

Chapter 3. What is Government?

Very Short Q&A:

Q1: In representative democracies, people do not participate directly but choose their representatives through an election process. True/False

Ans: True

Q2: The elected representatives make decisions for the _____.

Ans: People

Q3: What are the subjects on which the state government makes laws?

Ans: agriculture, irrigation, trade and commerce

Q4: What is the full form of MP?

Ans: Member of Parliament

Q5: Universal Adult Suffrage is an important device of _____.

Ans: Democracy

Q6: The two great mountain ranges that surround Ladakh.

Ans: Panchayati Raj

Q7: The members of the Gram Sabha elects a Sarpanch called the Panchayat President. True/False

Ans: True

Q8: Define democracy.

Ans: A government run by people

Q9: How many level of government exists in our country?

Ans: Three

Q10: Name the three levels at which government works.

Ans: Local, state and national

Q11: What is the lower voting age in India?

Ans: 18 years

Q12: The Parliamentary form of government exist in_____.

Ans: England

Q13: In India when a citizen turns _____ he/she can vote without any discrimination.

Ans: 18

Q14: Give examples of Semi Presidential form of Government.

Ans: Russia, France and Sri lanka

Q15: What is a democratic government?

Ans: Government by the people, of the people, and for the people

Q16: A dispute regarding the election of the President is referred to the_____.

Ans: Supreme Court

Q17: What do you mean by monarchy?

Ans: Rule by King or Queen

Q18: The monarch (king or queen) has the power to make decisions and run the_____.

Ans: Government

Q19: For how many years the President of India is elected?

Ans: 5 years

Q20: According to Gandhiji's Young India, who should be given the right to vote?

Ans: All adults of India have the right to vote

Q21: Name the organ of the government that protects and guards the laws of the country.

Ans: Judiciary

Q22: What do you mean by 'Suffrage'?

Ans: Right to Vote

Q23: Which is the highest court of India?

Ans: Supreme Court of India

Q24: India is referred as the _____ Government.

Ans: Provincial

Q25: What do you mean by Republic of India?

Ans: It is the governing authority of 28 states and seven union territories. They are collectively called as the Republic of India

Q26: After Kolkata, the city in India that started a metro railway is _____.

Ans: New Delhi

Q27: In a democratic country, who gives power to the government to take decisions?

Ans: The people of the country give power to the government through election

Q28: A monarchy is a form of _____.

Ans: Government

Q29: What is a 'ballot paper'?

Ans: sheet of paper with candidates name to contest elections

Q30: What does the government at the local level means?

Ans: The government dealing with village, town or locality

Q31: The names of the contesting candidates along with the party name and symbols are listed in the ballot paper. True/False

Ans: True

Q32: Why Health Wardens are appointed in every village?

Ans: Health Wardens are appointed in every village to provide health care facilities to the villagers.

Q33: Each and every law of the government must be followed by the _____ living in the country.

Ans: People

Q34: Women in Europe and U.S.A. struggled for _____ in election.

Ans: Right to vote

Q35: What is a Voters list?

Ans: Voters list is a list of those persons who are eligible to vote.

Q36: Who is the author of the journal "Young India"?

Ans: Mahatma Gandhi

Q37: To whom does a president submit his resignation?

Ans: Vice President

Q38: Who runs Public health care system?

Ans: Government

Q39: A situation where there is no government is called _____.

Ans: Anarchy

Q40: Give an example of a place having anarchy.

Ans: Afghanistan

Q41: In a democracy, the ultimate power is in the hands of the _____.

Ans: People

Q42: Monarchy prevails in _____.

Ans: Britain

Q43: Which level of government takes the decision on introduction of a new 1000 rupee note?

Ans: The central government of India

Q44: What is the main function of a government?

Ans: The main function of the government is to maintain law and order

Q45: What is the total number of High Courts in India at present?

Ans: There are 21 High Courts in the country.

Q46: What are three branches of the Indian government?

Ans: The three branches of the Indian government are Legislature, Executive and the Judiciary

Short Q&A:

Q1: Why do you think elections are required after a fixed period?

Ans: All governments are elected for fixed periods. Election is a moment when people can sense their power in a democracy. Regular elections keep check on the power of the government and leaders. Elections make leaders and parties responsible to the public for their work and performance.

Q2: What are the prerequisites of democracy?

Ans: The prerequisites of democracy are as follows:-

- a. Regular and periodic elections.
- b. Elected representatives exercise their constitutional powers.
- c. Universal Adult Franchise.
- d. Right to contest elections.

- e. Citizens are given the fundamental rights.
- f. Freedom of speech and expression.

Q3: Describe the different levels of government.

Ans: The government works at different levels-

1. Local level – At the local level it covers the village, town or locality. It is named as Gram Panchayat or Municipality or Municipal Council.
2. State level – It covers an entire state like Haryana or Assam etc. A state government governs its own state. It does not interfere with other one.
3. National level – Its decision making covers the entire country

Q4: Explain the role of government in our lives.

Ans: The way our country has to run is been determined by the government. At each and every level, government makes laws that citizens have to comply. Government formulate and implement policies and programmes for the socio-economic development of the nation and those directly or indirectly affects our daily life.

Q5: Does government affects your daily life? How?

Ans: The government affects our daily life in the following ways: -

1. Build roads and school.
2. To reduce the price of things.
3. Supply of electricity.
4. Running of postal services.
5. Railways services

Q6: What are the essential factors for the success of democracy?

Ans: For a successful democracy, the citizen should be educated and vigilant enough to know about their duties and rights. They should know how the Government policies affect them. In order to elect the right representatives to the government, everybody should get chance to cast their vote judiciously.

