

CHAPTER

6

OUTCOMES OF DEMOCRACY

Syllabus

- *Can or should democracy be judged by its outcomes?*
- *What outcomes can one reasonably expect of democracies?*
- *Does democracy in India meet these expectations?*
- *Has democracy led to development, security and dignity of the people?*
- *What sustains democracy in India?*



TOPIC-1

How Do We Assess Democracy's Outcomes?

Quick Review

- Is democracy a better form of government when compared with dictatorship or any other alternative?
Democracy is better because
 - It promotes equality among citizens.
 - It enhances the dignity of the individual.
 - It improves the quality of decision-making.
 - It provides a method to resolve conflicts.
 - It allows room to correct mistakes.
- Is the democratic government efficient? Is it effective?
 - Imagine that other form of government may take decisions very fast. But it may take decisions which are not accepted by the people and may therefore face problems.
 - Democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation. So, some delay is bound to take place.
 - In contrast, the democratic government will take more time to follow procedures before arriving at a decision.
 - But because it has followed procedures, its decisions may be both more acceptable to the people and more effective.
- So, the cost of time that democracy pays is perhaps worth it.
- Outcomes out of every democracy :
 - As a political outcome of democracy, we expect an accountable, responsive and legitimate government.
 - As an economic outcome, we expect that democracies produce economic growth and development, and reduce poverty and inequality.
 - As a social outcome, we expect democracy to accommodate the social diversity in a society, and provide dignity and freedom to all citizens.

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Know the Terms

- **Dictatorship** : Under dictatorship all the powers are vested in a single person or in a group of people.
- **Legitimate government** : Legally chosen government is called legitimate government.
- **Transparency** : To examine the process of decision making in a democracy.

Know the Links

- www.idea.int/publications/aqd/upload/AssessingOverviewWeb.pdf
- www.idea.int/publications/sod/upload/demo_ass_inlay_eng_L.pdf



Very Short Answer Type Questions

(1 mark each)

- [A] Q. 1. Which form of government is better—democratic or non-democratic?**

[Board Term-II, Set-RKZQI05, 2015]

Ans. Democratic government is better. 1

- [U] Q. 2. What is meant by transparency?**

[Board Term-II, O.D. Set-III, 2015]

Ans. To examine the process of decision-making in a democracy is known as transparency. 1

- [A] Q. 3. Why is democratic government better than other alternatives?**

[Board Term-II, Foreign Set-I, II, III, 2015]

- Ans.** (i) It promotes equality among citizens.
(ii) It enhances the dignity of the individual.

(Any one) 1

- [U] Q. 4. Which form of government is considered best?**

[Board Term-II, Foreign, Set-III, 2015]

Ans. Democratic form of government 1



Short Answer Type Questions

(3 marks each)

- [U] Q. 1. When is democracy considered successful? Explain.** [Board Term-II, Set-KCG34U9, 2016]

Ans. Democracy is considered to be successful because:

- (i) The rulers elected by the people must take all major decision and not the rich and powerful.
- (ii) The election must offer a free choice and opportunity to the people.
- (iii) The choice should be available to all the people based on political equality. 1 × 3 = 3

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016]

- [A] Q. 2. "There is overwhelming support for the idea of democracy all over the world." Support the statement.**

[Board Term-II, 2015, O.D. Set-III, 2012]

Ans. There is an overwhelming support for the idea of democracy all over the world because :

- (i) A democratic government is people's own government.
- (ii) The evidence from South Asia shows that the support exists in countries with democratic regimes.
- (iii) People wished to be ruled by representatives elected by them.
- (iv) People believe that democracy is suitable for their country.
- (v) Democracy has the ability to generate its own support which in itself is an outcome that cannot be ignored. (Any three) 1 × 3 = 3

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015]

- [U] Q. 3. State any three merits of democracy.**

[Board Term-II, Set-WVIVSA5, 2015]

Ans. Merits of Democracy are :

- (i) Democracy assures equality in every spheres of life like political, social and economic.
- (ii) It upholds basic individual liberties like freedom of speech, etc.
- (iii) Due obedience to laws. 1 × 3 = 3

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2015]

- [U] Q. 4. Establish the relationship between democracy and development.**

[Board Term-II, Set-TCJQ6VD, 2016]

OR

- [U] Explain the relationship between democracy and development.** [Board Term-II, Set-2076, 2012]

Ans. Relationship between democracy and development are :

- (i) Democracies are expected to produce development.
- (ii) Development depends upon many factors, i.e., size of population, global situation, cooperation from other countries, etc. In democracies, time is taken on discussion and reaching at a decision. So, it is slow, but it is not unjust or inappropriate.

