

Gender, Religion and Caste

4

 Very Short Answer Type Questions _____ (1 marks each)

Q. 1. Read the following information and write a single term for it.

[CBSE OD, Set 1, 2020]

The Constitution of India provides freedom to profess and practice any religion to all its citizens. The Constitution of India prohibits discrimination on religious grounds.

Ans. Secular/Secularism

Q. 2. Suggest any one way to protect women from domestic oppression.

OR

Suggest any one way to create communal harmony among various communities of India. [CBSE Delhi, Set 1, 2020]

Ans. The one way to protect women from domestic oppression is given below:

(i) Empowering them by providing education.

(ii) Educate women about laws to protect them from, Domestic Violence and other types of exploitation.

OR

The one way to create communal harmony among various communities of India are given below :

(i) To show respect to the religion of others.

(ii) To prevent activities that exploits the right of other communities.

(iii) To celebrate all religious functions together.

(iv) To make others aware about the need for paying respect to the religion and social practices of people belonging to different faiths.

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

Q. 1. Mention any three features of 'secularism' described in the Indian Constitution.

OR

Mention the problem of 'Casteism' in Indian politics.

[CBSE Delhi, Set 1, 2020]

Ans. The three features of 'secularism' described in the Indian Constitution are as follows;

(i) The Constitution of India does not give special recognition to any religion and there is no state religion in India, unlike, Christianity in America, Buddhism in Sri Lanka etc.

(ii) All individuals and communities have been given freedom to practice, profess and propagate any religion.

(iii) The Constitution of India puts ban on the discrimination on grounds of religion.

OR

The problems of 'Casteism' in Indian politics are discussed below:

(i) When parties choose candidates in elections, they keep in mind the caste composition of the electorate and nominate candidates from different castes so as to get necessary support to win elections.

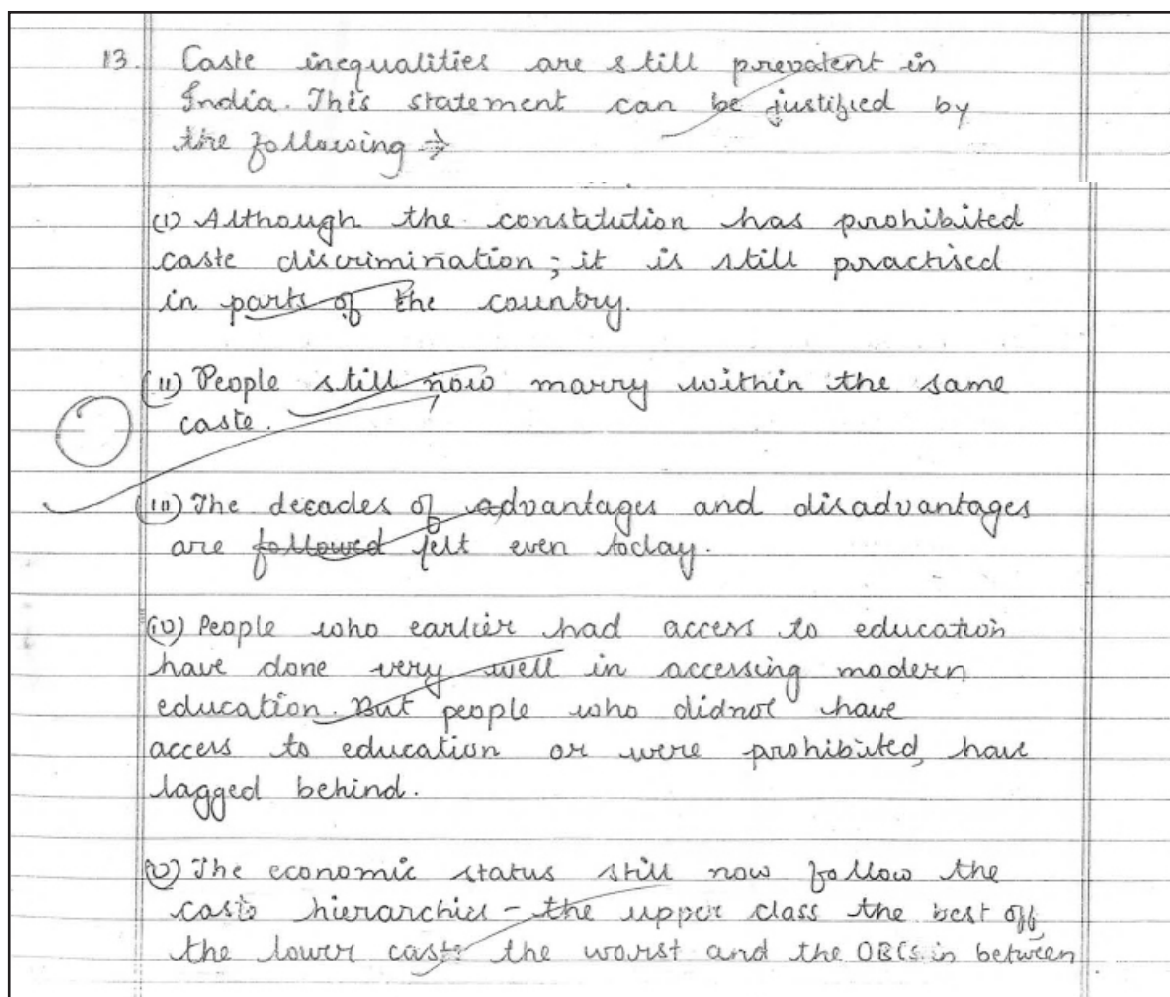
(ii) Political parties and candidates in elections make appeal to caste sentiment to muster support. Some political parties are known to favour some castes and are seen as their representatives.

