

CBSE Test Paper - 01
Chapter - 23 Challenges to Democracy

1. Consider the following statements regarding democracy. Identify the wrong one: **(1)**
 - a. the choice and opportunity should be available to the people of privileged classes
 - b. the exercise of the choice must lead to a government limited by basic rules of the constitution and citizens' rights.
 - c. the rulers elected by the people must take all the major decisions
 - d. elections must offer a choice and fair opportunity to the people to change the current rulers
2. Which idea is the base of democracy? **(1)**
 - a. Superior and inferior
 - b. compromise and comparison
 - c. dictate and rule
 - d. deliberations and negotiations
3. These countries face the _____ challenge of making the transition to democracy and then instituting democratic government. **(1)**
 - a. foundational
 - b. external
 - c. conditional
 - d. internal
4. Naicker advocated and worked to establish a society in which: **(1)**
 - a. caste inequalities are present
 - b. caste equalities are absent
 - c. caste equalities are not given importance
 - d. caste inequalities are absent
5. Read the given statements regarding status of women.

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- i. In Saudi Arabia, Women not allowed to take part in public activities
 - ii. In Saudi Arabia, Women have no freedom of religion for minorities
 - iii. In Saudi Arabia, Women have freedom of religion for minorities.

Which of the following is/are true statement(s)? **(1)**

- a. i and ii
- b. Only i
- c. ii and iii
- d. Only iii

- 6. In what way does RTI help the people in a democracy? **(1)**
- 7. Why the RTI is regarded as watchdogs of democracy? **(1)**
- 8. Name the party of China which adopts economic reforms but maintains a monopoly over political power. **(1)**
- 9. The Seven Party Alliance (SPA) in Nepal has succeeded in removing monarchy, holding elections and forming a government. This comes under which kind of challenge? **(1)**
- 10. Elaborate the challenge of expansion of democracy. Give an example. **(3)**
- 11. Explain the ways in which democracy can be redefined to make democracy more effective. **(3)**
- 12. When is democracy considered successful? **(3)**
- 13. Explain the challenges faced by countries which do not have a democratic form of government. **(3)**
- 14. Explain with an example the impact of the Right to Information (RTI) Act. **(5)**
- 15. Explain various types of challenges being faced by the modern democracies of the world? **(5)**

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Answer

1. a. the choice and opportunity should be available to the people of privileged classes

Explanation: Democracy is a form of government in which the rulers are elected by the people. We then looked at many cases and expanded the definition slightly to add some qualifications:

- the rulers elected by the people must take all the major decisions;
- elections must offer a choice and fair opportunity to the people to change the current rulers;
- this choice and opportunity should be available to all the people on an equal basis; and
- the exercise of this choice must lead to a government limited by basic rules of the constitution and citizens' rights.

2. d. deliberations and negotiations

Explanation: Democracy is based on the ideas of deliberations and negotiations.

3. a. foundational

Explanation: These countries face the foundational challenge of making the transition to democracy and then instituting democratic government.

4. d. caste inequalities are absent

Explanation: Naicker advocated and worked to establish a society in which caste inequalities are absent.

5. a. i and ii

Explanation: In Saudi Arabia, Women not allowed to take part in public activities, no freedom of religion for minorities.

6. The basic object of the Right to Information Act is to empower the citizens, promote transparency and accountability in the working of the Government. RTI helps to control corruption and supplements the existing laws that banned corruption and

imposed strict penalties.

7. The Right to Information (RTI) Act is regarded as watchdogs of democracy because it empowers the people to find out what is happening in government.
8. The country that adopts economic reforms but maintains a monopoly over political power is the Communist Party of China.
9. The Seven Party Alliance (SPA) in Nepal has succeeded in removing monarchy, holding elections and forming a government. This comes under the challenge of the foundation.
10. Most of the established democracies face the Challenge of Expansion; This involves applying the basic principle of democratic government across all the regions, different social groups and various institutions.
 - i. Citizens have great expectations from the government.
 - ii. Government tries its best for the upliftment of the society.
 - iii. Ensuring greater power to the local government.
 - iv. Extension of federal principles to all the units of the federation including women and minority groups. This means that less and less decisions should remain outside the arena of democratic control. E.g. India and USA.
11. Democracy can be redefined to make it more effective, by the following ways:
 - i. In democracy, the views of minorities should be respected and their needs and demands should not be overlooked by the majority.
 - ii. In a democracy, there should not be any discrimination based on caste, religion and gender.
 - iii. In a democracy, people should have enough freedom and opportunity to enjoy their socio-economic rights. People's right should be given full respect. People should enjoy extensive rights from right to vote to participate in general elections.
12. Democracy is the dominant form of government in the contemporary world democracy is considered to be successful when:
 - i. The rulers elected by the people take all major decisions and not the rich and powerful people.
 - ii. The elections offer a choice and fair opportunity to the people to change the rulers if they want to.
 - iii. A choice and opportunity are available to all the people based on political equality.

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13. Different countries face different kinds of challenges. Atleast one fourth of the globe is still not under democratic government.
- i. These countries face the foundational challenge of making the transition to democracy and then instituting democratic government.
 - ii. They also face the challenge of bringing down the existing non-democratic regime and keeping the military away from controlling the government.
 - iii. Such countries have to make great efforts to establish a sovereign and functional state.
14. **Implementation of Right To Information Act:** The Right to Information Act replaced the earlier Freedom of Information Act, 2002, and was implemented by the Indian Parliament on 15th June 2005. The coverage area of the Act includes the whole of India except Jammu and Kashmir.
- i. This act has given people an extensive right to know everything that is happening in the government.
 - ii. This act enabled people to be aware of every detail of any programme of the government, from the levels of planning to implementation. By this, they can gain knowledge in the lapses, misappropriation, etc if any, by any officials, and can file a complaint accordingly.
 - iii. This law helped supplement the existing laws that ban corruption and impose strict penalties, thus helping in controlling corruption.
 - iv. The executive now has to think twice before taking any biased decision as the RTI Act helps the public to know who has been responsible for taking the decision as per the established norms and procedures.
 - v. Through this law, people are empowered with the right to know the source of income, details of expenditure, etc. This puts an effective control over the government officials while dealing with the funds.
 - vi. In the normal course, information to an applicant shall be supplied within 30 days from the receipt of the application by the public authority. If information ! sought concerns the life or liberty of a person, it shall be supplied within 48 hours.
15. **RTI Act as a Watchdog of Democracy:**

This law has empowered people to act as watchdogs of democracy in the following ways:

Democracy does not have a challenger, but that does not mean that it does not face

any challenge. The promise of democracy is far from realised anywhere in the world.

- i. Most of the established democracies face the challenge of expansion. This involves applying the basic principle of democratic government across all the regions, different social groups and various institutions. Ensuring greater power to local governments, extension of federal principle to all the units of federation, inclusion of women and minority groups etc. fall under this category.

Example: In Saudi Arabia, women are not allowed to take part in public activities, and no freedom of religion is there for the minorities.

- ii. Every democracy faces the challenge of deepening of democracy. This involves strengthening of the institutions and practices of democracy. It requires an attempt to bring down that control and influence of the rich and powerful people in making governmental decision. **Example :** In USA, Black or African-American people have won equal rights, but are still poor, less educated and marginalised. It is true that different countries face different kinds of challenges