 $1\frac{1}{2} + 1\frac{1}{2} = 3$

- [R] Q. 5. What outcomes can one reasonably expect of democracies?** [Board Term-II, Set-2027, 2012]

Ans. The outcomes one can reasonably expect of the democracy are :

- (i) **In the political sphere**—Right to vote, right to contest.
- (ii) **In the economic sphere**—Minimised economic inequalities.
- (iii) **In the social sphere**—Equal protection to women, SCs, STs and OBCs. 1 × 3 = 3

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2012]

Q. 6. Discuss any three factors that describe the successful working of democracy in India.

[Board Term-II, Set-2079, 2012]

Ans. The factors which are responsible for the successful working of democracy in India are :

- (i) In India there is an autonomous Election Commission. Free and fair elections are held periodically. The people elect their representatives through the election procedure.
- (ii) The local governments take care of the issues pertaining to their regions. The Panchayati Raj system enables the people to participate in governance.
- (iii) Freedom of press and media enables the people to be well informed about the governmental activities.
- (iv) In India there are a large number of political parties with different bases. They compete with each other to get public support. They participate in the democratic process.

(v) In India, an independent judiciary is very important for the success of democracy.

(Any three) $1 \times 3 = 3$

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2012]

Q. 7. What are the expected outcomes of democracy? Explain.

[Board Term-II, Set-68019, 2012]

Ans. The expected outcomes of democracy are as follows :

- (i) A government that is chosen and accountable to the people is called democratic government.
- (ii) A government that is responsive to the needs of the people.
- (iii) Economic growth and development reducing all forms of inequality and end of poverty.
- (iv) Accommodating all social diversities.
- (v) Ensuring the dignity and freedom of the individuals.

(Any three) $1 \times 3 = 3$

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2012]



TOPIC-2 Political Outcomes

Quick Review

- **Democracy is accountable, responsive and legitimate government**
 - Democracy ensures that decision making is based on norms and procedures. So, a citizen has the right and the means to examine the process of decision making. This is known as transparency. Democracy follows standard procedures and is accountable to the people.
 - Democratic governments have a very good record when it comes to sharing information with citizens and much better than any non-democratic regime in this respect. Democracy is attentive to the needs and demands of the people and is largely free of corruption.
 - There is one respect in which democratic government is certainly better than its alternatives. democratic government is a legitimate government. It may be slow, less efficient, not always very responsive or clean. But a democratic government is people's own government.

Know the Terms

- **Accountable government** : The government elected by the people and therefore responsible to them.
- **Responsive government** : The government in which people have the right to know the process of decision-making.

Know the Link

- www.slideshare.net/.../outcomes-of-democracy



Very Short Answer Type Questions

(1 mark each)

Q. 1. How does democracy produce an accountable government?

[Board Term-II, Set-WVIVSA5, 2015]

Ans. In an accountable government, people have the right to elect the leaders to form government and if possible they participated in decision making process. 1

Q. 2. How can you say that democracies are based on political equality?

[Board Term-II, O.D. Set-I, II, III, 2015]

Ans. Democracy gives political equality by granting every individual the right to vote. All citizens have equal rights to influence decision-making and have equal access to political power. 1



Short Answer Type Questions

(3 marks each)

Q. 1. Examine the political outcome of democracy.

[Board Term-II, Set-KCG34U9, 2016]

- Ans.** (i) Right to the citizens to choose their leaders and keep check on them.
 (ii) If required people can participate in decision making either directly or through indirectly or through representatives.
 (iii) It produces accountable, responsible and legitimate government. $1 \times 3 = 3$

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2016]

Q. 2. "Democratic governments in practice are known as accountable." Support the statement with arguments.

[Board Term-II, Foreign Set-II, 2016]

Ans. Democratic governments in practice are accountable because :

- (i) It is right to expect democracy to form a government that follows procedures and is accountable to the people.
 (ii) It is also expected that the democratic government develops mechanisms for citizens to take part in decision making whenever they think it as fit.
 (iii) The democratic government is accountable to the people. If it ignores the will of the people they will not elect their ruler in the next general election.
 (iv) The procedures and decision making process should be transparent for democratic government to be accountable to the people.

