

Outcomes of Democracy 7

Objective Section _____ (1 mark each)

- Q. 1.** In the question given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R) Read the statements and choose the correct option :

[CBSE OD, Set 1, 2020]

Assertion (A) : Democracy is a legitimate government.

Reason (R) : Regular, free and fair elections are the spirit of democracy.

Options :

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (b) Both (A) and (R) are incorrect.
- (c) (A) is correct, but (R) is incorrect.
- (d) (A) is incorrect, but (R) is correct.

Ans. (a)

Very Short Answer Type Questions _____ (1 mark each)

- Q. 1.** Why is there an overwhelming support to democracy all over the world? Explain one reason.

[CBSE OD, Term 2, Set 2, 2017]

Ans. Today, over a hundred countries of the world claim and practice democratic politics, because it provides equality among citizens and improve the quality of decision making.

- Q. 2.** Explain the meaning of transparency in democracy.

[CBSE OD, Term 2, Set 3, 2017]

Ans. In democracy, every citizen has the right and the means to examine the process of

decision making. This is known as transparency.

- Q. 3.** How can you say that democracies are based on political equality?

[CBSE OD, Term 2, Set 1, 2015]

Ans. Democracies are based on political equality as individuals have equal weight in electing representatives.

- Q. 4.** What is meant by 'transparency'?

[CBSE OD, Term 2, Set 3, 2015]

Ans. In a democracy, every citizen has the right to examine the process of decision making. This is known as transparency.

Short Answer Type Questions-II _____ (3 marks each)

- Q. 1.** Read the sources given below and answer the questions that follow :

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 OD, Set 1, 2020]

- (1) Explain the fascination for democracy amongst various countries.

- (2) Explain democracy on the basis of expected and actual outcome.

Ans. (1) Fascination about democracy amongst various countries is because :

- (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.
- (iii) It is transparent, accountable and responsive to the need of the people.

- (2) The actual democracies on the basis of expected and actual outcomes are explained below :

1. Regular, free and fair elections, open public debate on major policies and legislations.
2. Citizens right to information about the government and its functioning.

Democracies on the basis of actual outcomes are explained below :

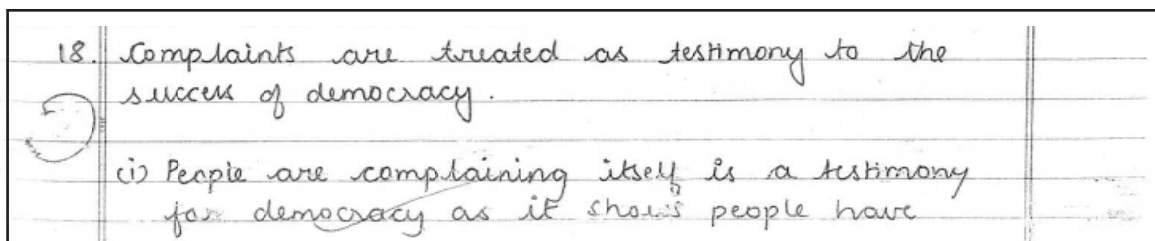
1. Holding elections that offer a fair chance to everyone.

2. Not every decisions comes forward in a public debate.
3. Sharing information with people rarely happens.
4. Democracies have never been free of corruption and government has failed to pay attention to the needs and expectations of people.

Q. 2. "Complaints are treated as testimony to the success of democracy." Support the statement with examples. [CBSE, 2019]



Topper's Answers



Q. 3. On the basis of which values will it be a fair expectation that democracy should produce a harmonious social life? Explain. [CBSE OD, Term 2, Set 1, 2017]

Ans. The basic values of democracy which provides fair expectation that democracy will produce harmonious social life are: (a) Social Equality, (b) Freedom, (c) Justice, (d) Economic justification, (e) Political freedom, civil and fundamental rights.

Moreover, following can be understood.

