

CBSE Test Paper - 04

Chapter - 19 Gender, Religion and Caste

1. Consider the following statements and identify the incorrect one: **(1)**
 - a. Many political parties may put up candidates from the same caste
 - b. The ruling party and the sitting MP or MLA frequently lose elections in our country
 - c. All parliamentary constituencies in the country have a clear majority of one single caste.
 - d. No party wins the votes of all the voters of a caste or community
2. Human rights groups in our country have argued that most of the victims of communal riots in our country are people from: **(1)**
 - a. varied cultures
 - b. multi religious
 - c. religious minorities
 - d. religious majorities
3. The Scheduled Castes are commonly known as: **(1)**
 - a. Dalits
 - b. Superior
 - c. OBCs
 - d. Adivasis
4. The Prime Minister's High Level Committee is popularly known as **(1)**
 - a. Poonchi Committee
 - b. Mandal Committee
 - c. Sarkaria Committee
 - d. Sachar Committee
5. The girls drop out from the schools because: **(1)**

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- a. parents expect them to go for higher education
 - b. they don't have proper transportation
 - c. of the poor economic condition
 - d. parents prefer to spend their resources for their boys' education rather than spending equally
6. According to the census of India 2001, what is the literacy rate for women in India? **(1)**
 7. Name the group of countries in which participation of women in public life is very high. **(1)**
 8. Which country has no official religion of its own? **(1)**
 9. What is gender division? **(1)**
 10. Describe the adverse effects of caste in politics in India. **(3)**
 11. How does caste get politicised? Give three points. **(3)**
 12. Why did the Muslim Ulama in India want to introduce religious reforms in Islam? Give any three reasons. **(3)**
 13. Suggest any two measures to check communalism in India. **(3)**
 14. Explain the role of caste in Indian politics. **(5)**
 15. Describe any five ways in which women in India are still discriminated and oppressed. **(5)**

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Answer

1. c. All parliamentary constituencies in the country have a clear majority of one single caste.

Explanation: 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

2. c. religious minorities

Explanation: Human rights groups in our country have argued that most of the victims of communal riots in our country are people from religious minorities. They have demanded that the government take special steps to protect religious minorities.

3. a. Dalits

Explanation: The Scheduled Castes, commonly known as Dalits, include those that were previously regarded as 'outcaste' in the Hindu social order and were subjected to exclusion and untouchability.

4. d. Sachar Committee

Explanation: Expert estimates done for the Prime Minister's High Level Committee (popularly known as Sachar Committee) show that the proportion of the Muslims is expected to go up a little, by about 3 to 4 per cent, in the next 50 years.

5. d. parents prefer to spend their resources for their boys' education rather than spending equally

Explanation: When we look at school results, girls perform as well as boys, if not better in some places. But they drop out because parents prefer to spend their resources for their boys' education rather than spending equally on their sons and daughters.

6. 53.67%

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7. Women's participation in public life is very high in Scandinavian countries (Sweden, Norway and Finland).
 8. India has no official religion of its own and hence is called secular.
 9. The difference between female and male members of society is defined as Gender division. It is a form of hierarchical social division based on stereotypes and social expectations.
 10. Adverse effects of caste in politics in India:
 - i. Political parties choose candidates keeping in mind the caste composition of the electorate to gain votes.
 - ii. Political parties make appeals to caste sentiments to muster support.
 - iii. Politics based on caste identity alone is not very healthy in a democracy. It can divert attention from other pressing issues like development, poverty and corruption.
 - iv. Leads to conflicts and tensions among various caste groups.
 11. Politics too influences caste system and caste identities by bringing them into the political arena. Thus it is not politics that gets caste ridden, it is the caste that gets politicised. This takes several forms:
 - i. Each caste group tries to become bigger by incorporating within it neighbouring castes or sub-castes which were earlier excluded from it.
 - ii. Various caste groups are required to enter into a coalition with other castes or communities and thus enter into a dialogue and negotiation.
 - iii. New kinds of caste groups have come up in the political area like 'backward' and 'forward' caste groups.
 12. Muslim Ulama in India wanted to introduce religious reforms in Islam because:
 - i. In North India, the decline of the Muslim dynasties deeply disturbed the ulama. It caused anxiety in them.
 - ii. They started considering themselves as a minority religion and felt the need for reforms.
 - iii. They feared that colonial rulers would encourage conversion and change Muslim

personal laws. They were not ready to give in.

- iv. To counter this, they used cheap lithographic presses to publish Persian and Urdu translations of holy scriptures and printed religious newspapers and tracts.
- v. The Deoband Seminary, founded in 1867, published thousands and thousands of fatwas, telling Muslim readers how to conduct themselves in their everyday lives, and explaining the meanings of Islamic doctrines.

- 13.
 - i. Communalism should not be seen as a threat to some people in India.
 - ii. Communal prejudices and propaganda need to be countered in everyday life.
 - iii. Religion-based mobilisation needs to be countered in the arena of politics.

14. Role of caste in politics:

It has persuaded several aspects of Indian society for centuries. Castes are ranked in hierarchical order, which determines the behaviour of one member of society over another.

Besides voting, the caste is an important factor, influencing the selection of candidates in elections, the appointment of ministers, transfer, and posting of public officials etc.

The policy of reservation has given further impetus to the role of caste in politics.

Caste plays a very important role in elections and voting in the following way:

- i. **While choosing candidates:** When parties choose candidates in elections, they keep in mind the caste composition of the electorate, and nominate candidates from different castes so as to get the necessary support to win elections. Political parties select their candidates on the basis of caste composition in the constituency.
- ii. **While forming a government:** When the governments are formed, political parties usually take care that representatives of different castes and tribes find a place in it.
- iii. **While campaigning:** Political parties and candidates in elections make appeals to people to give them their votes on the basis of caste. Some political parties are known to favour some castes and are seen as their representatives.
- iv. **Adoption of democratic principle:** Universal adult franchise and the principle of one-person-one-vote, has compelled the political leaders to raise the caste-based issues during elections. They do so to mobilise and secure political support. The voting in elections and mobilization of political support from top to bottom moves

on the caste lines. It also brought new consciousness among the people of castes that were hitherto treated as inferior and low.

15. Women face disadvantage, discrimination and oppression in various ways:

- i. In our country, women still lag much behind men despite some improvements since Independence. Gender division is not based on biology, but on stereotypes and social expectations.
- ii. Women do all the work inside the home but men do the same kind of work only if they are paid for it.
- iii. Majority of women do some sort of paid work in addition to domestic labour. But their work is not valued and does not get recognition.
- iv. The literacy rate among women is only 54 percent as compared with 76 percent among men.
- v. Similarly, a smaller proportion of girl students go for higher studies. Girls are performing as good as boys in school. But they drop out because parents prefer to spend their resources on their boys' education rather than spending equally on their sons and daughters.
- vi. The proportion of women among the highly paid and valued jobs is still very small, On an average, an Indian woman works one hour more than an average man every day.
- vii. The Equal Wages Act provides that equal wages should be paid to equal work. However, in almost all areas of work, from sports and cinema to factories and fields, women are paid less than men, even when both do exactly the same work.
- viii. The role of women in politics is minimal in most societies.
- ix. In many parts of India, parents prefer to have sons and find ways to have the girl child aborted before she is born. Such sex-selective abortion led to a decline in child sex ratio.
- x. Woman face harassment, exploitation and violence on the domestic front.