

## **Chapter-3**

### **Democracy and Diversity**

---

#### **1 marks Questions**

**1. Which of the following is associated with the Civil Rights movement in the U.S.A. (1954-1968) ?**

- (a) Abolishing legal racial discrimination against African Americans.**
- (b) Abolishing unequal income distribution.**
- (c) Health**
- (d) Education**

**Ans. (a) Abolishing legal racial discrimination against African Americans.**

---

**2. Which type of social diversity or division do we find in Belgium ?**

- (a) Religious**
- (b) Linguistic**
- (c) Regional**
- (d) Gender**

**Ans. b) Linguistic**

---

**3. Which one of the following refers to The Black Power Movement (1966-75)' in USA ?**

- (a) A non violent reform movement.**
- (b) The American freedom movement.**
- (c) A more militant anti-racist movement.**
- (d) A religious movement.**

**Ans (c) A more militant anti-racist movement**

---

**4. What is not the basis of social divisions in India ?**

- (a) Language**
- (b) Health**
- (c) Region**
- (d) Caste**

**Ans** (b) Health

---

**5. Which one of the following is the most important origin of social differences ?**

- (a) Accident of birth**
- (b) Physical abilities**
- (c) Kinds of Complexion**
- (d) Tall or Short**

**Ans** (a) Accident of birth

---

**6. Which one of the following is the representative political parties of the Catholics in Northern Ireland?**

- (a) Nationalist Parties**
- (b) Unionist**
- (c) Democratic Party**
- (d) Labour Party**

**Ans** (a) Nationalist Parties

---

**7. Which University recently installed the statues of Smith, Carlos and Norman in its campus?**

- (a) The Howard University**
- (b) The Chicago State University**
- (c) The Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University**
- (d) The San Jose State University**

---

**Ans** (d) The San Jose State University

---

**8. Which one of the following is the actual political expression of social divisions in a democracy ?**

- (a) It results in social inequality and injustice.**
- (b) It is a normal practice and can prove healthy.**
- (c) It leads to definite violence.**
- (d) It is a rare practice and always proves unhealthy.**

**Ans** (b) It is a normal practice and can prove healthy.

---

**9. What is language problem?**

**Ans.** The language problem means giving more preference to one's own language. South Indian people are not ready to accept Hindi.

---

**10. Where were the Olympics held in 1968?**

**Ans.** Mexico

---

**11. What is meant by economic disparities?**

**Ans.** The gulf between the haves and have not has led to an increase in tension among the classes.

---

**12. What is homogeneous society?**

**Ans.** A society that has similar kinds of people, especially where there are no significant ethnic difference.

---

**13. What is meant by secular state?**

**Ans.** A secular state has no official religion. It is neither religious and nor anti religious. It allows equal freedom of faith and worship to all.

---

---

**14. What is meant by national integration?**

**Ans.** National integration implies harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India despite differences of religion, race, caste, language or place of birth.

---

**15. What is communalism?**

**Ans.** Communalism means encouraging and defending religious fundamentalism in order to divide society along the religious lines.

---

**16. What is caste prejudice?**

**Ans.** To make matters worse, very stick toward own caste and feels better than others.

---

**17. Name any two Asian countries in which there was conflict between two linguistic and ethnic groups.**

**Ans.** Sri Lanka and Israel

---

**18. Who was the Australian athlete who showed sympathy and support to the two black American athletes?**

**Ans.** Peter Norman

---

**19. Name two US athletes who showed their resentment against the racial discrimination policy of the United States?**

**Ans.** Tommie Smith and John Carlos

---

**20. Give the reason that led to the disintegration of Yugoslavia.**

**Ans.** Political division on religion and ethnic lines.

---

**21. Who are referred to as atheists?**

---

**Ans.** Those who do not believe in God or any religion.

---

**22. Who started the Civil Rights Movement in USA?**

**Ans.** Martin Luther King Junior.

---

**23. Why did Tommie Smith wear black socks and shoes?**

**Ans.** Tommie Smith did so to represent black poverty and to protest against the racial discrimination done to African American.