- (i) Democracy is a form of government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and the representatives of the people are elected by the voters on the basis of adult franchise.
- (ii) It promotes equality among citizens.
- (iii) It looks after the interest of the people.
- (iv) It allows accommodation of social diversity.

Q. 4. Analyse any three values that make democracy better.

[CBSE Delhi, Term 2, Set 1, 2017]

Ans. Values that makes democracy better are:

- (i) It provides equality among citizens All individuals and citizens of state country have equal rights in electing their representatives.

- (ii) It enhances the dignity of an individual; respect, dignity and freedom are the basis of democracy.
- (iii) It improves the quality of decision making.
- (iv) It provides methods to resolve conflicts; In other words, it allows for negotiations and room to correct mistakes.
- (v) Guarantees rights of citizen; every citizen has the right and means to examine the process of decision making
- (vi) It produces a government that is accountable to the citizens and responsive to the needs and expectations of citizens. **(Any three)**

Q. 5. How is democratic government a 'legitimate government'? Explain with examples.

[CBSE Delhi, Term 2, Set 3, 2017]

Ans. Democratic Government is known as a legitimate government, if government fulfills the following requirements:

- (i) Democracy produces a government that follows and is accountable to the people.
- (ii) It provides mechanism for citizens to hold the government accountable and allows citizens to take part

in decision-making whenever they think fit.

- (iii) If any citizen wanted to measure democracy on the basis of expected outcome, they would look for the following practices and institutions—*viz*; regular free and fair election, open public debate on major policies.

Q. 6. "Democracy accommodates social diversities. Support the statement with examples.

[CBSE OD, Term 2, Set 2, 2016]

Ans. Democracy helps to accommodate social diversities as follows:

- (i) Equality is maintained and fair representation is given to all irrespective of their caste, creed, colour etc.
- (ii) It ensures that the majority always works in cooperation with the minority.
- (iii) It never tries to give undue preference to any one in majority.
- (iv) It has better possibilities to handle social differences positively.
- (v) Democracy is the best form to resolve conflict because of the independent judiciary.

Q. 7. "Democratic government is legitimate government? Support the statement with arguments.

[CBSE Delhi, Term 2, Set 2, 2016]

Ans. The democratic government may be slow, less efficient, not always very responsive or clean. But a democratic gov-

ernment is people's own government. That is why, there is an overwhelming and extreme support for the idea of democracy all over the world. People wish to be ruled by representatives elected by them. They also believe that democracy is suitable for their country. Democracy's ability to generate its own support is itself an outcome that cannot be ignored.

Q. 8. How is democracy accountable and responsive to the need and expectations of the citizens? Analyse.

[CBSE OD, Term 2, Set 1, 2015]

Ans. Democracy is people's own government.

- (i) In a democracy, people have that the right to choose their representatives and the people will have control over them.
- (ii) Everybody expect the government to fulfill the needs and expectations of the people.
- (iii) It is expected that the democratic government develops mechanisms of citizens to hold the government accountable.

Q. 9. "There is an overwhelming support for the idea of democracy all over the world". Support the statement.

[CBSE OD, Term 2, Set 3, 2015]

- Ans.**
- (i) Democracy enhances the dignity of citizens.
 - (ii) A democratic government is a better government because it is a more accountable form of government.
 - (iii) Democracy improves the quality of decision making.



Long Answer Type Questions _____ (5 marks each)

Q. 1. "Democratic system is better than any other form of government." Support the statement with examples.

[CBSE Delhi, Set 1, 2020]

Ans. Democratic system is better than any other form of government because of following reasons.

- (i) It promotes equality among citizens.
- (ii) It enhances the dignity of the individual.

- (iii) It improves the quality of decision making.
- (iv) It provides a method to resolve conflicts.
- (v) It allows room to correct mistakes.