(iii) Universal adult franchise and the principle of one vote compelled political leaders to gear up to the task of mobilising and securing political support.

Q. 2. "Caste inequalities are still prevalent in India." Examine the statement. [CBSE, 2019]



Topper's Answers



Q. 3. "Our society is still a male dominated society." Explain the statement with the help of examples.

[CBSE OD, Set 2, 2019]

Ans. India is considered to be a patriarchal society:

- (i) Political participation of women in India is very less when compared to other countries. Only 10% of the total members in the Lok Sabha are women. The situation is worse in State Assemblies where only 5% of the total members are women. The Women reservation bill to encourage the participation of women is still pending since the past decade.
- (ii) Women have entered into every field but they are still paid less than their male counter parts. Proportion

of women in highly paid jobs is still less and studies have shown that on an average they work more than men and yet are paid less. Although the Equal Remuneration Act provides provisions for equal wages to be paid for equal work.

- (iii) The literacy rate amongst women is also low when compared to men. Literacy rate is only 54% as compared to 76% among men. This shows the discrimination women have to face. Men are still considered to be the head of the family. A lot of dowry issues still emerge everywhere. Men are known to dominate women in every field using strength as a factor. Women are made to stay quiet even in cases of rapes, betrayal etc.

Q. 4. How can caste take several forms in politics? Explain with examples.

[CBSE OD, Set 1, 2019]

Ans. Caste is considered to be the sole basis of social community. People belonging to the same caste belong to a natural social community and have the same interests which they share amongst themselves and no one else. Caste can take various forms in politics.

- (i) Caste composition of an electorate is always kept in mind when the nominations are decided by the party during elections. They tend to nominate candidates of different castes so as to muster necessary support to win elections. When governments are formed, the parties make sure that these candidates of different castes find a place in the set up. Political parties are known to favour some castes and are even recognized as representatives of these castes. This brings prejudice and biasness in terms of decisions, ideologies and other such important matters.
- (ii) Universal Adult franchise has helped in compelling the political parties to mobilize and have an inclusive approach towards the castes that were earlier ignored by them. However, the inclusion of caste in politics has brought unnecessary violence and controversies. Parties try to favour certain caste and in this way, secure vote bank. Parties also incite people on the pretext of casteism thus create political disasters.