---

**24. What term is used for a society where there are no significant ethnic differences?**

**Ans.** Homogeneous Society.

---

**25. What are the two basis of the origin of social differences?**

**Ans.** Birth and on our choices.

---

**26. Name the sect of Christianity that was represented by the unionist who wanted to remain with the UK.**

**Ans.** Protestants

---

**27. Name the sect of Christianity represented by nationalist parties who demanded that Northern Ireland be united with the Republic of Ireland.**

**Ans.** Catholics

---

**28. Give one word- A person who thinks that caste is the principal basis of community.**

**Ans.** Casteist

### **3 marks Questions**

**1. Give example to prove that social divisions of one kind or another exist in most of countries.**

**Ans.** 1) India is famous for its diversity.

2) Even the Muslim countries are divided in to shias and Sunies.

3) Countries like Germany and Sweden which are considered homogeneous societies are undergoing rapid change because of migration from other parts of world. Thus social division exists in all parts of the world.

---

**2. Give examples of people belonging to different social groups sharing differences and similarities cutting across the boundaries of countries.**

**Ans.** 1) Johan Carlos and Tommie Smith of US were Black Americans.

2) They were similar and but different from Peter Norman who was white from Australia.

3) But they were all athlete who stood up against racial discrimination.

---

**3. Explain the main problem of Northern Ireland.**

**Ans.** 1) The main problem was between Catholics and Protestants of Ireland.

2) In North Ireland Protestants were 53 and Catholics were 44%.

3) This ethnic divided became a political divided when Catholic were represented by Nationalist parties.

4) Protestants were represented by Unionists.

---

5) Violent clashes were started between them.

---

**4. What did the African American athlete do in order to draw international attention to Black poverty in the Mexico Olympics?**

**Ans.** 1) The two athletes were Tommy Smith and Johan Carlos of US.

2) They received their gold and bronze medal at the Mexico City wearing black socks and no shoes to represent black poverty.

3) They stood with clenched fists and black gloves symbolizing black poverty and head bowed when the American national anthem was being played.

---

**5. Who was the leader of the Civil Rights Movement? Describe the importance of this movement.**

**Ans.** 1) Martin Luther King Junior was the leader of the Civil Rights Movement.

2) He started a reform movement to abolish legal and racial discrimination against African Americans.

3) He used non violent method to protest.

---

**6. Explain with examples different forms of social diversity.**

**Ans.** 1) The social differences can be overlapping and cross-cutting in nature.

2) The differences between Blacks and whites become a social division when blacks are found to be poor, racially discriminated and homeless.

3) If social difference cross cut one another it is difficult for groups to get pitted against one another. Example, In Netherlands, class and region cross cut each other. Catholics and Protestants are equally rich or poor in that country.

---

**7. Describe the idea of overlapping differences with examples.**

**Ans.** 1) Over lapping differences includes when some social differences overlaps with other

---

differences.

2) Situation of this kind produce social divisions, when one kind of social differences becomes more important than the other and people start feeling that they belong to different communities.

In our country Dalits tend to be poor and landless and often face injustice and discrimination

---

### **8. Describe the idea of cross cutting differences with examples.**

**Ans.** 1) If social differences cross-cut one another, it is difficult to pi group of people against the other.

2) It means those groups that share a common interest on one issue are likely to be on different sides on a different issue.

3) Cross cutting difference are easier to accommodate.

---

### **9. Explain the negative impact of social division on politics?**

**Ans.** 1) Democracy involves completion among various political parties. Their competition tends to divide any society.

2) If they start competing in terms of some existing social divisions, it can make social divisions into political divisions and led to conflict violence or even disintegration of a country.

3) For example-Northern Ireland of the United Kingdome have been for many years the sites of a violent and bitter ethno political conflict.

---

### **10. Explain the positive impact of social division on politics?**

**Ans.** 1) Every expression of social division in politics does not lead to disasters.

2) Social divisions of some or the other kind do exist in every society of the world and are reflected in politics.