(Any three) $1 \times 3 = 3$

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2016]

Q. 3. How can a democratic government be made accountable? Explain.

[Board Term-II, Set-68019, 2012]

Ans. A democratic government can be made accountable by :

- (i) Conducting discussions and negotiations.
 (ii) Ensuring transparency.
 (iii) Holding regular, free and fair elections.
 (iv) Having open public debates.

(Any three) $1 \times 3 = 3$

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2012]

Q. 4. How is democratic government known as responsive government? Explain with an example.

[Board Term-II, 2014]

Ans. A democratic government has to be responsive to the needs of its citizens.

- (i) Through pressure groups, and public protests, the democratic government can check the popularity of its decisions and mechanism of administering justice.
 (ii) A government which is able to respond to grievances faster is able to avoid confrontation and provide good governance. 3

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2014]

Q. 5. How does a democracy produce an accountable, responsive and legitimate government?

[Board Term-II, (Set-2030) 2012]

Ans. A democracy produces an accountable, responsive and legitimate government as :

- (i) People have a right to choose their rulers and have control over the rulers.
 (ii) Whenever possible and necessary, they should participate in decision-making on issues that affect them all.
 (iii) Democracy produces a government, which is accountable to the citizens.
 (iv) Democracy is based on the idea of liberation and negotiation.
 (v) Decision-making is based on norms and procedures and its transparency.

(Any three) $1 \times 3 = 3$

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2012]

Q. 6. 'It may be reasonable to expect from a democracy a government that is attentive to the needs and demands of the people and is largely free of corruption.' Explain this statement in three points.

[Board Term-II, Set-2079, 2012]

Ans. Corruption of government :

- (i) Democracies often frustrate the needs of people and often ignore the demands of the majority.
 (ii) The routine tales of corruption are enough to convince us that democracy is not free from this evil.
 (iii) But a democratic government is people's own government and pays heed to their demands.
 (iv) People have believed that democracy will be attentive and make policies that will free the country from corruption.

(Any three) $1 \times 3 = 3$

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2012]

Q. 7. "Democratic government is legitimate government." Support the statement with arguments.

[Board Term-II, (Delhi Set-II) 2016]

OR

Why is democratic government known as legitimate government? [Board Term-II, 2014]

Ans. (i) A democratic government is called legitimate government because it is people's own government.

(ii) It may be slow, less efficient and not very responsive and clean, but it is people's government.

(iii) There is an overwhelming support for the idea of democracy all over the world. People of South Asia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan and Nepal have no doubt about the suitability of democracy for their own country.

(iv) People wish to be ruled by representatives elected by them. Democracy's ability to generate its own support makes it more legitimate.

(Any three) $1 \times 3 = 3$

Q. 8. Why has political funding become a threat for democracy?

(Board Term-II, Set-WVIVSA5, 2015)

Ans. Most of political parties are dependent on money

given by big business houses. That's why the poor and middle classes do not agree to participate in electoral process. Hence, a majority of people keep away from politics and have little voice in politics.

3



TOPIC-3 Economic Outcomes

Quick Review

- **Economic growth and development**
 - Economic development depends on several factors: country's population size, global situation, cooperation from other countries, economic priorities adopted by the country, etc.
 - However, the difference in the rates of economic development between less developed countries with dictatorships and democracies is negligible.
 - Overall, we cannot say that democracy is a guarantee of economic development. But we can expect democracy not to lag behind dictatorships in economic development.
- **Democracy reduces economic inequality and poverty**
 - Democracies have growing economic inequalities. A small number of ultra-rich enjoy a lion share of wealth and those at the bottom of the society have very little to depend upon and find very difficult to meet their basic needs of life, such as food, clothing, house, education and health.
 - Democratically elected governments address the question of poverty by making various welfare schemes to remove poverty.
 - Democracies not only making welfare schemes but also give reservations for socially and economically backward people in jobs, elections and educational institutions.