Q. 2. "Democracy plays an important role to accommodate social diversity. "Support the statement with examples.

[CBSE Delhi, Set 2, 2020]

Ans. Democracy plays an important role to accommodate social diversity in many ways which are given below:

- (i) It reduces the possibility of social tension becoming explosive.
- (ii) In Belgium every community recognised the existence of all.
- (iii) It develops procedure to conduct competition between various social groups.
- (iv) It ensures that every citizen has a chance of being in majority at some point of time.
- (v) In democracy majority need to work with minority. Democracy provides special rights to minority.

Q. 3. "Democracies lead to peaceful; and harmonious life among citizens." Support the statement with examples. [CBSE Delhi, Set 3, 2020]

Ans. Democracies lead to peaceful and harmonious life among citizens because of following reason:

- (i) No society has a permanent solution for the differences that can come up between various groups in it.
- (ii) But democracy provides the opportunity to negotiate the differences and decide what is better for everyone.
- (iii) Non-democratic regimes usually just ignore the internal problems or suppress it.
- (iv) Democracy ensures inclusion of every group including minorities and its interests in the decision making.
- (v) Democracy reduces the chances of differences or conflicts becoming violent.

Q. 4. "Democracies do not appear to be very successful in reducing economic inequalities." Justify the statement.

OR

"Democracy is a better form of government than any other form of government." Justify the statement.

[CBSE OD, Set 1, 2019]

Ans. In most of the democracies, a small number of ultra-rich people enjoy a highly disproportionate share of wealth and income. The share of the rich class is increasing, whereas

those who are at the bottom of the society, have very little to depend upon.

Even in India, the poor constitute a large proportion of the voters and no party will like to lose their votes. Yet, democratically elected government do not appear to be keen on addressing the question of poverty as is expected of them. The situation is much worse in some other countries, like in Bangladesh more than half of its population live in poverty. People in several poor countries are now dependent on the rich countries even for basic food supplies.

Democracies are based on political equality. All citizens have equal right in electing representatives, but this is not so in the economic field. Economic equality comes by the equitable distribution of wealth, but this is not true in democracy. The poor are becoming poorer, and sometimes they find it difficult to even meet the basic needs of life like food, shelter, health and education.

There can be many factors that are prevailing in a country that make it incapable to bring about equitable distribution of wealth.

- (i) Large population: Rise in population leads to rise in family size. But, because the family income is less the people have to adjust and manage with meagre pay.
- (ii) Unemployment: Because of population explosion, the number of job opportunities are very less compared to the people. A large number of educated people are still without jobs.
- (iii) Vicious circle of poverty: Poor people still have to be dependent on moneylenders to fulfill their basic needs as their income doesn't substitute their needs.
- (iv) Low-literacy rate: Education is still considered to be a dream for many.

All of these factors make it difficult for a democratic government to function and work efficiently.

OR

Democracy is better than other forms of government because:

- (i) In a democracy, every individual has a right to vote and choose his representatives in the government. Thus, it is more representative and popular.
- (ii) The government is of the people and the laws are made by the people (or the chosen representatives) in the government. Laws are made to protect the liberty and freedom of the people. Thus, the laws are popular opinion of the citizens on the whole.
- (iii) In a democracy, no particular religion, region, race or language is given special preference. All individuals are given equal rights and freedom, and there is no discrimination.
- (iv) The government is not by force. The opposition parties are allowed to criticise the government. Hence, there is a system of checks and balances in the form of democratic government.
- (v) Since every individual is given equal rights, there is less danger of conflicts in society. There are less conflicts based on caste, religion or region and less social tensions in society. Equitable distribution of opportunities is encouraged.

Q. 5. Describe the importance of democratic government as an accountable and legitimate government.

[CBSE Delhi, Set 1, 2019]

- Ans.**
- (i) Democracy provides an accountable government because it facilitates periodic, free and fair elections regularly.
 - (ii) Open discussions are held on all major issues and legislations and decisions are taken on the basis of popular public opinion.
 - (iii) Democracy give its citizens the right to information about the government and its functioning.