---

3) In democracy it is only natural that political parties would talk about these divisions, make different promises to different communities, look after due representation of various communities and policies to redress the grievance of disadvantaged communities.

---

**11. Do all social differences lead to social divisions?**

**Ans.** No, all social differences do not lead to divisions. Social divisions of some or the other kind do exist in every society of the world and are reflected in politics. In Democracy it is only natural that political parties talk of these divisions, make different promises to different communities, look after due representation of various communities and make policies to redress the grievances of disadvantaged communities.

---

**12. How have social divisions resulted in a violent and bitter ethno political conflict in Northern Ireland?**

**Ans.** 1) Northern Ireland of the United Kingdom has been for many years the site of a violent and bitter ethno-political conflict.

2) Its population is divided into major sects of Christianity. 53% population is of Protestants and 44% population is of Catholics.

3) This ethnic divided became a political divided when Catholic were represented by Nationalist parties who demanded that Northern Ireland be unified with the republic of Ireland, a predominant Catholic country.

4) Protestants were represented by Unionists who wanted to remain with UK, which is predominant Protestants.

---

**13. Do you agree that most of the social differences are based on birth?**

**Ans.** Yes, it is true that most of the social difference originates by nature and we can say that most of the social differences are based on birth; we cannot choose the community in which we will have to take birth. We belong to that community in which we are born. People don't have any choice in setting their physical features like height, colour gender etc. These are not their choice but these differences are given by nature. But all the differences are not given by

---

nature. Person can choose many things himself which become a base if differences.

---

**14. Have you ever heard about the homogeneous society? What is it?**

**Ans.** 1) The homogeneous society is that society whose people are of same kind and where there is no value of ethnic differences.

2) It means that society, whose members are similar from the point of view of caste, religion, language, culture etc.

3) In Such type of societies there are no ethnic or social differences.

---

**15. Who is African –Americans?**

**Ans.** 1) African Americana are persons in the United States of America whose ancestors were from Africa.

2) A majority of them were transported to America as slaves during the trans-Atlantic slave trade between 1565 and 1807.

3)Some sources estimate that as many as sixty million Africans were brought as slaves to America at that time.

---

**16. Who was the leader of the civil Rights Movement in USA? Explain the importance of this movement?**

**Ans.** 1) Martin Luther King Junior was the leader of the Civil Rights Movement.

2) The movement refers to a set of events and reforms. It aimed at abolishing legal racial discrimination against African Americans.

3) The movement practiced non violent methods of civil disobedience against racially discriminatory law and practice.

---

**17. Explain the causes of social division?**

**Ans.** 1) Social divisions of one kind or another exist in most countries of the world.

---

2) Social differences are mostly based on accident of birth. Normally we don't choose to belong to our community. We belong to it simply because we were born into it.

3) Some of the differences are based on our choice. Most of us choose what to study, which occupation to take up.

4) Every social difference does not lead to social division. Social differences divide similar people from one another, but they also unite very different people.

---

**18. "The outcome of politics of social divisions depends on how people perceive their identities". Explain the statement.**

**Ans.** 1) The combination of politics and social division is very dangerous and explosive. In democracy many political parties exist. They may tend to divide the society. The social divisions developing into political divisions may lead to conflicts, violence and even disintegration of the country.

2) At the same time all social divisions in politics do not lead to conflict. In a democratic society it is natural that political parties would talk about these divisions and make different promises to different communities. Social division affects voting in different communities.

---

**19. How far do you agree with the statement that all social differences are not always an accident? Explain.**

**Ans.** 1) All social differences are not because of accident of birth. There are many differences that are result of our choice.

2) For example, to follow a particular religion different from that of one's family, choosing an occupation different from that of the family traditionally prefers. All these may cause social differences.

3) Now the whole world has turned into a global village. The countries which were once highly homogeneous are undergoing rapid change with influx of people from other parts of the world.

