

Short Answer Questions

Q. 1. How were the movements of Nepal and Bolivia water war different from each other?

OR

**Differentiate between Nepal's movement and Bolivia's popular struggle.
[CBSE Delhi 2017]**

Ans. The movement in Nepal was to establish democracy, while the struggle in Bolivia involved claims on an elected democratic government.

The popular struggle in Bolivia was about one specific policy, while the struggle in Nepal was about the foundations of the country's politics.

Both these struggles were successful but their impact was at different levels.

Q. 2. "The struggle of the Nepali people is a source of inspiration to democrats all over the world." Support the statement.

Ans. (i) Nepal witnessed an extraordinary popular movement in April 2006. The movement aimed at restoring democracy.

(ii) All the major political parties in the parliament formed a Seven Party Alliance (SPA) and called for a five day strike in Kathmandu.

(iii) On the last day of the ultimatum, the King was forced to concede to all the demands of the SPA.

With the result an interim government was formed, becoming a source of inspiration to democrats all over the world.

Q. 3. How are popular struggles undertaken in a democracy?

OR

**Analyse the role of popular struggles in the development of democracy.
[CBSE (AI) 2017]**

Ans. Democracy evolves through a popular struggle. It is possible that some significant decisions may take place through consensus and may not involve any conflict at all. Democracy usually involves conflicts between those groups who have exercised power and those who aspire for a share in power.

Democratic conflict is resolved through mass mobilisation. Sometimes, it is possible that the conflict is resolved by using the existing institutions like the parliament or judiciary. But when there is a deep dispute, very often these institutions themselves get involved in the dispute.

These conflicts and mobilisations are based on new political organisations. But the spontaneous public participation becomes effective with the help of organised politics. These include political parties, pressure groups and movement groups.

Q. 4. “Popular struggles are integral to the working democracy.” Explain the statement in the light of Bolivia’s struggle against privatisation of water. [CBSE (Comptt) 2017]

Ans. The World Bank pressurized the government to give up its control of municipal water supply. The government sold these rights to a Multinational company for the city of Cochabamba. The company immediately increased the price of water by four times. This led to a spontaneous popular protest. The contract with the MNC was cancelled and water supply was restored to the municipality at old rates. This came to be known as Bolivia’s water war. In January 2000 a new alliance of labour, human rights and community leaders joined a four day political strike in the city. The government agreed to negotiate and the strike was called off. Nothing happened and so they protested again though they were brutally suppressed. Another strike took place in April and the government imposed the martial law. The power of the people forced the officials of the MNC to flee the city and made the government to concede to all the demands of the protestors.

Q. 5. How do pressure groups and movements influence politics?

Ans. Pressure groups and movements exert influence on politics in a variety of ways:

They try to gain public support and sympathy for their goals and their activity by carrying out information campaigns, organising meetings, file petitions, etc. Most of these groups try to influence the media to give attention to these issues.

They often organise protests like strikes or disrupting programmes. Workers’ organisations, employees’ associations and most of the movement groups often resort to these tactics in order to force the government to take note of their demands.

Some persons from pressure groups or movement groups may participate in official bodies and committees that offer advice to the government.

Q. 6. What are movement groups? Give examples.

Ans. When an organisation starts a movement to achieve a specific goal or an issue, such organisation is called movement groups.

(i) Narmada Bachao Andolan: The movement started due to a specific issue of displacement of tribal people due to the construction of Sardar Sarovar Dam on river Narmada. They wanted to stop this construction to get back to their homes.

(ii) Nepalese Movement: It was started by a Seven Party Alliance group to regain democracy in Nepal which had been taken over by the ruling King Gyanendra. Its specific objective was to regain democracy.

Q. 7. What are sectional interest groups? Describe their functioning. [CBSE Delhi 2016]

Ans. Sectional interest groups:

The groups that seek to promote the interests of a particular section or a group of a society is called sectional interest groups.

Functioning:

- (i) They perform a meaningful role in countering the undue influence of other groups.
- (ii) They create awareness about the needs and concerns of their own society.
- (iii) Their principal concern is the betterment and well-being of their members not society in general.

Q. 8. What are public interest pressure groups? Describe their functioning. [CBSE (AI) 2016]

Ans. Public interest groups are those that promote collective rather than selective interests. Their functions is as follows:

- (i) It aims to help groups other than their own members.
- (ii) They represent some common interests that needs to be defended.
- (iii) The members of the organisation may not benefit from the cause that the organisation represents. For example, A group fighting against bonded labour fights not for itself but for those who are suffering under such bondage.
- (iv) For example, BAMCEF

Q. 9. Who led the protest against water privatization in Bolivia? Describe the ways of protest adopted by that organization. [CBSE (F) 2016]

Ans. Protest against water privatization in Bolivia:

FEDECOR (comprised local professionals, including engineers and Environmentalists), human rights and community leaders

Ways of their Protest:

- (i) Organised a successful four-day general strike in the city.
- (ii) Influenced the decision through direct participation in competitive politics.
- (iii) Created parties and formed governments.
- (iv) Formed pressure groups for the protest.

Q. 10. How are issue specific movements different from generic movements? [CBSE Delhi 2016]

Ans. Difference between issue specific and generic movements:

(i) Issue specific movements seek to achieve a single objective within a limited time frame, while generic movements seek to achieve a broad goal in the long term.

(ii) Issue specific movements tend to have a clear leadership and some organisation. But their active life is usually short.

(iii) Generic movements share a broad objective and have a similar approach. Sometimes, these broad movements have a loose umbrella organisation as well.

