

KEY ELEMENTS OF A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT**Textbook Intext Questions****Page No. 36**

1. What were Hector and his classmates protesting about?

Ans. Hector and his classmates protested against learning the Africans language in school. This was the language that white spoke.
They were forced to learn this language, but they wanted to learn their own language Zulu.

2. List five ways in which the non-whites were discriminated against.

Ans. The five ways in which non-whites were discriminated against:
(i) In South Africa, the government practised apartheid Taws.
(ii) The different races were not allowed to mingle with each other, to live near each other or even to use common facilities.
(iii) Non-whites were not allowed to vote.
(iv) Hospitals and ambulances were separate. An ambulance meant for white people would always be well equipped while one meant for black people was not.
(v) There were separate trains and buses. Even bus-stops were different for black and white people.

3. Do you think it is important for all persons to be treated equally? Why?

Ans. All people are born equal and enjoy the right to life, property and liberty. If a section of the people are denied these rights, it will create conflicts in the society. No one has to right to suppress others.

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1. Look at some newspapers and discuss some elections that you may have read about. Why do you think elections are required after a fixed period?

Ans. Through voting in elections people elect leaders to represent them. These representatives take decisions on behalf of the people.
All governments are elected for fixed periods. In India, this period is five years. Once elected, governments can stay in power only for that period. If they want to continue to be in power then they have to be re-elected by the people. This is a moment when people can sense their power in a democracy. In this way the power of the government gets limited by regular elections.

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1. In Maya's story did the government support the idea that people are equal?

Ans. No, the government did not think that all people are equal.

2. In Dr. Ambedkar's story did the practice of untouchability support the idea that people are equal?

Ans. Untouchability denies basic rights so untouchability cannot be equated with democracy.

3. How do you think lowering the school fees would help girls attend school?

Ans. Yes.

4. **Can you think of any experience from your life in which you have helped someone out of a situation which you thought was unfair? Did everyone else see it the same way? What did you have to say to convince others that what you did was fair?**

Ans. Do yourself.

Textbook Questions

1. **How would Maya's life be different in South Africa today?**

Ans. If Maya lived in South Africa today she will enjoy equal rights to participate in the affairs of the government. But just before two decades, this country was governed by a partheid laws. In modern South Africa, people enjoyed the freedom, and there is no restriction on the basis of caste and colour.

2. **What are the various ways in which people participate in the process of government?**

Ans. Some of the various ways in which people participate in the process of government are given below:
(i) People participate in the government by voting in the election and electing their leaders.
(ii) Besides voting people participate by taking an interest in the working of the government and criticizing it, when required.
(iii) People can participate in the government by organizing them-selves into social movement that seek to challenge the government and its functioning.

3. **Why do you think we need the government to find solutions too many disputes or conflicts?**

Ans. We think judiciary is also a vital organ of the government. The Legislature makes laws, the executive implements the same and judiciary keeps on eye on how the laws are being implemented by the executive. In absence of the government it would have become impossible to maintain law and order in the country.

4. **What actions does the government take to ensure that all people are treated equally?**

Ans. All citizens are equal in the eye of law. It makes no discrimination between the citizens on the basis of religion, 'caste, creed, colour and sex. The government should allow no distinction among them on the basis of caste and creed. The government has banned untouchability.

5. **Read through the chapter and discuss some of the key ideas of a democratic government. Make a list. For example, all people are equal.**

Ans. (i) The people have political rights.
(ii) Re-election policy of the government after a fixed period
(iii) Justice and equality to all.
(iv) Those who have attained the age of 18 years must have exercise the right to vote.
(v) The government resolves disputes and conflicts.