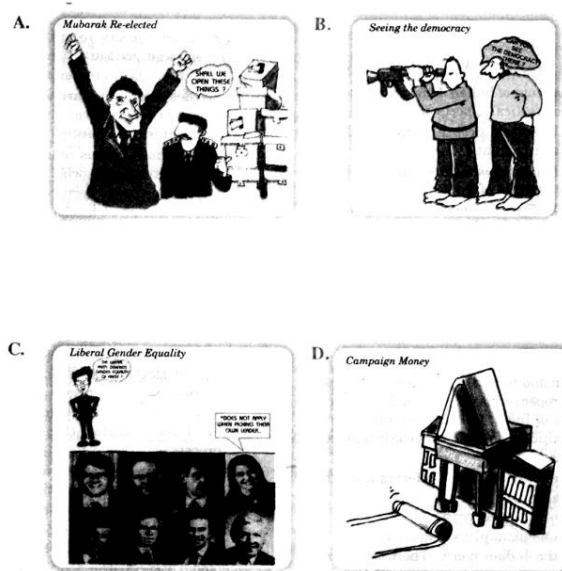


Challenges to Democracy

ACTIVITY BASED ASSIGNMENTS

Q.1. Each of these cartoons represents a challenge to democracy. Please describe what that challenge is. Also place it in one of the three categories of challenges. [NCERT]



Ans.

A. "Foundational of Challenge." "Extension of Popular Representation."	B. "The Foundational Challenge to Curb Down the Muscle Power." "Reforms in Constitutional Designs."
C. "Challenge of Expansion." "To Accommodate Social Diversity."	D. "Challenge of Money Power." To Curb Down Influence of Money and Muscle Power, i.e., Challenge of Deepening of Democracy."

2.

Case and context	Your description of the challenges for democracy In the situation
Chile: General Pinochet's government defeated, but military still in control of many institutions.	[Example] Establishing civilian control overall governmental institutions, holding the first multi-party elections, recalling all political leaders from exile.
Poland : After the first success of Solidarity, the government imposed martial law and banned solidarity.	
Ghana : Just attained independence, Kwame Nkrumah elected president.	
Myanmar: SuuKyi under house arrest for more than 15 years, army rulers getting global acceptance.	

International Organisations : US as the only super power disregards the UN and takes unilateral action.	
Mexico : Second free election after the defeat of PRI in 2000, defeated candidate alleges rigging.	
China : Communist Party adopts economic reforms but maintains monopoly over political power.	
Pakistan : General Musharraf holds referendum, allegations of fraud in voters' list.	
Iraq : Widespread sectarian violence as the new government fails to establish its authority.	
South Africa : Nelson Mandela retires from active politics, pressure on his successor Mbeki to withdraw some concessions given to White minority	

Case and context	Your description of the challenges for
US, Guantanamo Bay : UN Secretary General calls this a violation of international law. US refuses to respond.	
Saudi Arabia : Women not allowed to take part in public activities, no freedom of religion for minorities	
Yugoslavia : Ethnic tension between Serbs and Albanians on the rise in the province of Kosovo. Yugoslavia disintegrated.	
Belgium : One round of constitutional change taken place, but the Dutch speakers not satisfied; they want more autonomy.	
Sri Lanka : The peace talks between the government and the LTTE break down, renewed violence.	
US, Civil Rights : Blacks have won equal rights, but are still poor. less educated and marginalised.	
Northern Ireland : The civil war has ended but Catholics and Protestants yet to develop trust.	

Nepal : Constituent Assembly about to be elected, unrest in Terai areas, Maoists have not surrendered arms.	
Bolivia : Morales, a supporter of water struggle, becomes Prime Minister, MNCs threaten to leave the country.	

Ans.

Description o. the challenges for democracy in that situation
Chile : [Example] Establishing civilian control over all governmental institutions, holding the first multi-party elections, recalling all political leaders from exile.
Poland : The Foundational Challenge Poland became a democracy and Lech Walesa its first popularly elected President installed the Democratic government.
Ghana: Challenge of Expansion He promoted the concept of Pan-Africanism. Living standard of people improved. He deviated from the path of democracy and his major flaw was - absolute power.
Myanmar Challenge of Power (muscle) in the form of Military (Army) Rule ; Power is in the hands of army and not exercised by the elected representatives. Freedom of speech and expression does not exist. Foundational Challenge
International Organisations : Authoritarian ; Being global institution/International organisations do not function in a democratic manner Though every member nation has one vote in the UN General Assembly yet all crucial decisions are taken by 'Security Council'. Challenge of Expansion.
Mexico Deepening Democracy : It takes measures to stifle the growth of opposition and uses other underhand measures to remain in power. But, elections do not offer any political alternatives.
China : Deepening of Democracy : Here, in China elections do not offer any choice to the people. People have to vote for the ruling party (Communist Party) and the candidates approved by it.
Pakistan : Challenge of Muscle Power [Military Rule]: The work of civilian cabinet is supervised by a "National Security Council" which is dominated by military officers. Towards Foundational Challenge
Iraq : Foundational Challenge : Saddam Hussain a leading Bath (Renaissance) party leader formed the government After becoming the president of Iraq in 1979 Saddam ran dictatorial government and suppressed any dissent or opposition to his rule.

