

Long Answer Questions

Q. 1. Give examples to prove that social differences cross-cut each other.

Ans. (i) If social differences cross-cut one another, it is difficult to put one group of people against the other.

(ii) It means the groups that share a common interest on one issue are likely to be on different sides on a different issue.

(iii) In Northern Ireland, class and religion overlap each other. A Catholic is more likely to be poor and they suffer discrimination.

(iv) In Netherlands, class and religion tend to cross-cut each other. Catholics and Protestants are both likely to be poor or rich. The result is that Catholics and Protestants have had conflicts in Northern Ireland, while they do not do so in the Netherlands.

That's why cross-cutting social differences are easier to accommodate.

Q. 2. 'But a positive attitude towards diversity and willingness to accommodate it do not come about easily.' Elucidate.

Ans. It is not easy to maintain positive attitude towards diversity and willingness to accommodate it because People who feel marginalised, deprived and discriminated have to fight against the injustices. Such a fight often takes the democratic path, voicing their demands in a peaceful and constitutional manner and seeking a fair position through elections. Sometimes social differences can take the form of unacceptable level of social inequality and injustice. The struggle against such inequalities sometimes takes the path of violence and defiance of state power.

Q. 3. 'Social diversity can take different forms in different societies.' Explain.

Ans. Racial discrimination was practised in US and it ultimately led to Civil Rights Movement. There were protests in the streets and US black athletes had protested against their racism in the open in the medal ceremony of Olympics.

In Sri Lanka, the differences could be seen in the form of various religions followed in the country and the languages like Sinhala and Tamil. There was a civil war in the country due to importance being given to Sinhala only.

In Belgium, people speak different languages like Dutch, French and German. But that country opted for accommodation by giving due importance to all the languages.

Most of the social differences are based on the accident of birth but some of them are based on choices also like some people choose to follow a religion which is different from the one in which they were born.