---

**20. How political parties raise the chances of social division in the democratic**

---

**countries? Explain.**

**Ans.** 1) Political parties often refer to these social divisions and make political promises based on the size of the division.

2) Political parties represent various social groups.

3) Political parties address the grievances of the socially disadvantaged groups.

4) People's preference for political parties and voting pattern are influenced by the issue of social divisions.

---

**21. Why do social differences emerge in a society? Does every social difference lead to social division? Explain with the help of an example.**

**Ans.** 1) Differences in the society occur in a society due to accident of birth.

2) Differences may occur due to our own choices.

3) Every social difference does not lead to social division. Some differences can unite very different people. For example Carlos and Smith, both were African American and different from Norman, who was white. But, they were also similar in some other ways-they all were athletes who stood against racial discrimination.

---

**22. How is political expression of social division in democracy beneficial?**

**Ans.** 1) This allows various disadvantaged and marginal social groups to express their grievances and get the government to attend to these.

2) Expression of various kinds of social divisions in politics often resulted in their cancelling on another out and thus reducing their intensity. This leads to strengthening of a democracy.

3) People who feel marginalized deprived and discriminated fight against the injustice. Such a fight often takes the democratic path, voicing their demands in a peaceful and constitutional manner and seeking a fair position through elections.

---

**23. "Assertion of social diversities need not be seen as a source of danger". Support the**

---

**statement with suitable arguments.**

**Ans.** In a democracy political expression of social divisions is very normal and can be healthy. This allows various disadvantaged and marginal social groups to express their grievances and get the government to attend to these. Expression of various kinds of social divisions in politics often resulted in their cancelling on another out and thus reducing their intensity. This leads to strengthening of a democracy. The struggle against differences, sometimes takes the path of violence and defiance of state power. However history shows that democracy is the best way to fight for recognition and also to accommodate diversity. Thus assertion of social diversities in a country need not be seen as a source of danger.

---

**24. “Social divisions of one kind or another exist in most countries.” In the light of the above statement, mention a few bases of social division in India.**

- Ans.** 1) Social division on the basis of caste.
- 2) Social division on the basis of religion.
- 3) Social division on the basis of language.
- 4) Social division on the basis of region.
- 5) Social division on the basis of community.
- 6) Social division on the basis of Economic status.
- 

**25. Do you choose your friends on the basis of caste? Explain the reasons.**

- Ans.** 1) Keeping such type of thoughts in mind represents the narrow thinking.
- 2) I am not learning such type of thoughts in my school and even not at my house also.
- 3) All men are the creatures of God and they all are similar.
- 

**26. Explain the out of politics of social division under the heading of “Raising of demand by political leader”.**

---

**Ans.** a) The outcome of social division also depends on how political leaders raise the demands on how political leaders raise the demands of any community.

b) It is easier to accommodate demands that are within the constitutional framework and not at the cost of another community.

c) The Sinhala leaders of Sri Lanka wanted to fulfill their demands at the cost of other communities and this led to a civil war.

---

**27. Explain the out of politics of social division under the heading of ‘people’s perception’.**

**Ans.** 1) This is the most important factor which decides the outcome of politics of social divisions. If people see their identities in singular and exclusive terms, it will lead to social division and violence.

2) As long as the people in Northern Ireland saw themselves as only Catholic or Protestants, their differences prevailed.

3) It is much easier if the people are complementary with national identities.

---

**28. Explain the out of politics of social division under the heading of “Reaction of government to the demands of people”.**

**Ans.** 1) The outcome of politics of social division also depends on how the government reacts to the demands of different groups.

2) If the rulers are willing to share power and accommodate the reasonable demands of minority community, social divisions become less threatening for the country.

3) But if they try to suppress such a demand with force and in the name of national Unity, this can lead to civil war or division of country and that has happened in Sri Lanka.

