three) 1×3=3

(CBSE Marking Scheme, 2013)



## Value Based Questions

**Q. 1. Literacy and urbanisation combined with economic growth have changed the value system of Indian society. Explain with reference to India's social problems.**

**Ans. (i)** The caste system is very old in India and was also very rigid at one point of time but due to literacy and economic development these caste barriers are breaking down. People in urban areas who are literate mostly do not believe in inequality based on caste. It is accepted that all are equal. Rising economic status of backward castes has helped in eroding the caste barriers.

**(ii)** The problem of communalism has decreased and there is less violence in the name of religion. People who are literate mostly do not get swayed by appeal to religious emotions. Economic progress and urbanisation has greatly helped to cultivate

the secular mindset.

**(iii)** The position of women too has improved with the spread of literacy among women. Now they can earn and be economically independent. This helps to increase self-esteem and decreases dependence on male members of society.

**(iv)** The system of dowry at the time of marriage is getting diluted due to literacy and economic development of women.

**(v)** The practice of child marriage is decreasing due to spread of literacy.

**(vi)** There is occupational mobility due to spread of urbanisation and literacy and people are free to follow the profession of their choice rather than follow hereditary professions.

(Any three) 1×3=3

□□