Know the Terms

- **Economic Development** : It is the development of economic wealth of countries, regions or communities for the well-being of their inhabitants.
- **Dictatorship** : Dictatorship, form of government in which one person or a small group possesses absolute power without effective constitutional limitations.
- **Economic Inequality** : It is the difference found in various measures of economic well-being among individuals in a group, among groups in a population, or among countries.

Know the Links

- gradestack.com/CBSE-Class-10th-Course/Outcomes-of...
- www.authorstream.com/...democracy-education-ppt-powerpoint



Very Short Answer Type Questions

(1 mark each)

Q. 1. What is meant by economic inequality?

[Board Term-II, Set-TCJQ6VD 2016]

Ans. Economic inequality is the unequal distribution of income and opportunity between different groups in society.

1

Q. 2. In which area does democracy fail to achieve the same results as in dictatorship?

[Board Term-II, Set-TCJQ6VD, 2016]

Ans. Economic development.

1



Short Answer Type Questions

(3 marks each)

Q. 1. Are democracies based on political and economic equalities? Explain.

[Board Term-II, Set-2030, 2012]

Ans. Democracy are based on political equality :

- (i) All citizens have equal role in electing representatives.

- (ii) Parallel to the process of bringing individuals into the political arena, we find growing economic inequalities.
- (iii) Democracy does not appear to be very successful in reducing economic inequalities.
- (iv) The ultra-rich enjoy a highly disproportionate share of wealth and income.
- (v) At the bottom of the society, the people have very little to depend on.
- (vi) It is difficult to meet their basic needs of life, such as food, clothing, house, education and health.

$$\frac{1}{2} \times 6 = 3$$

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2012]

Q. 2. How democracies have been able to reduce poverty? Elaborate.

[Board Term-II, Set-2078, 2012]

Ans. (i) Democracies do not appear to be very successful in reducing economic inequalities. Although majority of voters constitute the poverty ridden group, yet democratically elected government do not appear to be as keen to address the question of poverty as you would expect them to.

(ii) Situation is much worse in some of the countries where people depend upon rich countries for food supplies.

(iii) But even then democracy is favoured because it provides the opportunity to change the rulers.

$$1 \times 3 = 3$$

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2012]



TOPIC-4

Social Outcomes

Quick Review

- **Democracy accommodates of social diversity**
 - Democracies usually develop a procedure to accommodate various social groups. This reduces the possibility of social tensions becoming explosive or violent.
 - No society can fully and permanently resolves conflicts among different groups. But democracy is best to handle social differences, divisions and conflicts.
- **But the example of Sri Lanka reminds us that a democracy must fulfil two conditions in order to achieve accommodation of social divisions :**
 - It is necessary to understand that democracy is not simply rule by majority opinion. The majority always needs to work with the minority so that governments function to represent the general view.
 - It is also necessary that rule by majority does not become rule by majority community in terms of religion or race or linguistic group, etc. Rule by majority means rule by majority's choice.
- **Democracy promotes dignity and freedom of the citizens**
 - Democracy stands much superior to any other form of government in promoting dignity and freedom of the individual by providing Fundamental Rights. Every individual wants to receive respect from fellow beings.
 - The passion for respect and freedom are the basis of democracy. Democracies throughout the world have recognised this, at least in principle. This has been achieved in various degrees in various democracies.
 - Take the case of dignity of women. Most societies across the world were historically male dominated societies.
 - Long struggles by women have created some sensitivity today that respect to and equal treatment of women are necessary ingredients of a democratic society.
 - Democracy in India has strengthened the claims of the disadvantaged and discriminated castes for equal status and equal opportunity.
- **Conclusion :**
 - A democracy is always striving towards a better goal. People constantly demand more benefits in a democracy. There are always more expectations.
 - People now look critically at the work of those who hold power, the rich. They express their dissatisfaction loudly. It shows they are no longer subjects but citizens of a democratic country.

Know the Terms

- **Social diversity :** It is all of the ways that people within a single culture are set apart from each other. Elements of social diversity can include ethnicity, lifestyle, religion, language, tastes and preferences.
- **Social divisions :** When social differences amongst different communities' increases and one community are discriminated because of the differences, it becomes social division. For example, social difference between the

upper castes and lower castes becomes a social division as the dalits are generally poor and face injustice and discrimination.