Q. 5. "Women still lag much behind men in India despite some improvements since independence." Analyse the statement.

[CBSE Delhi, Set 1, 2019]

Ans. Women still lag much behind men because men are in authority over women in all aspects of the society. The evidences are:

- (i) Political participation of women in India is very less when compared to other countries. Only 10% of the total members in the Lok Sabha are women. The situation is worse in State Assemblies where only 5% of the total members are women. The Women reservation bill to encourage the participation of women is still pending since the past decade.
- (ii) Women have entered into every field but they are still paid less than their male counterparts. Proportion of women in highly paid jobs is still less and studies have shown that on an average they work more than men and yet are paid less. Although the Equal Remuneration Act provides provision for equal wages to be paid for equal work.
- (iii) The literacy rate amongst women is also low when compared to men. Literacy rate is only 54% as compared to 76% among men. This shows the discrimination women have to face. Men are still considered to be the head of the family. A lot of dowry issues still emerge everywhere. Men are known to dominate women in every field using strength as a factor. Women are made to stay quiet even in cases of rapes, betrayal etc.

Q. 6. "Secularism is not an ideology of some political parties or persons, but it is one of the foundations of our country." Examine the statement.

[CBSE, 2018]



Topper's Answers

Introduction : Secularism is the foundation of ^{our} country's poli
Our constitution clearly states that India is a secular
in articles - 25 to 28 Part
constitution

(a)	There is no official religion of India like the status of Islam in Pakistan, Christianity in England and Buddhism in Sri Lanka.
(b)	Every individual is given the right to profess, propagate and practice religion of their choice or not to follow any.
(c)	There is no discrimination on the grounds of religion.
	Conclusion: Thus, communalism threatens the very idea of democracy.

Ans. Secularism is not just an ideology of some parties or person. This idea constitutes one of the foundations of our country. This fact has been part of various constitutional provisions, stated here in:

- (i) There is no official religion for the Indian state. The constitution provides all individuals and communities freedom to profess, practice and propagate any religion, or not to follow any.
- (ii) The constitution prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion.
- (iii) At the same time, the constitution allows the state to intervene in the matters of religion in order to ensure equality within religious communities. For example, it bans untouchability.

Q. 7. How does religion influence the political set up in our country?

[CBSE, Term 1, 2015]

Ans. India is a vast country having lots of differences. People are divided on the basis of religion too. Religion influences the political setup in our country. Mahatma Gandhi said, 'Religion can never be separated from politics' in India. Religion like Hinduism or Islam guides the politics. Religion based politics is not always dangerous as they look like. The values of religions can play a vital role in politics. India is a democratic country having the followers of each religions who have equal rights and prevents discrimination and oppression for celebrating practice of religion.

Long Answer Type Questions _____ (5 marks each)

Q. 1. 'Communalism can take various forms in politics.' Explain.

[CBSE OD, Set 1, 2020]

Ans. Communalism can take various forms in politics are discussed below :

- (i) When religious beliefs of a person involve prejudices and stereotypes, claiming one religion's ideas to be superior to another.
- (ii) When a majority community tries to establish its domination over the other communities with the help of the state. Minority communities under such circumstances, retaliates by demanding the formation of separate state for them. Political mobili-

sation on religious lines occurs when religious symbols and leaders make an emotional appeal to the people in order to bring the members of a particular community together.

- (iii) Communal violence is the worst form of communalism. It acquires the political form when it is sponsored by the state.
- (iv) Political mobilisation on religious lines is another frequent form of communalism. This involves the use of sacred symbols, religious leaders, emotional appeal and plain fear in order to bring the followers of one religion together in the political arena.

- (v) In a democracy, communalism may take the form when the majoritarian community starts believing in the superiority of their religion and ignores the wishes of the minorities.

Q. 2. "Caste can take various forms in Politics." Explain with examples.

[CBSE OD, Set 2, 2020]

Ans. Caste is the sole basis of social community. It can take various forms in politics due to following reasons :

- (i) Selection of Candidates in Politics :
When parties choose candidates in elections, they keep in mind the caste composition of the electorate and nominate candidates from different castes so as to muster necessary support to win elections.
When governments are formed, political parties usually take care that representatives of different castes and tribes find a place in it.
- (ii) Political Parties as the Representatives of Caste : Political parties and candidates in elections make appeals to caste sentiments to muster support. Some political parties are known to favour some castes and are seen as their representatives.
- (iii) Caste influences Universal Adult Franchise : Universal adult franchise and the principle of one- person one- vote compelled political leaders to gear up to the task of mobilising and securing political support. It also brought new consciousness among the people of different castes that were hitherto treated as inferior and low.
- (iv) Various caste groups are required to enter into a coalition with other castes or communities and thus enter into a dialogue and negotiation.