- (iv) Democracy provides a responsive government as it is formed by elected representatives of the people. The representatives also ensure that the programmes for the welfare of the different groups are implemented.
- (v) Democracy generates trust among individuals of the country as it follows the rules given in the constitution.

Q. 6. Describe any five outcomes of democracy. [CBSE Delhi, Set 2, 2019]

- Ans.**
- (i) Democracy is a form of government, in which the citizens have a right to elect their representatives, of their own choice. It is people's own government, thus a legitimate government.
 - (ii) Democracy ensures that decision making will be based on norms and procedures. The government follows all the rules and regulations and is accountable to the people.
 - (iii) In Democracy, the opposition parties question and criticise the policies of the government. This ensures that the laws being implemented are not prejudiced or autocratic.
 - (iv) Democracy enhances the dignity and importance of every individual in a nation.
 - (v) Democracy generates trust and faith in the law and constitution among citizens.
 - (vi) The elections are regular, free and representative. The feeling of belongingness is generated among its citizens.

Q. 7. "Democracy stands much superior to any other form of government in promoting dignity and freedom of the individual." Justify this statement.

OR

"Democracies lead to peaceful and harmonious life among citizens." Justify this statement. [CBSE, 2018]



Introduction : Democracy promotes dignity and freedom of individuals.

(a) People want respect and dignity from fellow beings. Promotion of dignity and freedom of individual is foundation stone of democracy.

(b) It has moral and legal force in constitution. However, no such provision in other forms of govt.

(c) There is no discrimination on the basis of race, religion, caste, sex, creed.

(d) Women have agitated for equal rights and opportunities as men. Democracy has helped in voicing their views and proper support.

∴ Once, something has a legal force. It becomes easier to raise demands and hold respect. This has improved the situations of women.

i) This has also helped in empowerment and respect for untouchable by promoting their interests. It is a legitimate govt.

Conclusion: Thus, it stands much superior to any other form of govt promoting dignity and freedom of individual.

Ans. In this respect democracy stands much superior to any other form of government in promoting dignity and freedom of individual.

Following points can support this statement:

- (i) Democracy promotes equality among citizens. Every citizen has equal rights in a democratic government.
- (ii) It improves the quality of decision making because opposition parties play important role.
- (iii) It provides methods to resolve conflicts. Every citizen has the right to go in courts. It also enhances the dignity of an individual.

(iv) It allows room to correct mistakes and is an accountable, responsive and legitimate government.

(v) It reduces poverty. Every citizen has right to work in a democratic government, also it accommodates social diversity as India is a secular state. All religions are equal here.

(vi) The passion for respect and freedom are the basis of democracy. It gives dignity also in the case of women. Equal treatment to women are necessary ingredients of democratic society.

OR

Democracy leads to peaceful and harmonious life among citizens:

- (i) Democracy has had greater success in setting up regular, free and fair elections.
- (ii) In democracy every citizen has equal right to vote, to profess his/her religion and to get education.
- (iii) In democracy every citizen can take part in any debate.
- (iv) Democracy ensures that the rights of its people are protected by the state and the government functions according to the laws.
- (v) In a democratic set up, there is no distinction between people based on race, religion, caste, colour or birth. Equal opportunities are provided to all to be educated to grow as good citizens and to earn their living.

All mentioned factors prove that democracy leads to peaceful and harmonious life among citizens.

Q. 8. "Democracy is very important for promoting dignity and freedom of citizens." Support the statement with arguments.

[CBSE Delhi, Term 2, Set 1, 2017]

Ans. Democracy is very important for promoting dignity and freedom of the citizens. We support the statement through the following argument:

- (i) The passion for respect and freedom are the basis of democracy.
- (ii) Democracy is based on equality, whether rich or poor, or belongs to any religion and caste to be treated equally.
- (iii) Respect and equal treatment of women are necessary ingredients of a democratic society.
- (iv) Legal basis which works on the principles of individual freedom and dignity.
- (v) Democracy in India has strengthened the claim of the disadvantaged and discriminated castes for equal status and equal opportunity.