Know the Links

- gradestack.com/CBSE-Class-10th-Course/Outcomes-of-...
- meerajayaraj.weebly.com/uploads/1/1/2/0/11208399/...



Very Short Answer Type Questions

(1 mark each)

- Q. 1. Which system can reduce the possibility of tension and conflict among different groups of society? [Board Term-II, (Set-KCG34U9) 2016]**

Ans. Democracy has a plus point in resolving social

differences, diversion and conflicts because they have evolved a mechanism to negotiate the differences. **1**



Short Answer Type Questions

(3 marks each)

- Q. 1. "Democracy accommodates social diversities." Support the statement with examples. [Board Term-II, Outside Delhi Set-II, 2016]**

Ans. Democracy accommodates social diversities:

- (i) Democracies develop a procedure to conduct their competition. This reduces the possibility of these tensions becoming explosive or violent.
- (ii) No society can fully and permanently resolves conflicts among different groups. But we can certainly learn to respect these differences and can evolve a mechanism to negotiate these differences.
- (iii) Ability to handle social differences, divisions and conflicts is thus a definite plus point of democratic regimes.
- (iv) **Example :** Belgium has successfully negotiated differences among its ethnic population. This reduces the possibility of tensions.

(Any three) $1 \times 3 = 3$

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2016]

- Q. 2. What are the two conditions to accommodate social diversities in a democracy? Mention any one exception to this.**

[Board Term-II, Set-RKZQI05, 2015]

- Ans.** (i) It is necessary to understand that democracy is not simply rule by majority. The majority always needs to work with minority so that governments function to represent the general view.
- (ii) It is also necessary that rule by majority does not become rule by majority community in terms of religion or race or linguistic group. The exception is Sri Lanka where majoritarianism is followed.

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2015] $1\frac{1}{2} \times 2 = 3$

- Q. 3. Explain the condition under which dignity and freedom of the citizens can be promoted.**

[Board Term-II, Set-68005, 2012]

Ans. The conditions are as follows :

- (i) To promote the dignity and freedom of the citizens, all individuals should be treated as equal. Once this principle is recognised, it becomes easier for individuals to wage a struggle against what is not acceptable legally and morally.
- (ii) Claims of the disadvantaged and discriminated for equal status and equal opportunity should be strengthened. Inequalities and atrocities lack moral and legal foundations. $1\frac{1}{2} + 1\frac{1}{2} = 3$

- Q. 4. Describe the favourable conditions generally provided to people under a democratic rule**

[Board Term-II, Set-8018 2012]

Ans. Favourable conditions generally provided to people under a democratic rule are :

- (i) It promotes dignity to everyone irrespective of caste, creed and religion.
- (ii) It ensures freedom of the individual.
- (iii) It provides equal status and opportunity.
- (iv) It provides positive reservation for women and other advantages for discriminated groups.

(Any three) $1 \times 3 = 3$

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2012]

- Q. 5. Explain any three weaknesses of democracy.**

[Board Term-II, Set-68005, 2012]

- Ans.** (i) Democracies take more time in decision-making.
- (ii) Democracies fall short of elections that provide a fair chance to everyone and subjecting every decision to public debate.
- (iii) The routine tales of corruption are enough to convince that democracies are not free of evil.

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2012] $1 \times 3 = 3$

- Q. 6. Explain the ways in which democracy can be redefined to make democracy more effective.**

[Board Term-II, Set-68018, 2012]

Ans. Ways in which democracy can be redefined to make democracy more effective :

- (i) Ensures that views of minority are respected.
- (ii) Eliminates caste, religion and gender based discrimination.

(iii) People enjoy extensive rights from right to vote to participate in elections.

(iv) People enjoy social and economic rights.