- (v) New kinds of caste groups have come up in the political arena like "backward" and "forward caste groups."

Q. 3. "In India, women still lag behind men despite some improvement since Independence." Support the statement with examples. [CBSE OD, Set 3, 2020]

Ans. In our country, women still lag much behind men despite some improvements since Independence. Women face disadvantage, discrimination and oppression in various ways:

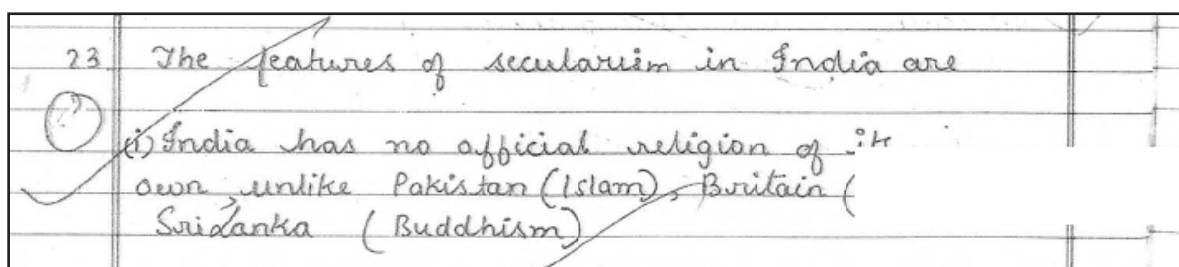
- (i) The literacy rate among women is only 54 per cent as compared with 76 per cent among men.
- (ii) Similarly, a smaller proportion of girl students go for higher studies. Girls are performing as good as boys in school. But they drop out because parents prefer to spend their resources for their boys education rather than spending equally on their sons and daughters.
- (iii) The proportion of women among the highly paid and valued jobs is still very small. On an average an Indian women works one hour more than an average man everyday.
- (iv) The Equal Wages Act provides that equal wages should be paid for equal work. However, in almost all areas of work, from sports and cinema, to factories and fields, women are paid less than men, even when both do exactly the same work.
- (v) In many parts of India, parents prefer to have sons and find ways to have the girl child aborted before she is born. Such sex selective abortion led to a decline in child sex ratio.
- (vi) Women face harassment, exploitation and violence on the domestic front.

Q. 4. Describe any five features of secularism in India.

[CBSE, 2019]



Topper's Answers



(iii) Every individual is free to practise, profess and propagate any religion of their choice.

(iv) The government ~~does not~~ provides equal opportunities to all irrespective of

religion

(v) No body or individual can be discriminated on the basis of religion. The Constitution prohibits such discrimination.

(vi) The government can interfere in the matters of religion and its practices to make it more equitable.

Q. 5. Mention any five socio-economic changes responsible for breaking down the old notion of caste hierarchy in India. [CBSE, Term 1, 2016]

Ans. Socio-economic changes are responsible for breaking down the old notion of caste hierarchy in India are:

- (i) Efforts of social reformers like Phule, Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar have worked against the evil of caste system in India.
- (ii) India is developing economically daily. Availability of opportunities and economic development has also changed the perspective of Indian citizens.
- (iii) Large scale urbanization takes place in Impact of Western culture, introduction of new education system has also contributed in decreasing the stringency of casteism. India, in the modern era.
- (iv) Increase of literacy rate has declined the effects of discrimination and caste prejudices.
- (v) Occupational mobility has been also a reason for this socio-economic change in India

Q. 6. How far is it correct to say that it is not politics that gets caste ridden but it is the caste that gets politicised? Explain. [CBSE, Term 1, 2015]

Ans. It is correct to say that it is not politics that gets caste ridden but it is caste that gets politicised. Politics also influences the caste system and at the same time caste identifies by bringing them into the politics. We can explain it as follows:

- (i) Every caste group tries to become bigger by incorporating with other similar castes or sub castes.
- (ii) Negotiation are done by the coalition of different caste groups to make impact on the politics.
- (iii) Caste groups like backward and forward came together to get benefit in the politics.
- (iv) Caste groups demands the power sharing in politics and become in a position of decision making.
- (v) Political parties are using the castes and their separatism to gain power, they are not even trying to end this evil practice of caste discrimination.