

CBSE Test Paper - 03
Chapter - 19 Gender, Religion and Caste

1. India is a secular state because: **(1)**
 - a. There is an official religion
 - b. It teaches defensive action to the people
 - c. It prohibits discrimination on religious grounds
 - d. It disallows freedom to practise any religion

2. Indian society is a _____ one. **(1)**
 - a. patriarchal
 - b. matriarchal
 - c. maternal
 - d. fraternal

3. A person who thinks that caste is principal basis of community: **(1)**
 - a. Castiest
 - b. Communist
 - c. Communalist
 - d. Humanist

4. Consider the following points regarding the relationship between religion and politics. Identify the incorrect one. **(1)**
 - a. Ideas, ideals and values drawn from different religions can and perhaps should play a role in politics
 - b. People should be able to express in politics their needs, interests and demands as a member of a religious community.
 - c. These political acts are not wrong as long as they treat every religion unequally.
 - d. Those who hold political power should sometimes be able to regulate the practice of religion so as to prevent discrimination and oppression.

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5. In which of the category of work do you think less time is spent by men? **(1)**
 - a. Earning profit
 - b. Buying groceries
 - c. Children's responsibility
 - d. Household and related work
 6. List some laws enacted by the Parliament for the welfare of women. **(1)**
 7. What do you mean by 'Feminist'? **(1)**
 8. In which countries women are given high profile? **(1)**
 9. According to the census of India 2001, what is the literacy rate for men in India? **(1)**
 10. How does the Constitution of India ensure that India remains a secular state? **(3)**
 11. How has women participation been increased in the Indian politics? Give a comparative analysis of early and modern period. **(3)**
 12. What is the basis of caste-based politics? Explain. **(3)**
 13. Give the concept of caste inequality. **(3)**
 14. Examine the basic features of the caste system prevailing in India. **(5)**
 15. The focus on caste in politics can sometimes give an impression that elections are all about caste and nothing else. Do you agree? Explain. **(5)**

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Answer

1. d. It disallows freedom to practise any religion

Explanation: India is a secular state because:

1. It allows freedom to practise any religion
2. There is no official religion
3. It prohibits discrimination on religious grounds

2. a. patriarchal

Explanation: In our country, women still lag much behind men despite some improvement since Independence. Ours is still a male-dominated, patriarchal society.

3. a. Castiest

Explanation: Castiest is a person who thinks that caste is principal basis of community.

4. c. These political acts are not wrong as long as they treat every religion unequally.

Explanation: All these instances involve a relationship between religion and politics. But they do not seem very wrong or dangerous. 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. Those who hold political power should sometimes be able to regulate the practice of religion so as to prevent discrimination and oppression. These political acts are not wrong as long as they treat every religion equally.

5. d. Household and related work

Explanation: This is reflected in a SEXUAL DIVISION OF LABOUR in most families: women do all work inside the home such as cooking, cleaning, washing clothes, tailoring, looking after children, etc., and men do all the work outside the home. It is not that men cannot do housework; they simply think that it is for women to attend to these things.

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6. For the welfare of the women the following laws are enacted by the Parliament:
 - a. Special Marriage Act of 1955.
 - b. Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961.
 - c. Equal Remuneration Act of 1976.
 7. Feminist can be a woman or a man who believes in equal rights and opportunities for women and men.
 8. Scandinavian Countries- Sweden, Norway and Denmark.
 9. 75.26%
 10.
 - A. There is no of an official religion for the Indian state.
 - B. Constitution of India does not give a special status to any religion.
 - C. The constitution provides to all individuals and communities freedom to profess, practice and propagate any religion, or not to follow any.
 - D. The constitution prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion.
 11. Women have been active participants in Indian politics since independence. In the struggle for independence under Mahatma Gandhi, women played an important role. There were prominent women leaders like Sarojini Naidu and Aruna Asaf Ali. After independence, women have continued to play an important role in politics. India had universal adult franchise right from independence and, therefore, women have been very active in politics as voters.

Earlier women participation in politics was minimal. They were not allowed to participate in public affairs, vote and contest for public offices. It was only after gender issue was raised in politics that women got access to this area. The participation of women in Indian politics has been increased by making it legally binding to have a fair proportion of women in the elected bodies:

- a. In local government, however, the participation of women has significantly increased with one-third of seats in local government institutions being reserved for women.
- b. There are more than 10 lakh elected women representatives in rural and urban local bodies.

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- c. Efforts are being made for such a reservation in Parliament and State Assemblies too.
 - d. Still, a lot more has to be done. A bill on the reservation of seats for women has been pending before the parliament but there is no consensus over the bill among all the political parties.
12. Caste based politics in India, play a big role in elections. Caste-based politics is the big game of politics because if you want to establish your government in any state you need a big support of a proper caste.
- A. When candidates are chosen for a constituency the caste composition of the area is kept in mind and then candidates are nominated who can win the election.
 - B. Political parties make appeals to the caste sentiments of the electorate.
 - C. Caste has become an important factor of political parties.
13. Caste inequalities refer to stratification of society on the basis of caste and discrimination in society based upon this factor. The basis for this discrimination is the belief that some castes are superior than others and people who are born in these castes deserve privileges on the basis of their birth alone. Caste inequality is one of the kinds of social inequality in which people are discriminated against on the basis of origin or caste.
- a. It is the basic constituent of caste system.
 - b. Caste inequality is both hierarchical and segmentary.
 - c. The most detrimental aspect of the caste inequality is the practice of untouchability.
14. A. It is a hierarchical occupational division of the society.
- B. It has four main divisions- Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras.
 - C. It is hereditary.
 - D. The members of the same caste group formed a social community that followed similar occupations, married within the caste and did not mingle with the other caste.
 - E. The caste system was based on the exclusion of and discrimination against the 'outcaste' groups that were subjected to the inhuman practice of untouchability.

15. 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 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.
- v. The voters have a strong attachment to political parties which is often stronger than their attachment to their caste or community.
- vi. Rich and poor or men and women from the same caste often vote very differently.
- vii. People's assessment of the performance of the government and the popularity rating of leaders matter and are often decisive in the elections.