(Any three) $1 \times 3 = 3$

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2012]

Long Answer Type Questions

(5 marks each)

Q. 1. Describe the role of citizens in a democracy.

[Board Term-II, Set-KCG34U9, 2016]

Ans. The roles of citizens in a democracy are as follows :

- (i) Citizens exercise their rights and freedoms and get benefited from democratic set-up.
- (ii) They must be aware of their rights and duties.
- (iii) They should be aware of the issues and problems the country is facing.
- (iv) They must cooperate in maintaining law and order.
- (v) People must consider other's needs and interest also. [CBSE Marking Scheme 2016] $1 \times 5 = 5$

Q. 2. Explain with examples, how the dignity and freedom of citizens are best guaranteed in a democracy.

[Board Term-II, 2014]

OR

"Democracy is very important for promoting dignity and freedom of the citizens." Support this statement with arguments.

[Board Term-II, Delhi set I, 2017]

Ans. (i) Democracies throughout the world have recognized the fact that people should be treated with due respect. The passion for respect and freedom is the basis of democracy.

(ii) Democracies recognize all individuals as equal. This equality is a big thing for the societies which have been built for long on the basis of subordination and domination.

(iii) Most societies across the world are male-dominated but democracies have created sensitivity that equal treatments of women are necessary ingredients of a democratic society.

(iv) Caste-based inequalities and atrocities are also not acceptable to democracies.

All these combined together enhance the dignity and freedom of the individual. $1\frac{1}{4} \times 4 = 5$

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2014]

Q. 3. How are complaints treated as testimony to the success of democracy? Explain.

[Board Term-II, Set-KCG34U9, 2016]

Ans. To some extent complaints are treated as testimony to the success of democracy.

We can prove the statement by analysing certain facts like :

(i) Slow and inefficient government : Some people complain that democracy is a less effective governments and it is slow in functioning. There is no doubt that non-democratic government can be more effective because they are fast in their decision making. But it is not certain that decisions are right or wrong.

(ii) Unsuccessful in reducing economic exploitation: There is no denying the fact that democracies do not appear to have been successful in reducing economic inequality. But, it is only possible in a democracy that people can raise their voice against not only economic inequalities, but also against all types of inequalities.

All these facts show that complaints are treated as testimony to the success of democracy.

5 [CBSE Marking Scheme 2016]

Q. 4. Democracy has failed to reduce economic inequality and poverty." Do you agree? Give arguments in support of your answer.

[Board Term-II, 2014]

Ans. In actual life, democracies do not appear to be reducing inequalities.

(i) The poor constitute a large proportion of our voters and no party likes to lose their votes, yet democratically elected governments have not addressed the question of poverty as one would have expected them to.

(ii) The people in several poor countries are now dependent on the rich countries even for food supplies.

Argument in support :

(i) It enhances the dignity of the individuals.

(ii) It improves the quality of decision-making.

(iii) It provides a method to resolve conflicts.

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2014] $2 + 3 = 5$

Q. 5. "A public expression of dissatisfaction with democracy shows the success of democratic project." Justify the statement.

[Board Term-II, Foreign Set-III, 2016]

Ans. "A public expression of dissatisfaction with democracy shows the success of democratic project" as :

(i) It shows that people have developed awareness and the ability to expect.

- (ii) People look critically at power holders. They want to make democracy better.
- (iii) They come up with expressions and complaints.
- (iv) They value their democratic rights.

1 + 4 = 5 [CBSE Marking Scheme 2016]

□ Q. 6. "Democracy is seen to be good in principle but felt to be not so good in practice." Justify the statement. [Board Term-II, Set-I 2013]

Ans. Democracy is seen to be good in principles but not in practice because of the following reasons :

- (i) The decision making process in democracy is time-taking, whereby justice delayed is justice denied.
- (ii) The tyranny of the majority overrides the will of the minority.
- (iii) Corruption and red-tapism dominates the functioning of democracies.
- (iv) An illiterate and uninformed electorate fails to give itself a legitimate and accountable government.
- (v) The role of charismatic leaders and dynastic politics dominates political cultures.

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2013] 5

□ Q. 7. "Democracy stands much superior in promoting dignity and freedom of the citizens". Justify the statement.

[Board Term-II, 2016, Outside Delhi Set-III]

Ans. "Democracy stands much superior in promoting dignity and freedom to the citizens":

- (i) Every individual wants to receive respect from fellow beings.
- (ii) The passion for respect and freedom is the basis of any democracy.

