

# Chapter

## Understanding Secularism

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### I. Choose the correct Answer.

1. Secularism means

- a) State is against to all religions
- b) State accepts only one religion
- c) An attitude of tolerance and peaceful co-existence on the part of citizen belonging any religion
- d) None of these

**Answer:**

c) An attitude of tolerance and peaceful coexistence on the part of citizen belonging any religion

2. India is a land of

- a) multi-religious faith
- b) multi-cultural beliefs
- c) Both(1)&(2)
- d) None of these

**Answer:**

c) Both (1) & (2)

3. The Preamble of the Constitution was amended in

- a) 1951
- b) 1976
- c) 1974
- d) 1967

**Answer:**

b) 1976

4. Which one of the following describes India as a secular state?

- a) Fundamental Rights b) Fundamental Duty
- c) Directive Principles of State Policy d) Preamble of the Constitution

**Answer:**

d) Preamble of the Constitution

5. Right to freedom of religion is related to

- a) Judiciary b) Parliament
- c) Directive principles of State Policy d) Fundamental rights

**Answer:**

d) Fundamental rights

6. According to Article 28, which type of education is restricted in state-aided educational institutions?

- a) Religious instruction b) Moral education
- c) Physical education d) None of the above

**Answer:**

- a) religious instruction

7. The country will be considered as a secular country, if it

- a) gives importance to a particular religion.
- b) bans religious instructions in the state-aided educational institutions.
- c) does not give importance to a particular religion.
- d) bans the propagation of any religious belief.

**Answer:**

- c) does not give importance to a particular religion

## II. Fill in the blanks

1. Religion does not teach us .....

**Answer:**

animosity

2. Secularism is a part of democracy which grants .....

**Answer:**

equal rights

3. .... is a lack of belief in god and gods.

**Answer:**

Atheism

4. The basic aim of our constitution is to promote ..... and .....

**Answer:**

unity & integrity

5. Article 15 ..... prohibits on the grounds of religion, caste, sex, or place of birth.

**Answer:**

discrimination

## III. Match the following

Column I	Column II
1. Atheism	a) coined the word secularism
2. Children	b) social reformer
3. Din-i-Illahi	c) lack of belief in god

4. Constitution	d) future citizen
5. Holyoake	e) Divine faith
6. Rajaram Mohan Roy	f) 1950

**Answer:**

Column I	Column II
1. Atheism	c) lack of belief in god
2. Children	d) future citizen
3. Din-i-Illahi	e) Divine faith
4. Constitution	f) 1950
5. Holyoake	a) coined the word secularism
6. Rajaram Mohan Roy	b) social reformer

#### IV. State true or false.

1. There is a state religion in India.

**Answer:**

False

2. The term secularism has been derived from the Greek word.

**Answer:**

False

3. The Mughal emperor Akbar followed the policy of religious toleration. answer:

True

4. Jainism originated in China. –

**Answer:**

False

5. Government of India declares holidays for all religious festivals.

**Answer:**

True

#### V, Consider the following statements and tick the appropriate answer.

1. i) Secularism is invaluable for a society like India which is characterized by religious diversity.

ii) The word secularism was not mentioned in the Constitution when it was adopted in

1950.

iii) Article 26 deals with payment of taxes for the promotion of any particular religion.

iv) Akbar's tomb situated at Sikandara near Agra.

a) i, ii only

b) ii, iii only

c) iv only

d) i, ii, and iv only

**Answer:**

d) i, ii, iv only

2. Assertion (A): A foreigner can practice his own religious faith in India.

Reason (R): The freedom of religion is guaranteed by the constitution not only for Indians but

also for the aliens also.

a) A is true but R is false.

b) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

c) A is false but R is true.

d) Both A and R are true. R is not the correct explanation of A.

**Answer:**

b) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

3. Assertion (A): Secularism is invaluable in India.

Reason (R): India is a multi-religious and multi-cultural country.

a) A is correct and R is the correct explanation of A.

b) A is correct and R is not the correct explanation of A.

c) A is wrong and R is correct. '

d) Both are wrong.

**Answer:**

a) A is correct and R is the correct explanation of A.

4. Find out the wrong pair.

**Answer:**

a) Din-i-Ilahi – A book

b) Khajuraho – Hindu temple

c) Ashoka – Rock Edict

d) Iqbal – Poet

**Answer:**

a) Din-i-Ilahi – A book

## VI. Answer the following in one or two sentences

1. Name some of the Indians who contributed to the spreading of secularism.

**Answer:**

1. Rajaram Mohan Roy

2. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan
3. Rabindranath Tagore
4. Mahatma Gandhi and
5. B.R. Ambedkar

2. What does secularism mean?

**Answer:**

Secularism means an attitude of tolerance towards other religions and the peaceful co-existence of citizens belonging to different faiths.

3. State the objectives of secularism.

**Answer:**

Objectives of Secularism:

1. One religious group does not dominate another.
2. Some members don't dominate other members of the same religious community.
3. The state does not enforce any specific religion nor take away the religious freedom of individuals.

4. Why is it important to separate religion from the state?

**Answer:**

- Because there is no state religion in India.
- The state will neither establish a religion of its own nor confer any special patronage upon any particular religion.

5. What are the characteristic features of a secular state?

**Answer:**

- Principle of Liberty – The state permits the practice of any religion
- Principle of Equality – The state does not give preference to any religion over another.
- Principle of Neutrality – The state remains neutral in religious matters.

6. Mention any three constitutional provisions related to secularism?

**Answer:**

- Article 15 – prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, caste, sex or place of birth, etc.,
- Article 16 – equality of opportunity in public employment.
- Article 26 – Freedom to manage religious affairs.

**VII. Answer the following in detail.**

### 1. Why we need secular education?

Secular education is needed

- to remove narrow mindedness and makes dynamic and enlightened view;
- to develop moral and humanistic outlook;
- to train the youth to be a good citizen;
- to strengthen democratic values like liberty, equality, and fraternity, and co-operative living;
- to give a wider vision towards life;
- to develop an attitude of appreciation and understanding of others point of view;
- to develop the spirit of love, tolerance, co-operation, equality, and sympathy;
- to synthesize materialism and spiritualism.

### 2. Secularism is necessary for a country like India. Justify.

- Yes, Secularism necessary because India is a land of multi-cultural beliefs. '
- It is the birthplace of four major religions.
  - Hinduism
  - Jainism
  - Buddhism
  - Sikhism
- The main concept of secularism is aimed at creating a society in which people with religious beliefs or people who do not belong to any religion can live together in harmony and peace.

## VIII. HOTS

1. Will the Government intervene if some religious group says that their religion allows them to practice human sacrifice?

**Answer:**

The government will definitely intervene if some religious group says that their religion allows them to practice in infanticide, Ample reason can be given in support of the answer. No religion teaches us to kill any living being, kindness is the root of all religions. Even the law of our country also declares that killing a human being is illegal. It is also against human rights.

## IX. Project and Activity.

1. Look at the holidays of your school calendar. How many of them pertain to different religions? List them based on religions. What does it indicate?

June 5 – Ramzan

Sep. 2 – Ganesh Chaturthi

Dec. 25 – Christmas

It indicates we had so many religion and given as government holidays for the religious ceremonies.