

Long Answer Questions

Q. 1. What are the broad guidelines to be kept in mind while devising ways and means for political reforms in India?

Ans. (i) Legal ways of reforming politics are very tempting. However, only carefully devised changes in law can help to discourage wrong political practices and encourage good ones. Democratic reforms should be carried out by political activities, parties, movements and politically conscious citizens.

(ii) A legal change must be clear in its results. Best laws are those which empower people to carry out democratic reforms. One such Act is the Right to Information Act, which helps in controlling corruption.

(iii) Democratic reforms need to be carried out through strengthening its practice. There should be an increase in quality of political participation by citizens.

(iv) Any proposal for political reform should even devise ways of implementing the reform.



Q. 2. “At least one-fourth of the globe is still not under democratic government.” Explain the challenge to democracy.

Ans. (i) The challenge to democracy in these parts is very stark.

(ii) These countries face the foundational challenge of making the transition to democracy and then instituting a democratic government.

(iii) This involves bringing down the existing non-democratic government.

(iv) Military should be kept away from the controlling government and a sovereign and functional state should be established.

Q. 3. “Most established democracies face a challenge of expansion.” Comment.

OR

How does existing democracies face the challenge of expansion?

OR

**“Most of the established democracies are facing the challenge of expansion.”
Support the statement with examples. [CBSE Delhi 2016]**

Ans. Challenge of expansion involves applying or following the basic principle of democratic government in almost all regions, various institutions and different social groups.

It should ensure greater power to local governments, extension of federal principle to all the units of federation including women and minority.

Most countries including India and other democracies like the US (America) face this challenge.

It also means that less and less decisions should remain outside the arena of democratic control.

Q. 4. Write the measures that can strengthen and deepen democracy.

Ans. (i) Decentralisation of authority should take place. Based on separation of powers, power should be decentralised at the local level. It would make government more responsive to the needs of the people.

(ii) Political parties using caste, religion, violence and separatism as vote-bank factors should be banned.

(iii) Right to Information (RTI) Act should be strengthened so that the rule of law should be implemented realistically.

(iv) It is said that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. It means that people should always be alert to preserve their freedom. For this, it is essential to have an enlightened public opinion. Agencies like mass media, political parties, educational institutions and pressure groups should help in the generation of public opinion. Curbs on any agency would act as a hindrance in the development of sound public opinion which is essential for the smooth functioning of democracy.

(v) Mass media like TV, radio, newspapers, magazines and journals should play an important role in strengthening the freedom of people by spreading awareness and enlightenment and keeping the government on toes by pointing out its loopholes.

(vi) People should be given a right to recall their representatives if they are not working in public interest.

(vii) The term of parliamentary institutions should be fixed so that political instability does not hinder development.

(viii) Women, dalits and backward castes should be given adequate representation so that all communities receive adequate political say.

(ix) Election Commission should be given more powers to make stringent laws, banning parties using money and muscle power.

(x) State funding of elections should be started.

(xi) The bureaucrats should be made more responsive to the needs of people.

(xii) Lokpal should be created to check corruption in public life.

(xiii) Institutions of governance should be strengthened to reduce politics of expediency and opportunism.

(xiv) Citizens should become more active and enlightened to keep a vigil on the functioning of democracy.

Q. 5. What are the shortcomings or weaknesses of Indian democracy.

Ans. In spite of certain achievements, Indian democracy has not been able to solve the problems in entirety. There have been certain shortcomings. These include the following:

(i) Though GDP has increased about 50 per cent, children below five years are still malnourished.

(ii) People are still living in abject poverty, illiteracy and unemployment.

(iii) More than 60 per cent of Indian people do not have access to sanitation.

(iv) Economic development has not been accompanied by institutional changes.

(v) About 35 per cent of the Indian population still lives below the poverty line.

(vi) Women representation in governance is not even 6 per cent.

(vii) Socio-economic inequalities continue to exist in our society.

(viii) Society is divided along casteist, communal, linguistic and regional lines.

(ix) Politics has been criminalised. Use of money and muscle power has shaken the faith of people in democracy.

(x) Society has been divided in the name of caste, religion and creed.

(xi) Increasing corruption has shaken the faith of people in the political system. Democracy is considered to be a means of making easy money at the cost of public welfare.

(xii) Wholesale and mercenary defections have made democracy a farce.

(xiii) Failure to evolve a strong and effective opposition has led to complacency in the ruling party.

Q. 6. “Democracies are not appearing to be very successful in reducing economic inequalities.” Analyse the statement. [CBSE (F) 2016]

Ans. Democracy and the economic outcomes

- (i)** Slow economic development and economic growth due to population
- (ii)** Basic needs of life, such as food, clothing, shelter are difficult to make
- (iii)** Prevalence of Economic Inequalities
- (iv)** Poverty is still a big issue
- (v)** Allocation of resources in few hands
- (vi)** Unjust distribution of goods and opportunities