

CBSE Class-12 Sociology Test Paper-05
Story of Indian Democracy

General Instruction:

- Question 1-5 carries two marks each.
 - Question 6-8 carries four marks each.
 - Question 9-10 carries six marks each.
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1. Define 'interest group'.
2. Why are pressure groups formed?
3. Define 'political party'.
4. List two trade unions formed by workers.
5. What do Article 21 recognise?
6. What are the ideals of Panchayati Raj?
7. Why were the Van Panchayats set up?
8. Give a "synoptic view of democracy in India.
9. Democratisation is not easy in a society that has had a long history of inequality. Explain.
10. What was Swaraj supposed to include as per the Karachi Congress Resolution, 1931.

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Story of Indian Democracy

1. Interest groups are organised to pursue specific interests in the political arena, operating primarily by lobbying the members of legislative bodies. In some situations, there may be political organisations which seek to achieve power but are denied the opportunity to do so through standard means. These organisations are best regarded as movements until they achieve recognition.
2. Different interest groups work towards influencing political parties to take up their case. When certain groups feel that their interests are not being taken up, they may move to form an alternative party. Or they form pressure groups who lobby with the government.
3. A political party may be defined as an organisation oriented towards achieving legitimate control of government through an electoral process. Political Party is an organisation established with the aim of achieving governmental power and using that power to pursue a specific programme. Political parties are based on certain understanding of society and how it ought to be. In a democratic form of government political parties are key actors. In a democratic system the interests of different groups are also represented by political parties, who take up their case.
4. Two trade unions formed by workers are:
 - i. The Indian Trade Union Congress (INTUC)
 - ii. The Centre for Indian Trade Unions (CITU).
5. Article 21 recognises the right to life and liberty. This have been interpreted as including all that goes into a life of quality, including livelihood, health, shelter, education and dignity. In various pronouncements different attributes of 'life' have been expanded and 'life' has been explained to mean more than mere animal existence.
6. Panchayati Raj translates literally to 'Governance by five individuals'.
 - i. The idea is to ensure at the village or grass root level a functioning and vibrant democracy.
 - ii. While the idea of grassroots democracy is not an alien import to our country, in a society where there are sharp inequalities democratic participation is hindered on grounds of gender, caste and class.
 - iii. Furthermore, traditionally there have been caste panchayats in villages. But they have usually represented dominant groups.

- iv. Furthermore, they often held conservative views and often have, and continue to take decisions that go against both democratic norms and procedures.
7. Van Panchayats were set up because:
- i. In Uttarakhand women do most of the work since the men are often posted far away in the defence services.
 - ii. Most of the villagers are still dependent on firewood for cooking. As you may know, deforestation is a big problem in the mountainous regions.
 - iii. Women sometimes walk many miles to collect firewood and fodder for their animals.
 - iv. To overcome this problem, women have set up Van-panchayats. Members of the van-panchayats develop nurseries and nurture tree saplings for planting on the hill slopes.
 - v. Members also police nearby forests to keep an eye on illegal felling of trees.
 - vi. The Chipko movement – where women hugged trees to prevent them from being cut had its beginnings in this area.
8. The synoptic view of Indian democracy is:
- i. The Indian Constitution is the bedrock of Indian democracy.
 - ii. Its key values, the making of the Constitution are drawn upon some snippets of the Constituent Assembly debate representing different views.
 - iii. At the grassroots level of functioning democracy, we have the Panchayat Raj system.
 - iv. In both expositions, there are different groups of people representing competing interest and often also different political parties. This is an essential part of any functioning democracy.
9. Democratisation is not easy in a society that has had a long history of inequality based on caste, community and gender.
- i. In many cases, certain members belonging to particular groups, communities, castes of the village are not included or informed about meetings and activities of the village.
 - ii. The Gram Sabha members are often controlled by a small coterie of rich landlords usually hailing from the upper castes or landed peasantry.
 - iii. They make decisions on development activities, allocate funds, leaving the silent majority as mere onlookers.
 - iv. There are different kind of experiences at the grassroots level of democracy. In many cases, traditional caste panchayats are reasserting themselves as guardians of village

morality.

- v. In some cases, the new institution of Panchayati Ra are truly bringing in radical changes.
 - vi. Yet another experience is on how democratic measures do not often work out in practice because interest groups resist change and money matters.
10. Swaraj as conceived by the Congress should include real economic freedom of the masses. The Congress declares that no constitution will be acceptable to it unless it provides or enables the Swaraj Government to provide for:
- i. Freedom of expression, association and meeting.
 - ii. Freedom of religion.
 - iii. Protection of all cultures and languages.
 - iv. All citizens shall be equal before the law.
 - v. No disability in employment or trade or profession on account of religion, caste or sex.
 - vi. Equal rights and duties for all in regard to public wells, schools, etc.
 - vii. All to have right to bear arms in accordance with regulations.
 - viii. No person to be deprived of property or liberty except in accordance with law.
 - ix. Religious neutrality of State.
 - x. Adult Suffrage.
 - xi. Free compulsory primary education.
 - xii. No titles to be conferred.