- (iii) Democracies throughout the world have recognized this. It has been achieved in various degrees in various democracies.
- (iv) Long struggles by women have got them respect and equal treatment.
- (v) In many democracies, women were deprived of their right to vote for a long time, which they have achieved now.
- (vi) In India 1/3rd of seats have been reserved for women in local bodies.
- (vii) Democracy has strengthened the claims of the disadvantaged and discriminated castes for equal status and equal opportunity.

(Any five) 5 [CBSE Marking Scheme 2016]

□ Q. 8. On the basis of which values will it be a fair expectation that democracy should produce a harmonious social life? Explain.

[Board Term-II, 2017, Outside Delhi Set-I, II, III]

- Ans.**
- (i) A democratic country looks into the needs and aspirations of every section of society. It is also able to handle social conflicts, divisions and differences.
 - (ii) The government of Belgium was able to negotiate differences between two linguist communities after framing policies which accommodated the major ethnic communities in the country.
 - (iii) Accommodating the demands of minority communities reduces the possibility of problems becoming explosive or violent. In a democratic government, the majority should work in close cooperation with the minority.
 - (iv) The rule of the majority community should not be taken in the religious or linguistic sense alone. Thus, on the basis of social accommodation and respecting each other's cultures and freedom—a major feature of democracy, it is a fair expectation that a democratic country should produce a harmonious social life.

1¼ × 4 = 5



High Order Thinking Skills (HOTS) Questions

Q. 1. How is democracy accountable and responsible to the needs and expectations of the citizens? Analyse. [Board Term-II, OD Set-I, II, III 2015]

Ans. Democracy is accountable and responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens because :

- (i) In a democracy, people have the right to choose their representatives and the people will have control over them.
- (ii) Citizens have the right to participate in decision-making that affects them all. This ensures that the working of the government is transparent.
- (iii) Everybody expects the government to be attentive to the needs and expectations of the people.
- (iv) It is expected that the democratic government develops mechanisms for citizens to hold the government accountable.

- (v) The opposition parties can also question and criticize the government policies. They keep a check on the ruling party and make sure that it does not misuse the power.

(Any three) 1 × 3 = 3

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015]

Q. 2. "Some people think that democracy produces a less effective government." Analyse the statement.

[Board Term-II, Foreign Set-I, II, III, 2015]

Ans. It is true some people think that democracy produces a less effective government because :

- (i) Non-democratic rulers do not have to bother about deliberation in assemblies or worry about majorities and public opinion.
- (ii) They can be very quick and efficient in decision-making and implementation.

- (iii) But democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation. So, some delay is bound to take place.
- (iv) Most democracies fall short of elections that provide a fair chance to everyone.
- (v) Democratic governments do not have a very good record when it comes to sharing information with citizens.
- (vi) Democracies often frustrate the needs of the people and often ignore the demands of a majority of its population.

(Any three) $1 \times 3 = 3$
[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015]

Q. 3. "Transparency is the most important feature of democracy." Analyse.

[Board Term-II, Set-68022, 2012]

Ans. Transparency is the most important feature of democracy :

- (i) Democracy ensures that decision-making will be based on certain norms and procedures.
- (ii) So, a citizen who wants to know if a decision was taken through correct procedures can find this out.
- (iii) The citizen has the right and the means to examine the process of decision-making. This is known as transparency.

$1 \times 3 = 3$ [CBSE Marking Scheme 2012]

Q. 4. How are the democratic governments better than the other forms of governments? Compare.

[Board Term-II, Delhi Set-I, 2016]

OR

"Democracy is a better form of government than any other form of government." Analyse the statement with arguments.

[Board Term-II, Delhi Set-III, 2016]

OR

Why do we feel that democracy is a better form of government than any other form? Explain.

[Board Term-II, O.D. Set-III, 2015]

Ans. The democratic governments are better than other forms of governments because :

- (i) Democratic governments have formal Constitution, while it is not the case in other form of governments.
- (ii) They hold regular elections, while it is not the case in other form of governments.
- (iii) They have political parties, whereas there is no such thing in other form of governments.
- (iv) They guarantee rights to citizens, while it is not the case in the other form of governments.
- (v) Such governments allow room to correct mistakes, while it is not there in the other form of government.
- (vi) Such government accommodates social diversities, while no such thing in other form of government.

