

Hots (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

Q. 1. How do overlapping and cross cutting of differences create social division? Explain.

Ans. Overlapping:

Under this, a social difference overlaps with another difference.

People start feeling that they belong to different communities.

They create possibilities of deep social divisions.

For example, difference between African Americans and Whites in the US is an overlapping difference because the African Americans tend to be poor and homeless.

Cross-cutting:

Under this, a social difference cross-cuts another difference.

The group can share a common interest on one issue but are likely to be on different sides on different issues.

These are easier to accommodate.

For example, in Netherlands, class and religion tend to cross-cut each other as Catholics and Protestants are both likely to be poor or rich.

Q. 2. “Every social difference does not lead to social division.” Explain the statement.

Ans. 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.

It is fairly common for people belonging to the same religion to feel that they do not belong to the same community, because their caste or sect is different.

It is also possible for people from different religions to have the same caste and feel close to each other.

Rich and poor persons from the same family, often do not keep close relations with each other because they feel they are different.

Q. 3. “Reaction of the government to the demands of different groups is a crucial factor in determining the outcome of social divisions.” Explain the statement.

Ans. Factors determining the outcome of social divisions are:

The outcome depends on how to perceive their identities. If people see their identities in singular and exclusive terms, it becomes very difficult to accommodate.

It is easier to accommodate demands that are within the constitutional framework and are not at the cost of another community. For example, the demand for only Sinhala was at the cost of the interest and identity of the Tamil community in Sri Lanka.

In Belgium, the rulers were willing to share power and accommodate the reasonable demands of minority community, social divisions became less threatening for the country. But if government tries to suppress such a demand in the name of national unity, the end result is often quite the opposite as we see in case of Sri Lanka.

Q. 4. The combination of politics and social division is very dangerous and explosive. Do you agree? Support the answer with suitable examples.

Ans. Social divisions and politics really make a very explosive combination.

We have seen the case of Sri Lanka, where preference is given to Sinhalese, dejecting the Tamils in the society as well as politics, which led to revolt and ultimately a civil war, which is creating disturbance in the country.

In Northern Ireland, the Catholics were represented by Nationalist parties who wanted to join the Republic of Ireland.

The Protestants were represented by Unionists, who wanted to remain with the United Kingdom. This led to conflict between them and hundreds of civilians, militants and security forces were killed.

In Yugoslavia, the political competition along religious ending ethnic lines led to the disintegration of Yugoslavia into six independent countries.

Q. 5. “In a democracy, political expression of social division is very normal and can be healthy.” Justify this statement with suitable argument.

Ans. In a democracy, political expression of social division is very normal and can be healthy. In such democracies, they allow all the marginalised social groups to express their opinion and attend to their opinions too.

If there are conflicts among various social group of a country, they often cross cut each other and its intensity gets reduced. It further leads to the strengthening of democracy.

Conflicts in social divisions sometimes became violent also. It led to the division of countries too like Yugoslavia, but in democratic countries, these diversities are accommodated easily.

Q. 6. What are civil rights? Do you think that the movement started in the USA and led by Martin Luther king was right? Write in short about the movement.

Ans. Civil rights are the rights of individuals to receive equal treatment (and to be free from discrimination) in a number of settings of education, housing, employment and more. Yes the movement started was indeed a positive step towards treating human beings with an honour.

Civil Rights Movements in the USA (1954–1968): It refers to a set of events and reform movements aimed at abolishing legal racial discrimination against African-Americans. Led by Martin Luther King Jr., this movement practised non-violent methods of civil disobedience against racially discriminatory laws and practices.