

Short Answer Questions

Q. 1. Explain 'foundation challenge' faced by democracies of the world.

Ans. (i) Foundation challenge takes place when the basic structure or foundation of the government changes.

(ii) It can be monarchy or military dictatorship, changed into democracy.

(iii) The Nepal King Gyanendra, who replaced democracy with autocracy was forced to leave the palace and accept democracy and political rights of the people, when the movement against autocracy took place.

This transition may take many decades or centuries.

Q. 2. "The Right to Information Act acts as a watchdog of democracy." Explain.

Ans. The best laws are those which empower people to carry out democratic reforms.

The Right to Information Act empowers the people to find out the role of government and makes its functioning more transparent.

The citizens have the right to ask what happened and how it happened. It helps them check corruption, malpractices, etc.

Q. 3. When is democracy considered to be successful?

Ans. The rulers elected by the people must take all major decisions and not the rich and powerful people.

The elections must offer a choice and fair opportunity to the people to change the rulers, if they want to.

A choice and opportunity should be available to all the people based on political equality.

Q. 4. Define a "good democracy".

Ans. Democracy is a form of government in which the rulers are elected by the people. Supreme power is in the hands of people and exercised directly by them.

(i) In a good democracy, the citizens and political parties should enjoy freedom in electing the government.

(ii) The elections should be free from money and muscle power and there should not be any malpractices.

(iii) Democracy is considered good when the economic growth rate and standard of living are high.

Q. 5. What do you mean by 'counterproductive law'?

Ans. Any legal change becomes counterproductive law when it results adversely. For example, many states have banned people who have more than two children from contesting panchayat elections. This had resulted in demotivation of political opportunity to many poor and women, which was not intended.

Generally, laws that seek to ban something are not successful in politics. This law tends to hinder the attainment of a desired goal and results adversely.

Q. 6. How democracy has been redefined? What positive points about democracy can highlight the definition?

Ans. Democracy has been redefined as a democratic government where the changes have taken place. The positive points about the democracy can be added to its definition.

- (i) The rulers elected by the people must take all the major decisions.
- (ii) Elections must offer a choice and fair opportunity to the people to change the current rulers.
- (iii) This choice and opportunity should be available to all the people on an equal basis.
- (iv) The exercise of this choice must lead to a government limited by basic rules of the constitution and citizens' rights.

Q. 7. "The challenge of deepening of democracy is being faced by every democracy in one form or another." Support the statement with arguments. [CBSE (F) 2016]

OR

Which kind of government is dominant in the contemporary world? Mention the issues that are involved in the challenge of 'deepening of democracy'. [CBSE (Comptt.) 2016]

Ans. Deepening of democracy

- (i) Deepening of democracy involves strengthening of the institutions and practice of democracy.
- (ii) The ordinary people have different expectations from democracy in different societies. Therefore, this challenge has different meanings in different parts of the world.
- (iii) It wants more of people's participation and control.
- (iv) It controls and wants to bring down the control of rich and powerful people in making of the governmental decision.

Q. 8. “A public expression of dissatisfaction with democracy shows the success of democratic project.” Justify the statement. [CBSE (F) 2016]

Ans. “A public expression of dissatisfaction with democracy shows the success of democratic project:”

- (i) It shows that people have developed awareness and the ability to expect.
- (ii) People look critically at power holders. They want to make democracy better.
- (iii) They come up with expressions and complaints. They value their democratic rights.