---

**29. Can the politics and social divisions be allowed to mix? Explain the term in the positive point of view.**

**Ans.** a) It reveals that combination of politics and social division is very harmful for the

---

peace and security of the country.

b) Democracy involves political competition among political parties, and political parties usually take up the existing social issues as the political issues.

c) It is very natural that social division affects the politics and politics would take up the matter through promises, take up the matter through promises, make policies to uplift the disadvantaged communities, and look into the representation of various communities.

d) All these never lead to disintegration of the country.

---

**30. How have social divisions resulted in a violent and bitter ethno political conflict in Northern Ireland?**

**Ans.** 1) Northern Ireland of the United Kingdom has been for many years the site of a violent and bitter ethno-political conflict.

2) Its population is divided into major sects of Christianity. 53% population is of Protestants and 44% population is of Catholics.

3) This ethnic divided became a political divided when Catholic were represented by Nationalist parties who demanded that Northern Ireland be unified with the republic of Ireland, a predominant Catholic country.

4) Protestants were represented by Unionists who wanted to remain with UK, which is predominant Protestants

## 5 marks Questions

**1. Do you think that social divisions are always dangerous? Explain.**

**Ans.** 1) Every social difference does not lead to social division. Also social divisions are not always dangerous.

2) Social differences divide similar people from one another, but they also unite very different people. People belonging to different social groups share differences and similarities cutting across the boundaries of their groups.

3) People belonging to the same religion do not feel that they do not belong to the same community because their caste or sect is very different. It is also possible for people from different religions to have the same caste and feel close to each other.

4) Rich and poor persons from the same family do not keep close relation with each other for they feel they are very different.

5) Thus we all have more than one identity and can belong to more than one social group.

---

**2. In a democracy every expression of social division in politics is not disastrous". Establish the truth of the statement.**

**Ans.** 1) At first sight it would appear that the combination of politics and social divisions is very dangerous and explosive.

2) But social division of one kind or another exists in most countries of the world. Wherever they exist, these divisions are reflected in politics.

3) Democracy involves competition among various political parties tends to divide any society. But it is not always disastrous.



---

4) In a democracy political expression of social division is very normal and can be healthy. This allows various disadvantages and marginal social groups to express their grievances and get the government to attend to these.

5) Expression of various kinds of social divisions in politics often results in their cancelling one another out and thus reducing their intensity. This leads to strengthening of a democracy.

---

### **3. How far is it correct to say that social divisions exist only in big countries like India?**

**Ans.** 1) Social divisions of one kind or another exist in most countries. It does not matter whether the country is small or big.

2) India is vast country with many communities. Belgium is a small country with many communities.

3) Even those countries such as Germany and Sweden that were once highly homogeneous are going rapid change with influx of people from other parts of the world.

4) Migrants bring with them their own culture and tend to form a different social community.

5) In this sense most countries of the world are multi-cultural and having social division.

---

### **4. Overlapping social differences and cross cutting of differences create social divisions? Explain.**

**Ans.** 1) Social division takes place when some social difference overlapped with other differences.

2) Situation of this point produce social division, when one kind of social difference becomes more important when the other and people start feeling that they belong to different community.

3) The difference between the blacks and whites becomes a social division in the US because the blacks tend to be poor, homeless and discriminated against.

---

4) If social differences crosscut one another it is difficult to pit one group of people against the other.

5) It means the groups who share a common interest on one issue are likely to be indifferent sides on a different issue.

6) Overlapping social differences create possibility of deep social division and tension while cross cutting differences are easier to accommodate.

---

### **5. What are the features of civil rights movement in USA?**

**Ans.** 1) The civil Rights Movement was started in the USA in 1954. It lasted in 1968.

2) This movement refers to a set of events and reform movements aimed at abolishing legal racial discrimination against African-Americans.

3) This movement was led by Martin Luther King Junior.

4) It was a reform movement.

5) This Movement practiced non violent methods of civil disobedience against racially discriminatory laws and practices.

---

### **6. What are the features of Black Power Movement in USA?**

**Ans.** 1) This movement was run during 1966-1975.

2) It believed in violence.

3) This movement had no leader.

4) This movement resorted to violence to end racism.

