

Challenges to Democracy 8

Very Short Answer Type Questions _____ (1 mark each)

Q. 1. How can democratic reforms be carried out by political conscious citizens?
[CBSE Delhi, Set 1, 2019]

Ans. The most important concern should be to increase and improve the quality of political participation by ordinary citizens. When politically conscious citizens are aware of their duties and rights as entitled by the constitution, gives them an upper hand for they are able to judge between right and wrong. They are also able to spread this awareness around by holding discussions or generally through word of mouth and help in formation of Public opinion. Politically aware citizens have better knowledge of diplomacy and world politics.

Q. 2. How can democratic reforms be carried out by movements?

[CBSE Delhi, Set 2, 2019]

Ans. The Democratic reforms can be carried out by various movements like party movements or an unofficial uprising of people, candle marches, boycott or other movements by NGOs, political activists, not-for-profit organisations or

simply a group of citizens which increase and improve the quality of political participation.

Q. 3. 'A challenge is not just any problem but an opportunity for progress.' Analyse the statement.
[CBSE, 2018]

Ans. A challenge is not a hurdle in the way of our success rather it's an opportunity for progress. Challenges always force us to prove our worth in a positive way. Different countries face different kinds of challenges:

- (i) Foundational challenge
- (ii) Challenge of expansion
- (iii) Deepening of democracy

Once we overcome a challenge, we automatically go to a higher level than before.

Q. 4. Explain the meaning of 'challenge'.
[CBSE Delhi, Term 2, Set 1, 2017]

Ans. Challenge can be explained by the following statement:

A challenge is not just a problem. It is a difficulty that carries within an opportunity for progress.

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

Q. 1. "Most of the established democracies are facing the challenge of expansion." Support the statement with examples.
[CBSE Delhi, Term 2, Set 1, 2016]

Ans. Most of the established democracies face the challenge of expansion as it involves applying the basic principle of democratic government across all the regions, different social groups and various institutions. Ensuring greater power to local government, extension of federal principle to all the units of the federation, inclusion of women and minority groups, etc., falls under this challenge. This also means that less and less decisions should remain outside the arena of democratic control. Most countries including India and other democracies like the US face this challenge. In India, certain socio-economically backward groups have

yet to get the political powers. Additionally, some North-Eastern states are not yet fully integrated with the mainstream India. These are examples of the challenge of expansion of democracy.

Q. 2. "A challenge is an opportunity for progress." Support the statement with your arguments.
[CBSE OD, Term 2, Set 1, 2015]

Ans. Once a country faces the foundational challenges of establishing democracy or transforming itself from a non-democratic regime to a democratic one it has to move ahead. A challenge of foundation is an opportunity to establish democratic system, to have free and fair elections and to acknowledge the right to the people. Once the country overcomes this challenge it has to expand democracy even to

the grassroot level. Later, it has to deepen the democratic institutions, strengthen the institutions of democracy to ensure greater participation of the people. Thus, such institution have to work on much responsible manner for the needs of the people.

Q. 3. How are the challenges to democracy linked to the possibility of political reforms? Explain.

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

Ans. Each challenge in democracy is limited to the possibility of reforms. All the countries do not have same challenges as under:

- (i) Carefully devised changes in law can help to abolish wrong political practices.
- (ii) Democratic reforms are to be carried out by political activists, parties, movement and political conscious citizen.
- (iii) Political participation by ordinary citizens should be there.
- (iv) Democratic movements, citizen's organization and media plays an important role.
- (v) Empowerment of people through laws.