Q. 9. Describe any five characteristics of democracy.

[CBSE OD, Term 2, Set 1, 2017]

Ans. The main characteristics of democracy vary in wide selection of ways.

- (i) Democracy is a form of government in which the rules are elected by the people.
- (ii) In a democracy, the final decision of marking power must rest with those representatives, elected by people or citizen.
- (iii) A democracy must be based on a free and fair election, where those who are currently in power have a fair chance of losing.
- (iv) In a democracy, each adult citizen must have one vote and each vote must have one value.
- (v) A democratic government rules within limits set by constitutional law and citizens' right.

Q. 10. "Democracy stands much superior in promoting dignity and freedom of the citizens". Justify the statement.

[CBSE OD, Term 2, Set 3, 2016]

Ans. Democracy has emerged as the most popular form of government. But the democratic form of government has been questioned that it leads to instability, it is about competition and running the power, etc. Nevertheless democracy is the most preferred and best form of government than any other forms because it ensures people's participation by guaranteeing the basic rights that enhances their dignity. It has done so by the following measures:

- (i) By extending legal and political equality to women and to the weaker sections of society.
- (ii) By guaranteeing fundamental rights to the citizens of the country.
- (iii) Giving representation to the minorities and protection through various safeguards.
- (iv) This will give political voice to the lower sections of society and will increase their democratic consciousness.
- (v) This will enable women, children, lower castes and other disadvantaged groups to wage their struggle for justice.
- (vi) By allowing people's participation in the political process of choosing their own government.

- (vii) Freedom of expression granted in a democratic nation.
- (viii) The ruling government would be the choice of the people of the country.
- (ix) Useful method of representation for large masses.
- (x) A tool to represent diverse interests and choices.

Q. 11. How are the democratic governments better than the other forms of governments? Compare.

[CBSE Delhi, Term 2, Set 1, 2016]

Ans. Democracy is the best form of government. A non-democratic government may respond to the people's need, but it all depends on the wishes of the people who rule. If the rulers don't want to, then they don't have to act. A democracy requires that the rulers have to attend to the needs of the people. Hence, it's a more accountable form of government.

- (i) In our diverse society, people are bound to have differences of opinions and interests. To iron out these differences, democracy is the only known solution as there is no permanent winner and no permanent loser.
- (ii) Democracy is based on the principle of political equalities *i.e.*, the poorest and the least educated has the same status as that of rich and educated.
- (iii) In democracy, people are not subjects of rulers but they are the rulers themselves.
- (iv) Democracy allows us to correct our own mistakes.

Q. 12. "Democracy is a better form of government than any other form of government." Analyse the statement with arguments.

[CBSE Delhi, Term 2, Set 3, 2016]

Ans. Democracy is a better form of government than any other form of government because:

- (i) Democracy promotes equality among citizens.
- (ii) It enhances the dignity of an individual.
- (iii) Improves the quality of decision making.
- (iv) Provides method to resolve conflicts amongst citizens.
- (vi) Democratic government is accountable, responsive and legitimate government.
- (vii) It leads to reduction of inequality and poverty.

Q. 13. Why do we feel that democracy is a better form of government than any other form? Explain.

[CBSE OD, Term 2, Set 3, 2015]

Ans. Democracy is the best form of government simply because no other form of government is known to work well.

Democracy may have its flaws but all in all it works very fluidly. Some advantages of having a democratic form of government are:

- (i) Freedom.
- (ii) Democracy represents the views and notions of all the citizens of the country, whether majorities or minorities.
- (iii) It helps in solving conflicts and quarrels in a better way.
- (iv) Democracy allows various people to rule the country through the representatives.
- (v) It also allows people to express themselves clearly and freely.
- (vi) It respects and promotes Human Rights.
- (vii) Democracy is the only form of government where people can voice their opinion.