5) It was an unorganized, more militant and anti racist movement.

---

### **7. Name the athletes who raised the civil rights issue? Who did they express their anger?**

---

**Ans.** 1) Tommy Smith and John Carlos, African Americans were the US Athletes.

2) They had won the Gold and Bronze Medals respectively in the 200 meter race and raised the civil rights issue.

3) They received their medals wearing black socks and no shoes to represent Black poverty.

4) With this gesture they tried to draw international attention to racial discrimination in the United States.

5) The black gloved and raised clenched fists were meant to symbolize black power.

---

### **8. How is political expression of social divisions in democracy beneficial?**

**Ans.** In a democracy political expression of social division is very normal and can be healthy. In the cases of India, Sri Lanka, Belgium, Yugoslavia it has very much observed that social diversities can be accommodated in a very positive manner. But a positive attitude towards diversity and a willingness to accommodate it do not come about easily.

1) People who feel marginalized, deprived and discriminated have to fight against the injustice.

2) Such a fight often takes the democratic path voicing their demands in a peacefully and constitutional manner.

3) Seeking a fair position through elections.

4) Some time social differences can take the form of unacceptable level of social inequalities and injustice. The struggle against such inequalities sometimes takes the path of violence and defiance of state power.

---

### **9. “We all have more and one identity and can belong to more than one social group”. Support the statement with suitable example.**

**Ans.** 1) We have different identities in different context.

2) We all have more than one identity or multiple identities. For example at home. At school, in the village or city, in the nation.

---

3) At school we are students, class monitor, head boy or girl, sports captain and house captain.

4) At home we are son or daughter, brother or sister.

5) We can have an identity by birth and by choice also. For example a person may be male or female. He or she believes in God or not.

---

**10. Discuss the role of political parties in the determination of the outcomes of social division.**

**Ans.** 1) The outcome depends on how leaders of political parties raise the demand of any community.

2) It is easier to accommodate demands of that are within the constitutional framework.

3) They are not at the cost of another community.

4) For example, the demand for only Sinhala was at the cost of the interest and identity of the Tamil community of Sri Lanka.

5) In Yugoslavia the leaders of different ethnic communities presented their demands in such a way that these could not be accommodated within a single country.

## **CBSE Important Questions**

---

**Q1. Which of the following is associated with the Civil Rights movement in the U.S.A. (1954-1968) ?**

- (a) Abolishing legal racial discrimination against African Americans.**
- (b) Abolishing unequal income distribution.**
- (c) Health**
- (d) Education**

**Ans.**(a) Abolishing legal racial discrimination against African Americans.

**Q2. Which type of social diversity or division do we find in Belgium?**

- (a) Religious (b) Linguistic**
- (c) Regional (d) Gender**

**Ans.**(b) Linguistic

**Q3. Which one of the following refers to The Black Power Movement (1966-75)' in USA?**

- (a) A nonviolent reform movement.**
- (b) The American freedom movement.**
- (c) A more militant anti-racist movement.**
- (d) A religious movement.**

**Ans.**(c) A more militant anti-racist movement.

**Q4. What is not the basis of social divisions in India?**

- (a) Language (b) Health**

---

**(c) Region (d) Caste**

**Ans.(b) Health**

**Q5. Which one of the following is the most important origin of social differences?**

**(a) Accident of birth (b) Physical abilities**

**(c) Kinds of Complexion (d) Tall or Short**

**Ans.(a) Accident of birth**

**Q6. Which one of the following is the representative political parties of the Catholics in Northern Ireland?**

**(a) Nationalist Parties (b) Unionist**

**(c) Democratic Party (d) Labour Party**

**Ans.(a) Nationalist Parties**

**Q7. Which University recently installed the statues of Smith, Carlos and Norman in its campus?**

**(a) The Howard University**

**(b) The Chicago State University**

**(c) The Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University**

**(d) The San Jose State University**

**Ans.(d) The San Jose State University**

**Q8. Which one of the following is the actual political expression of social divisions in a democracy?**

**(a) It results in social inequality and injustice.**

**(b) It is a normal practice and can prove healthy.**

---

**(c) It leads to definite violence.**

**(d) It is a rare practice and always proves unhealthy.**

**Ans.** (b) It is a normal practice and can prove healthy.

**Short Answer Type Questions:**

**Q1. Discuss the factors crucial in deciding the outcome of politics of social divisions.**

**Ans.** (1) How people perceive their identities.

(2) How Political leaders raise the demands of any community.