Q7: Define constitutional democracy with example.

Ans: Constitutional Democracy is based on a written constitution or a supreme law that serves to guide legislators and the laws they create. Written constitutions provide as a guarantee to citizens that the government is required to act in a certain way and uphold

certain rights. The constitution clearly demarcates the powers and functions of the three organs of the government. For example: - USA and India.

Q8: Why people prefer to live in a democracy than any other form of government?

Ans: People prefer to live in democratic countries over non-democratic due to the following reasons:

- a. Fundamental rights – Democracies guarantee freedom of speech and expression, right to association, right to equality, etc.
- b. Sense of Participation- People gain a sense of participation in the process of choosing their own government.
- c. Right to criticize the Government- Freedom of speech and expression gives citizens the right to criticize the government for wrong doings

Q9: What is women's suffrage?

Ans: The term women suffrage refers to women's right to vote by law in national and local elections.

Q10: Write short notes on features of a democratic country.

Ans: The main features of a democratic country are:-

- a. People have the power to elect their representative to form and run the government and also to take decision on their behalf.
- b. The competitive elections are held at regular intervals.
- c. There is a separation of powers between the three organs of the state i.e. legislature, executive and judiciary.
- d. Freedom of speech and expression.
- e. Fundamental rights are enjoyed by its citizens.
- f. Effective participation of the people in the decision making process

Q11: Define Government.

Ans: Government is a set of institutions that have the power to make, implement and interpret laws so as to ensure an orderly life. Government consists of group of people who are assigned the task of administering and managing the affairs of the nation.

Q12: What is the meaning of the authoritarian government?

Ans: An authoritarian government is one in which political authority is concentrated in a small group of political elite. Mostly those are unelected and possess exclusive,

unaccountable and arbitrary powers.

Q13: What is the meaning of the federal form of government?

Ans: In a federal form of government, the power is divided between the Central and the State governments. Both the government enjoys their powers independently of one another.

Q14: How a democratic government get mandate to make decisions and enforce laws?

Ans: In a democratic country, the government get mandate to make decisions and enforce laws from the people through process of election.

Q15: Why is it important for people to abide by laws?

Ans: Laws are meant for safety and welfare of people. It is important for people to follow laws to avoid chaos and maintain order. In the absence of laws, there will be inequality in society as the rich, influential and powerful would get their way out.

Q16: What was the purpose of introducing Panchayati Raj system in India?

Ans: The Panchayati Raj system was introduced in India in order to strengthen grassroots democracy through democratic decentralization.

Q17: Give any one difference between federal form of government and unitary form of government.

Ans: In a unitary form of government, the central government gives power to states, provinces or other lower level of governments. In a federal form of government, division of powers between the national and the lower levels of government is laid down by the constitution.

Q18: Write a short note on Monarchy.

Ans: A monarchy has either a king or a queen. A monarch is not an elected person but get power hereditarily. In some traditional monarchies, the monarch has supreme power. However, in a constitutional monarchy, like the UK, the democratic government limits the monarch's control.

Q19: What is a Parliament?

Ans: The Parliament of India is the supreme law making institution. The word Parliament is derived from the French word 'Parliament' meaning to speak. Every Parliament consists of

houses either one or two. The Indian Parliament consists of two houses, namely, the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha.

Q20: What do you mean by decentralization of power?

Ans: The division of power between the Central, State and the local government is called decentralisation of power. The basic idea of decentralisation is that at the local level the people are able to directly participate in the decision making process of the government.

Q21: What is the meaning of the federal form of government?

Ans: In a federal form of government, the power is divided between the Central and the State governments. Both the government enjoys their powers independently of one another.

Q22: Write a brief note on the Supreme Court of India.

Ans: The Supreme Court of India is highest court of India. The Court comprises of the Chief Justice and not more than 30 other judges. The Supreme Court of independent India was established on 26 January 1950, the day India became Republic.

Q23: Write a note on district administration.

Ans: States are divided into number of districts. Each district in India varies in size and population. At present, there are more than 500 districts in India. Districts are further sub-divided into Tehsils or Taluqs. Each district is looked after by a collector, the district collector is the important official who is heads the district revenue department and coordinates with the other departments like agriculture, irrigation, forestry, public work and public health.

Q24: Mention few demerits of a democratic government.

Ans: In a democratic government, leaders keep changing which leads to instability of the government. The elected leaders do not know the best interest of the people. It leads to bad decision. Democracy leads to corruption as it is based on electoral competition. In a democracy, people have to be consulted that leads to delays in the decision making.

Long Q&A:

Q1: What are the main features of a democratic country?

Ans:

The main features of a democratic country are:-

- People have the power to elect their representative to form and run the government and also to take decision on their behalf.
- The competitive elections are held at regular intervals.
- There is a separation of powers between the three organs of the state i.e. legislature, executive and judiciary.
- Freedom of speech and expression.
- Fundamental rights are enjoyed by its citizens.
- Effective participation of the people in the decision making process

Q2: Democracy is a better form of government. Explain

Ans: The forms of government like monarchy and dictatorship (of a military or of a political party), the ruler or group-wields supreme power and people have no remedy against its misuse. There is no individual freedom, freedom of speech or expression to the people. On the other hand, in a democratic system, the people have rights to participate in the working of the government and the government is accountable to the people.

Q3: How electronic voting machines are used in elections?

Ans: The Election Commission has started using Electronic voting machines to ensure free and fair elections. Each machine has the names and symbols of the candidates in a constituency. In EVM, the voter has to press the button to vote for the candidate of his/her choice. The machine is very easy to operate.