Description of the challenges for democracy in that situation
South Africa : Deepening of Democracy : In 1993, a democratic Constitution was established and apartheid government ended giving way to the formation of a multi-racial government.
US, Guantanamo Bay : Challenge of Muscle Power: This involves the government of one country denying rights to citizens of another country.
Saudi Arabia : Challenge of Expansion : People do not elect their rulers and have no say in "decision-making".
Yugoslavia : Expansion of Democracy : Political competition along religious and ethnic lines led to the disintegration of Yugoslavia into six independent countries.
Belgium : Deepening Democracy : Leaders realised that the unity of the country is possible only by respecting the feelings and interests of different communities. So, mutually acceptable arrangement for power sharing was made.
Sri Lanka : Expansion of Democracy : Sri Lankan Tamils launched parties and struggles demanding an independent Tamil Elam (state) in Sri Lanka. But, majority Rule/Dominance established.

US, Civil Rights : Deepening Democracy : This movement practiced non-violent methods of civil disobedience against racially discriminatory laws and practices.
Northern Ireland : Expansion of Democracy : In Northern Ireland class and religion overlap each other. This created the possibilities of deep social divisions and tensions.
Nepal : The Foundational Challenge : Here the popular struggle was about the foundation of the country's politics, i.e., the demand for restoration of parliament and power to all party government.
Bolivia : Challenge of Money Power : Bolivia's popular struggle was about one specific policy and claims on an elected, democratic government. The power of the people forced the officials of MNCs to flee and made the government concede to all the demands of the protesters. Challenge of Deepening of democracy.

Different types of Challenges

Q.3. Now that you have noted down all these challenges, let us group these together into some broad categories. Given below are some spheres or sites of democratic politics. You may place against each of these the specific challenges that you noted for one or more countries or cartoons in the previous section. In addition to that write one item for India for each of these spheres. In case you find that some challenges do not fit into any of the categories given below, you can create new categories and put some items under that. [NCERT]

Constitutional design	
Democratic rights	
Working of institutions	
Elections	
Federalism, decentralisation	
Accommodation of diversity	
Political organizations	
Affidavit concerned with politics	
Free and fair election	

Ans.

Constitutional Design : Foundational challenge related to Constituent Assembly and framing of constitution. China, Nepal, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Belgium.
Democratic Rights : Deepening and Expansion of Democracy in dictatorships. Poland, Saudi Arabia, Guantanamo Bay and US Civil Rights.
Working of Institutions : The Foundational Challenges in non- democratic countries, International Organisations, Mexico and China.
Elections : Deepening of Democracy in the way of free, fair election and popular participation. Mexico.
Federalism. Decentralisation : Deepening of Democracy at grass-roots levels i.e. local self government. Yugoslavia and Belgium.

Accommodation of Diversity : Expansion of Democracy towards socio-economic equality Belgium, Northern Ireland, Yugoslavia, Iraq.
Political Organisations: The foundational challenges in democratic and non-democratic institutions in the forms of pressure groups and political parties. Northern Ireland, Ghana and South Africa
Affidavit Concerned with Politics : Challenge of corruption in Indian politics regarding politicians criminal records and possessions. India.
Free and Fair Election : Challenge of criminalisation in Indian Politics in the way of use of money and muscle power. India.

Q.4. Let us group these again, this time by the nature of these challenges as per the classification suggested in the first section. For each of these categories, find at least one example from India as well. [NCERT]

Foundational challenge	
Challenge of expansion	
Challenge of deepening	

Ans.

Foundational challenge : A country having non-democratic government like, monarchy, dictatorship or rule under religious leaders. Example from India ; Granting full statehood to Delhi and union territories
Challenge of expansion : Extension of representation at state and local levels Example from India Decentralisation for popular representation at the local level
Challenge of deepening : Constitutional Amendments on Electoral and Democratic Reforms. In India : Amendments on the reservation of seats in Lok Sabha and Legislature Assemblies for women and SCs and STs, political organisations, etc.

Q.5. Now let us think only about India. Think of all the challenges that democracy faces in contemporary India.

List those five that should be addressed first of all. The listing should be in order of priority, i.e., the challenge you find most important or pressing should be mentioned at number 1, and so on. Give one example of that challenge and your reasons for assigning it the priority.