(Any five) $1 \times 5 = 5$
[CBSE Marking Scheme 2016]

Q. 5. "A democratic government is efficient and effective." Analyse the statement.

[Board Term-II, 2014]

OR

"The cost of time that democracy pays is perhaps worth it." Justify.

Ans. (i) Imagine a government that may take decisions very fast. But it may take decisions that are not accepted by the people and may, therefore, face problems.

(ii) In contrast, the democratic government will take more time to follow procedure before arriving at a decision.

(iii) However, because it has followed procedure, its decisions may be more acceptable to the people and more effective. So, the cost of time that democracy pays is perhaps worth it.

$2+2+1=5$

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2014]

Q. 6. "Democracies are not appearing to be very successful in reducing economic inequalities." Analyse the statement.

[Board Term-II, Foreign Set-I, II, III, 2016]

Ans. Democracy and the economic outcomes :

- (i) Slow economic development and economic growth due to population.
- (ii) Basic needs of life, such as food clothing, shelter are difficult to achieve.
- (iii) Prevalence of economic inequalities.
- (iv) Poverty is still a big issue.
- (v) Allocation of resources in few hands.
- (vi) Unjust distribution of goods and opportunities.

(Any five) $1 \times 5 = 5$

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2016]

Q. 7. Evidence shows that in practice, many democracies did not fulfil the expectations of producing economic development in the country. Validate the statement with the help of relevant example.

[Board Term II, SQP-2016]

Ans. (i) If we consider all democracies and all dictatorships for the fifty years between 1950 and 2000, dictatorships have slightly higher rate of economic growth.

(ii) Economic development depends on several factors : country's population size, global situation, cooperation from other countries, economic priorities adopted by the country, etc.

(iii) However, the difference in the rates of economic development between less developed countries with dictatorships and democracies is negligible.

(iv) Overall, it cannot be said that democracy is a guarantee of economic development. But we can expect democracy not to lag behind dictatorships in this respect.

- (v) With such a significant difference in the rates of economic growth between countries under dictatorship and democracy, it is better to prefer democracy as it has several other positive outcomes.

For example: North Korea has higher rate of economic growth than India.

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2016] 5

Value Based Questions

Q. 1. "Democracy is more effective than its other alternatives." Justify the statement.

[Board Term–II, 2015]

Ans. Democracy is more effective than its other alternatives :

- (i) Democracy promotes equality among citizens.
- (ii) It enhances the dignity of the individual.
- (iii) It also improves the quality of decision-making.
- (iv) It provides a method to resolve conflicts.
- (v) It gives room to correct mistakes.
- (vi) Democratic government is a legitimate government.
- (vii) Democracy's ability to generate its own support is itself an outcome that cannot be ignored.

(Any three) $1 \times 3 = 3$

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015]

Q. 2. "Democracies lead to peaceful and harmonious life among citizens." Support the statement with any three suitable arguments.

[Board Term–II, Set-68014, O.D. Set-II, 2013, 12]

Ans. The statement is correct that democracy leads to peaceful and harmonious life. Arguments for the statement :

- (i) Democracies accommodate various social divisions.
- (ii) Democracies usually develop a procedure to conduct competitions. This reduces the possibility of these tensions becoming explosive or violent.

- (iii) No doubt, no society can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups. We can certainly learn to respect these differences

$1 \times 3 = 3$ [CBSE Marking Scheme 2012]

Q. 3. "An ideal government would not only keep itself away from corruption but also make fighting corruption and black money a top priority." Justify the statement by highlighting the values attached to it.

[Board Term II, 2013]

Ans. The three ideal values of a government are legitimacy, responsiveness and accountability. An ideal government would not only keep itself away from corruption but also make fighting corruption and black money a top priority.

This can be justified as follows :

- (i) **Legitimacy** : A government elected by the people is expected to work for their welfare. Corruption and black money are sources of social evils like poverty, inflation and poor political ethics.
- (ii) **Responsiveness** : A government is run by the representatives who have the mandates of the people of their constituencies. Such evil practices will demotivate the people to re-elect their representatives.
- (iii) **Accountability** : A government is accountable for the management of the polity and its resources. Corruption and black money hinder the optimum allocation of resources.

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2013] $1 \times 3 = 3$