(3) How the government reacts to demands of different groups.

**Q2. Mention three similarities between Tommie Smith and John Carlos.**

**Ans.** (1) Both were African – Americans.

(2) Both won medals at the Mexico Olympic Games in 1968.

(3) Racial discrimination practiced against Africans in America.

**Q3. What are the different types of democracy ? Discuss its two features.**

**Ans.** Two types of democracy - (1) Direct democracy

(2) Indirect democracy

(1) People may express their feelings and expectations as their demands.

(2) There is adjustment between two social divisions with different interests.

(3) Democracy is a system of governance of the people to rule on their own.

**Q4. Who was Peter Norman? Why did he support Carlos and Smith? What punishment did he get for this?**

**Ans.** Peter Norman was an Australian Athlete.

Norman wore a human rights badge on his shirt during the ceremony to show his support to

---

---

the dissent of

two American Athletes.

Norman was not included in the Australian team for the next Olympic.<sup>63</sup>

**Q5. Differentiate between direct and indirect democracies.**

<b>Direct Democracy</b>	<b>Indirect Democracy</b>
(1) People directly participate in the Government of a country.	(1) People do not participate in the Government.
(2) May be practical for the country with small population.	(2) May be practical for the country with its vast population.
(3) The country provides the opportunity to every member of the society to tell his/her view.	(3) The view of social groups is important and the majority is always influential in the formation of policies or rules.

**Long Answer Type Questions :**

**Q1. What do you mean by social differences? How do social differences create social division in society?**

**Ans.** Social differences simply refer to born or biological and socially created inequalities in the society. This mainly based on race, caste, religion, language, culture etc.

(1) When some social differences overlap with other differences. For example the difference between black and white becomes a social division in the US because the Blacks tend to be poor.

(2) If social differences cross cut one another, it is difficult to pit one group of people against other. It means that group sharing a common interest on one issue are likely to be on different side on different issues. For example both Northern Ireland and the Netherlands are



---

predominantly Christian but are divided into Catholics and Protestants.

(3) The overlapping social differences create possibilities of deep social division and tensions while cross cutting differences are easier to accommodate.

**Q3. Social division can take different forms in societies. Explain.**

**Ans.** (1) The racial form of social division, that is social differences on the basis of colour is widely prevalent in societies.

(2) The varna and caste based division of society is found in India. Here Brahmins are considered as the highest varna while the Shudras are the lowest.

(3) Linguist division is another major form of social division found in all societies. There are more than 1000 languages spoken in the world.

(4) The social division is also manifested by the cultural and sub cultural divisions of society.<sup>64</sup>

**Q4. Explain two advantages and two disadvantages of social divisions in democracy.**

**Ans.** Advantages

(1) Political expressions of social divisions is very normal and can be healthy. This allows various disadvantages and marginal social groups to express their grievances and get the government to attend to these.

(2) Expression of various kinds of social divisions in politics often results in their canceling one another out and thus reducing their intensity.

Disadvantages

(1) In a democracy the different social groups organize themselves to bring equality, social justice and other vested interests. Sometimes their protest results into violence or conflicts.

(2) For the society which has high social divisions, becomes very difficult to ensure integrity and unity.

**Q5. Why is democracy considered the best form of government ? Give Four points.**

---

**Ans.** (1) The government is formed by the elected representatives of the people.

(2) People have the opportunity to express their thoughts and beliefs. People have the right to change the government. It prevents the government from working arbitrarily.

(3) It provides all its citizens the opportunity to participate in the government and administration, without any discrimination.