[NCERT]

Ans.

Priority	Challenges to democracy	Example	Reasons for preference
1.	Foundational Change	Challenge in the Constitutional design to suit the present challenges of India	In the In the changing world towards globalisation India needs some reforms in the Constitutional Designs to cope up with.
2.	Challenge of Deepening	Representation to women and SCs and STs.	With the Constitutional Change India is required to accommodate

3.	Challenge of Criminalisation	Electoral Reforms of use money and muscle power	Social Diversity as well. In order to have free and fair election under the electoral reforms, Influence of money and power must be curbed.
4.	Challenge of Expansion	Federal Decentralisation	Keeping in view the vastness of our country representation must be given at the local level also.
5.	Challenge of Corruption	Politicians and their possessions	In order to check the corruption among politicians and their criminal record the concept of Affidavit has been introduced in India.

6. Here Is your space for writing your own definition of good democracy. [NCERT]

(Write your name here) 's definition of good democracy (not more than 50 words):

Features: (use only as many points as you want. Try to compress it in as few points as possible)

1. People's Rule	
2. Free and Fair Election	
3. Universal Adult Franchise	
4. Rule of Law Franchise	
5. Accountable Government	
6. Enhances Dignity of Citizens	
7. Accommodates Social Diversities	

How did you like this exercise ? Was it enjoyable ? Very demanding ? A little frustrating ? And a little scary ?

Are you a little resentful that the textbook did not help you in this crucial task ? Are you worried that your definition may not be 'correct' ? Here then is your last lesson In thinking about democracy; there Is no fixed definition of good democracy. A good democracy is what we think it is and what we wish to make it. This may sound strange. Yet, think of it: is it democratic for someone to dictate to us ?what a good democracy is ?

Ans.

(Write Your name here)XYZ.....'s definition of good democracy (not more than 50 words) :

Democracy is a form of government in which the rulers are elected by the people. It ensures that every citizen takes part in the decision making process either directly or indirectly through the elected representatives in free and fair manner.

1. People's Rule : In a Democracy the final decision making power rests with the people direct by or indirect by.
2. Free and Fair Election : A Democracy is based on a free and fair election where those currently in power have a fair chance of losing.
3. Universal Adult Franchise : In a Democracy, each adult citizen is given one vote and each vote has the same value.
4. Rule of Law Franchise : Democratic government rules within limits set by Constitutional law and citizens rights.
5. Accountable Government : Democratic government Is an accountable form of Government which responds to the needs of the people.
6. Enhances Dignity of Citizens : Democracy is based on the equality, hence, promotes equal status and opportunities to all.
7. Accommodates Social Diversities : Democracy provides a method to deal with differences and conflicts.

Q.7. CASE STUDY : Doctors' absenteeism

[NCERT]

Challenge :

Uttar Pradesh government got a survey done and found out that most of the doctors posted in the rural primary health centers are simply not there They live in a town. carry out private practice and visit the village where they are posted only once or twice in the entire month, Villagers have to travel to towns and pay very high fee to private doctors even for common ailments.

Reform proposals:

- **The government should make it compulsory for the doctors to live in the village where they are posted, otherwise their service should be terminated.**
- **District administration and police should carry out surprise raids to check the attendance of the doctors.**
- **Village Panchayat should be given the power to write the annual report of the doctor which should be read out in the Gram Sabha meeting.**
- **Problems like this can be solved only if Uttar Pradesh is split into several smaller states which can be administrated more efficiently.**

Ans. Other Proposals :

- **Doctor's absenteeism can be controlled by making strict rules for doctors to live in the villages of their posting,**
- **Doctors should be debarred from doing private practice.**
- **Surprise checking by the department must be made.**
- **Besides, doctors must be given enough incentives by the government to work in a village.**

Q.8. CASE STUDY : Political funding

[NCERT]

Challenge :

On an average, every candidate who contested the last Lok Sabha elections owned a property of more than Rs. One crore. There is a fear that only wealthy people or those with their support can afford to fight elections.

Most of the political parties are dependent on money given by big business houses. The worry is that the role of money in politics will reduce whatever little voice the poor have in our democracy.

Reform Proposals:

- **The financial accounts of every political party should be made public. These accounts should be examined by government auditors.**
- **There should be state funding of elections. Parties should be given some money by the government to meet their election expenditure,**
- **Citizens should be encouraged to give more donations to parties and to political workers. Such donations should be exempt from income tax.**

Ans. Other Proposals :

- **Role of money should be curbed down.**
- **The steps of auditing of accounts of political parties and state funding must be appreciated. These bring transparency in the finances of the political parties.**
- **There should be a ceiling on party spending on elections.**