

Outcomes of Democracy

Case Study Based Questions

Source 1

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

In a democracy, we are most concerned with ensuring that people will have the right to choose their rulers and people will have control over the rulers. Whenever possible and necessary, citizens should be able to participate in decision making that affects them all. Therefore, the most basic outcome of democracy should be that it produces a government that is accountable to the citizens, and responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens. Some people think that democracy produces less effective government. It is, of course, true that non-democratic rulers are very quick and efficient in decision making and implementation, whereas, democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation. So, some delay is bound to take place. But, because it has followed procedures, its decisions may be both more acceptable to the people and more effective. Moreover, when citizens want to know if a decision was taken through the correct procedures, they can find this out. They have the right and the means to examine the process of decision making. This is known as transparency. This factor is often missing from a non-democratic government. There is another aspect in which democratic government is certainly better than its alternatives: democratic government is legitimate government. It may be slow, less efficient, not always very responsive, or clean. But a democratic government is people's own government. (CBSE SQP 2021 Term-1)

Q1. People's right to choose their own rulers is called as the:

- a. Right to Initiate
- b. Right to Plebiscite
- c. Right to Vote
- d. Right to Referendum

Q2. Which of the following options helps in promoting transparency in the governance?

- a. Right to education

- b. Right to information
- c. Right against exploitation
- d. Right to speech and expression

Q3. make/s the government legitimate.

- a. Credibility of politicians
- b. People's movements
- c. Free and fair elections
- d. Holding of power

Q4. Decisions in a democracy are more acceptable to the people because they are:

- a. Taken swiftly and implemented quickly
- b. Taken by giving privileges to the people
- c. Taken through elites' votes
- d. Taken after following due processes

Answers

- 1. (c)
- 2. (b)
- 3. (c)
- 4. (d)

Source 2

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

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. That does not mean that women are actually always treated with respect. But once the principle is recognised, it becomes easier for women to wage a struggle against what is now unacceptable legally and morally. In a non-democratic set-up, this unacceptability would not have legal basis because the principle of individual freedom and dignity would not have the legal and moral force there. The same is true of caste inequalities. Democracy in India has strengthened the claims of the disadvantaged and discriminated castes for

equal status and equal opportunity. There are instances still of caste- based inequalities and atrocities, but these lack the moral and legal foundations. Perhaps it is the recognition that makes ordinary citizens value their democratic rights. Expectations from democracy also function as the criteria for judging any democratic country, what is most distinctive about democracy is that its examination never gets over. As democracy passes one test, it produces another test. As people get some benefits of democracy, they ask for more and want to make democracy even better. That is why, when we ask people about the way democracy functions, they will always come up with more expectations, and many complaints. The facts that people are complaining is itself a testimony to the success of democracy, it shows that people have developed awareness and the ability to expect and to look critically at power holders and the high and the mighty. A public expression of dissatisfaction with democracy shows the success of the democratic project, it transforms people from the status of a subject into that of a citizen.

Q1. What is regarded as the necessary ingredients of a democratic society?

- a. Respect to women
- b. Equal treatment of women
- c. Both a. and b.
- d. None of the above

Q2. The principle of individual freedom and dignity is not a legal and moral force.....

- a. democracy
- b. dictatorship
- c. Both a. and b.
- d. None of these

Q3. Caste based inequalities and atrocities lack..... in India.

- a. legal foundation
- b. political support
- c. moral foundation
- d. Both a. and c.

Q4. It is tendency of that people always come up with more expectations and complaints.

- a. dictatorship

- b. monarchy
- c. democracy
- d. None of these

Q5. Which of the following function as the criteria for judging any democratic country?

- a. Success of democracy
- b. Democratic rights
- c. Expectations from democracy
- d. Principle of individual freedom and dignity

Q6..... has strengthened the claims of the disadvantaged and discriminated castes for equal status and opportunity.

- a. Non-democratic set-up
- b. Democracy
- c. Majority opinion
- d. Long struggles by women

Answer

- 1. (c)
- 2. (b)
- 3. (d)
- 4. (c)
- 5. (c)
- 6. (b)

Source 3

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow:

Source: How do We assess Democracy's Outcomes?

Over a hundred countries of the world today claim and practice some kind of democratic politics: they have formal constitutions, they hold elections, they have parties and they guarantee rights of citizens. While these features are common to most of them, these democracies are very much different from each other in terms of their social situations, their economic achievements and their cultures. Clearly, what may be achieved or not achieved under each of these democracies will be very different. (CBSE 2020)

Q1. Explain the fascination for democracy amongst various countries.

Ans. The fascination for democracy amongst various countries is due to the following reasons:

- (i) It gives its people freedom of life and freedom of speech.
- (ii) A democratic country has a strong economic system and all the people get equal opportunities.

Q 2. Explain democracy on the basis of expected and actual outcome.

Ans. Democracy can be explained on the basis of expected outcome as follows:

- (i) There are regular, free and fair elections, open public debate on major policies and legislations.
- (ii) Citizens get the right to information about the government and its functioning. On the basis of actual outcomes, democracy can be explained as follows:

- (i) Not every decision comes forward in a public debate.
- (ii) Sharing information with people rarely happens.
- (iii) Democracies have never been free of corruption and government has failed to pay attention to the needs and expectations of people.