

Challenges to Democracy

Practice Questions

Q. 1. What is the challenge of expansion?

Answer: The challenge of expansion involves the following aspects:

- Applying the basic principles of democratic governance across all the regions, social groups and institutions.
- To ensure greater power to local government
- Including women and the minority communities in the decision making process.
- Extending the principle of federation to all the federal units.
- Lesser decision to be made outside the democratic purview.
- This challenge is mostly faced by the established democracies like India and USA.

Q. 2. What does the challenge of deepening involve?

Answer: The challenge of deepening involves the following aspects:

- Strengthening of the institutions and the democratic set up.
- Helping the people to realise their expectations through democracy.
- A major issue that arises here is that different people have different expectations from the democracy.
- So, this challenge has different meaning in different countries.
- Improving the level of participation of the people.
- Reducing the effect of the richer sections of the society and the powerful people on the decisions of the government.
- It is faced by every country in some way or the other.

Q. 3. Are legal reforms sufficient to overcome the challenges of democracy?

Answer: A legal reform or a political reform refers to all the suggestions and proposals about overcoming challenges to democracy.

- Yes, a legal reform is sufficient to overcome the challenges of democracy.
- Politics can be reformed by making laws.
- A carefully devised law can help to discourage wrong political practices.
- A good law is the one that helps to empower people to carry out democratic reforms.
- Any such reform must be introduced through proper political practices.
- These reforms must be carefully formulated and then implemented in the best possible manner.
- The expected results must also be thought upon carefully as some results can be counterproductive.
- A good example of a legal reform is RTI-Right to information. This enables the people to have a clear view in the working of the government.
- A bad example is the reform of eliminating those people who have more than 2 children in the Panchayat elections. This does not have a good effect considering the democratic set up of the country.

To conclude, legal reforms can have desirable positive effects in the democracy but only if they are properly devised, implemented and checked upon.

Q. 4. What is the first priority in a democracy?

Answer: ● Democracy is a form of government in which the rulers are elected by the people themselves who take all the major decisions.

- The elections must offer a fair opportunity to the people to change the rulers.
- This choice and opportunity must be available to everyone on an equal basis.

So, the first priority in a democracy is to extend the 'Right to vote' to the people so that they can choose their rulers.

Q. 5. How can the principle of democracy be applied to all sphere of life?

Answer: ● Democracy is not restricted only to ruler and politics. It can be applied to all the spheres of life.

- A democratic decision is a decision based on consultation and the opinion of all the people who are affected by the decision. So, it can be applied to any organization and not only the government.

- We can have a democratic classroom where the students can ask questions without any hesitation. It can promote a healthy 2 way discussion.
- We can also see democratic families. A decision made by one individual and imposed on the rest of the family is not right. All the family members must consult each other and reach a consensus.

Democracy means the equality of all the people. This means we must treat others with utmost respect and dignity.

Q. 6. How would you like to expand the definition of democracy? Explain.

Answer: Democracy is a system of government in which the entire whole population or all the eligible citizens of the country elect their rulers.

The definition of democracy can be expanded by explaining its aspects:

- Democracy is a form of government in which the rulers are elected by the people themselves who take all the major decisions.
- The elections must offer a fair opportunity to the people to change the rulers.
- This choice and opportunity must be available to everyone on an equal basis.
- This election of representatives must be based on the principles of Constitution.

Q. 7. Examination the features of democracy in its expanded form.

Answer: Democracy is a system of government in which the entire whole population or all the eligible citizens of the country elect their rulers.

In a modern democracy, it is not limited only to the above common definition, The scope of democracy has widened due to the socio-economic changes globally.

The features of democracy can be examined in the following way:

- People must have the right to contest in elections without any discrimination on the basis of caste, creed or religion. They must be given complete political freedom.
- Democracy promotes free and fair elections. It is based on 2 important principles - Universal Adult Franchise and Right to Vote.
- People can cast their vote to any candidate of their choice.
- Political rights are not only limited to the political rights but is also extended to cover some social and economic rights.

- It gives a voice to both the majority and minority communities.
- It gives the freedom of choice and freedom of expression.
- Everyone is equal in the eyes of law and should be treated without any partial treatment or biasness.
- Democracy is based on consensus and not power.
- It is strengthened due to the election process based on public opinion
- It promotes development of an individual's mind and increases his involvement in the political spheres.

Q. 8. As an ordinary citizen, what value would you practice in deepening democracy?

Answer: A democracy cannot function without socially and morally responsible citizens. As an ordinary citizen, we can incorporate the following values in deepening democracy.

- We must vote in the elections and choose our candidate without any biasness.
- We must not hesitate in voicing our opinions of the government.
- We must also have a certain level of tolerance to agree a difference in opinion with others.
- We must be well informed on the matters related to politics and must influence the political opinion.
- We must have a sense of responsibility when expressing dissatisfaction in the working of the government. This must be done only through directed channels