

CBSE Test Paper - 04
Chapter - 23 Challenges to Democracy

1. It led to a decline in child sex ratio of the country: **(1)**
 - a. family burden
 - b. sex-selective abortion
 - c. threat from the society
 - d. poor economic background
2. Choose the Challenge/challenges faced by the democracy: **(1)**
 - a. All of these
 - b. Deepening of democracy
 - c. Challenge of expansion
 - d. Foundational challenge
3. Most of the established democracies face the: **(1)**
 - a. challenge of resistance
 - b. challenge of religions
 - c. challenge of explosion
 - d. challenge of expansion
4. These countries face the foundational challenge of making the transition to democracy and then instituting democratic government. Which of the following is incorrect with respect to this? **(1)**
 - a. Bringing down non-democratic regime
 - b. establishing a sovereign and functional state
 - c. keeping military away from controlling government
 - d. establishing a mono religious state
5. In which of the following nations, one round of constitutional change has taken place, but the Dutch speakers were not satisfied as they want more autonomy? **(1)**

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- a. Yugoslavia
 - b. Saudi Arabia
 - c. Sri Lanka
 - d. Belgium

6. Which reform proposal can reduce the rise of money power in politics? **(1)**
7. What does the challenge of expansion faced by established democracies involve? **(1)**
8. What is a challenge? **(1)**
9. In the US, the Blacks have won equal rights but are still poor, less educated and marginalized. Name the kind of challenge faced by the US. **(1)**
10. What is democratic reform? Mention a few broad guidelines for devising political reforms in India. **(3)**
11. How is Myanmar facing the foundational challenge of making a transition to democracy? Explain. **(3)**
12. Suggest some broad guidelines that can be kept in mind while devising ways and means for political reforms in India. **(3)**
13. Mention any three broad guidelines that can be kept in mind while devising ways and means for political reforms in India. **(3)**
14. What are different political reforms that should be implemented in India? **(5)**
15. Do you have any source to get the information about the working of government? Explain. **(5)**

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Answer

1. b. sex-selective abortion

Explanation: 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 (number of girl children per thousand boys) in the country to merely 914.

2. a. All of these

Explanation: The following challenges are faced by democracy: Foundational Challenge, Challenge of expansion and Deepening of democracy

3. d. challenge of expansion

Explanation: Most of the established democracies face the challenge of expansion. This involves applying the basic principle of democratic government across all the regions, different social groups and various institutions.

4. d. establishing a mono religious state

Explanation: These countries face the foundational challenge of making the transition to democracy and then instituting democratic government. This involves bringing down the existing non-democratic regime, keeping military away from controlling government and establishing a sovereign and functional state.

5. d. Belgium

Explanation: Belgium: One round of constitutional change taken place, but the Dutch speakers not satisfied; they want more autonomy.

6. There should be state funding of elections.

7. The challenge of expansion involves applying basic principles of democratic government across all regions, different social groups and various institutions.

8. A challenge is a difficulty that carries within it an opportunity for progress. A

challenge is not just any problem, we usually call only those difficulties a challenge which are significant and which can be overcome.

9. In the US, the Blacks have won equal rights but are still poor, less educated and marginalized. In the given case the US is facing the challenge of deepening of democracy.
10. All suggestions or proposals about overcoming various challenges to democracy are called democratic reform or political reform. Following are broad guidelines for devising political reforms in India are:
 - A. 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.
 - B. 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.
 - C. Democratic reforms need to be carried out through strengthening its practice. There should be an increase in quality of political participation by citizens.
 - D. Any proposal for political reform should even devise ways of implementing reform.
11. There is the absence of democracy in Myanmar as the legitimately elected leader Sue Kyi has been under house arrest for more than 15 years. She has been released recently.
 - A. The army is in power in Myanmar and a democratically elected government is not allowed to function.
 - B. The country faces the challenge of making a transition to democracy and then instituting a democratic government.
 - C. The people of Myanmar need to bring down the military regime and keep it away while they set up a sovereign and democratic government.
12. Guidelines for political reform:

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- i. Carefully devised changes in law can help to discourage wrong political practices and encourage good ones. Any legal change must carefully look at what results it will have on politics. Sometimes, the results may be counter-productive.
 - ii. The main focus of political reforms should be on ways to strengthen democratic practice.
 - iii. Any proposal for political reforms should think not only about what is a good solution but also about who will implement it and how. Measures that rely on democratic movements, citizens' organisations and the media are likely to succeed.

13. There are some broad guidelines to be kept in mind while devising ways for political reforms in India. These are:

- A. Just by introducing new laws, we cannot overcome challenges to democracy. Democratic reforms must be carried out mainly by political activists, parties, movements and politically conscious citizens.
- B. Any legal change must look at what results it will have on politics. Sometimes, the results may be counterproductive.
For example, many states have banned people who have more than two children from contesting the Panchayat elections. This has resulted in denying opportunity to many poor and women.
- C. The Right to Information Act is a good example of a law that empowers the people to find out what is happening in the government and acts as a watchdog of democracy. Such laws help to control corruption.
- D. The most important concern should be to increase and improve the quality of political participation by ordinary citizens.

14. All the suggestions or proposals about overcoming various challenges to democracy are called 'democratic reforms' or 'political reforms'. All the countries do not have the same challenges, thus, the political reforms should be different.

Some of the political reforms which should be implemented in India are given below:

- A. The best way to bring out reform in the political system is to adopt a proper constitutional basis according to the public opinion or mandates. Legal and constitutional reforms should be carried out. Some of the acts are century old and need to be amended as per the current needs.

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- B. There should be people's participation in politics from grass-root to superstructure level. The best example is the Panchayati Raj System and its election processes are now law.
 - C. Administrative reforms to corruption in the political circles and the bureaucracy. The law of universal literacy should be implemented. Poverty alleviation to provide wages and employment to landless and the poor.
 - D. Elimination of gender discrimination through social-economic reforms. The regional imbalances should be redressed.
 - E. Sustainable development in terms of economic, social and environmental reforms.
 - F. Improve the quality of political parties by competent people's participation.
 - G. Democratic reforms are to be brought about principally through political practice. Therefore, the main focus of political reforms should be on ways to strengthen democratic practice. The most important concern should be to increase and improve the quality of political participation by ordinary citizens.
15. A. RTI is a source to get the information about the working of government in India. The Right to information is a good example of a law that empowers the people to find out what is happening in government and thereby raise their voices if anything unfair happened.
- B. This act enabled people to know about every detail of any programs from the levels of planning to implementations. By this, they can know lapses, misappropriation etc. of any officials and file a complaint and corruption and impose strict penalties.
 - C. This law helps to know who has taken the decision, was the decision taken as per the established norms and procedures. So the executive has to think twice before taking any biased decisions.
 - D. Right to Information Act is to empower the citizens, promote transparency and accountability in the working of the Government, contain corruption, and make our democracy work for the people in real sense. It goes without saying that an informed citizen is better equipped to keep necessary vigil on the instruments of governance and make the government more accountable to the governed.
 - E. The Act is a big step towards making the citizens informed about the activities of the Government.