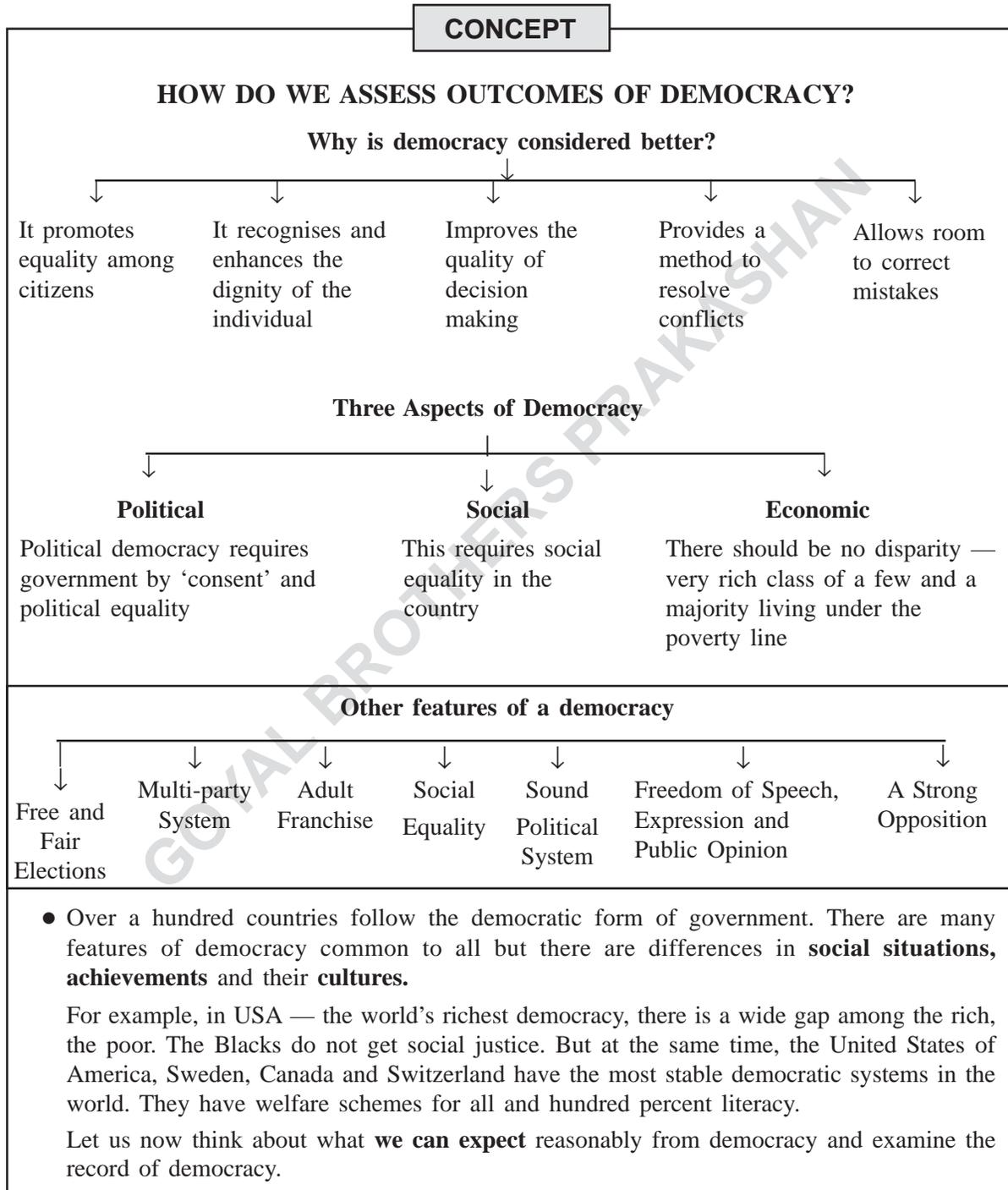


## 7 OUTCOMES OF DEMOCRACY



### Accountable, responsive and legitimate government

In a democracy, there must be a government which is **accountable to the citizens** and **responsive** to the **needs** and **expectations** of the citizens. It should be **efficient** and **effective**.

Democratic governments are based on the idea of **deliberation** and **negotiation**, so delays take place.

#### Does that make democratic government inefficient?

Non-democratic governments do not have to bother about discussions in assemblies. They do not worry about public opinion. They are very quick in decision making and implementation.

#### Are non-democratic governments more efficient?

- In the first instance : It has taken time, followed all procedures and then come to a decision. Result : **More acceptable** to the people, **more effective**.
- In the second instance, let us consider the **costs** involved. Quick decisions may not with the approval of the majority of people. Result : **Problems**

#### Points in favour of democracies

- Decision-making is based on norms and procedures.
- Transparency — a citizen has the right and the means to examine a decision making process.
- Government is **accountable** to people and has **mechanism** to hold a government accountable.
- It has mechanism for citizens to take part in decision-making.

#### Points against democracy as a form of government

- Transparency rights and means to examine decision-making process are missing.
- Government is not accountable.
- No mechanisms to hold it accountable.
- Decision making not based on norms and procedures.

#### Democracies have been successful in holding

- regular and free elections
- creating conditions for open public debate

#### Democracies have fallen short of :

- holding elections that provide a fair chance to everyone.
- every decision is not brought forward for in a public debate.
- They do not have a very good record in sharing information with citizens.
- Democracies have not been free of **corruption** and have not been attentive to people's needs and expectations.
- In one respect, a democratic government is certainly **better** than a non-democratic one.

It is a **legitimate** Government. It is a **people's own government**. This is the main reason for its popularity. People all over the world want to be ruled by representatives elected by them.

## ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- One of the failures of democracy is that it lags behind dictatorships in economic growth.
- Economic growth depends on the :
  - (i) Size of the population of a country
  - (ii) Global situation
  - (iii) Co-operation from other countries
  - (iv) Economic policies adopted by the country

### Reduction of inequality and poverty

The truth is that what is needed is removal of economic disparities. Development without equitable distribution of wealth is not a true democracy. Democracies are based on political equality. All citizens have equal weight in electing representatives.

But it is not so in the economic field. The poor are becoming poorer and sometimes they find it difficult to meet the basic needs of life like food, clothing, higher education and health. Democratic governments have failed in this area. In India this is indicated by :

1. Percentage of population below poverty line in India
2. The Human Development Index will show where India stands in the world as far as health, education and income are concerned.

### Accommodation of Social Diversity

Democracy tries to help its citizens to lead a peaceful and harmonious life by accommodating various social divisions. Example :- Belgium and India. Democratic governments try to **resolve** differences, respect differences and try **mechanisms** which can negotiate differences.

**Democracy's** plus point is : Ability to handle social differences, divisions and reduce conflicts. Non-democratic regimes can ignore or suppress internal and social differences.

**Precaution** is needed to see that the majority always works with the minority and does not try to dominate it. Sri Lanka is an example. **Majority rule means** different people, different groups participate in decision-making. It does not mean the rule of the majority community — a religious, racial or linguistic group.

**No one** should be **barred** from being in a majority group on the basis of birth. Every citizen should have a chance to be in a majority at some time.

### Dignity and Freedom of the Citizens

- (i) ● Democracy promotes dignity and freedom of the individual
  - Every individual wants to receive respect from fellow beings
  - Democracies have achieved this to a certain degree in many countries
- (ii) **Dignity of Women**
  - Women had to fight long battles to receive their due in society.
  - Societies across the world have been male dominated. It is absolutely essential that women should get equal treatment.
  - Women can now wage a struggle against what is now unacceptable legally and morally. In a non-democratic set-up, women would not have a legal basis to fight for equality.

- Societies across the world have been male dominated. It is absolutely essential that women should get equal treatment.
  - Of course, women still have to struggle. They are not always given their due respect even in democracies.
- (iii) **Caste Inequalities** : In India, the disadvantaged and discriminated castes have gained in strength due to democracy. They have now the legal and moral right to fight for equal status and equal opportunities. There are still instances of atrocities and inequalities suffered by people because of caste, but they are not supported by law or moral code.
- (iv) A democracy is always striving towards a better goal. People constantly demand more benefits in a democracy. There are always more expectations.
- (v) People now look critically at the work of those who hold power, the rich, the powerful. They express their dissatisfaction loudly. It shows they are no longer **subjects** but **citizens** of a democratic country.

## I. SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

### A. NCERT TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS

**Q.1. How does democracy produce an accountable, responsive and legitimate government?**

**OR**

**‘Democracy is an accountable, responsive and legitimate form of government.’ Explain.**  
[2011 (T-2)]

- Ans.** (i) **Democracy produces an accountable government.** The most basic outcome of democracy should be that it produces a government that is accountable to the citizens and responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens. A citizen should be able to participate in decision-making that affects all. Democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation.
- (ii) **Democracy produces responsive government.** The democratic government should be attentive to the needs and demands of the people and be largely free of corruption. Democracies often frustrate the needs of the people and often ignore the demands of a majority of its population. At the same time, there is nothing to show that non-democracies are less corrupt or more sensitive to the people.
- (iii) **Democracy produces legitimate government.** A democratic government is people’s own government. 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.2. What are the conditions under which democracies accommodate social diversities?**

**OR**

**Explain with examples how democracy can accommodate diversity.** [2011 (T-2)]

- Ans.** Democratic governments try to keep peace and harmony among its citizens. This they do by maintaining discipline and accommodating various social divisions. For example, this has been done in Belgium and our own country. Democratic governments resolve differences, respect differences, and try to find mechanisms which can negotiate difference like non-democratic countries.

**Q.3. Give arguments to support or oppose the following assertions :**

- (i) Industrialised countries can afford democracy but the poor need dictatorship to become rich.
- (ii) Democracy can't reduce inequality of incomes between different citizens.
- (iii) Government in poor countries should spend less on poverty alleviation, health, education and spend more on industries and infrastructure.
- (iv) In democracy, all citizens have one vote, which means there is absence of any domination and conflict.

**Ans.** (i) In a finding, comparison between democracies and dictatorship from 1950's to the year 2000 showed that economic growth was slightly more in dictatorship. For example, industrialised countries like the USA showed a high degree of inequalities between the rich and poor, the blacks and white people, etc. However, this growth rate was negligible. Economic growth rate depends more on other factors than on the kinds of government. Such factors include:

- (a) Population
  - (b) Global situation
  - (c) Cooperation between countries
  - (d) Economic priorities and policies of a country.
- (ii) Expectations from a democracy are always high. One expects economic disparities to be less in a democracy, as it believes in an equitable distribution of wealth. But in reality democracy has a growing income inequalities. There is a wide gap between the rich and the poor. If we look at South Africa, the top 20% people have more than 60% share of income, the bottom 20% people have less than 3% share of the income. In Bangladesh, more than half the population lives below the poverty line. This proves that even though democracy aims at equality of status and income for everyone, in actual life it has not been very successful in reducing economic inequalities.
- (iii) Development of a nation depends on industrialisation but it is not the only means of development. One needs a population which has a high rate of literacy, wide knowledge and skills. A population with low literacy rate, poor health is a burden for any country. It is wrong to say that government should spend more on industries. A balance must be maintained between investment on food, clothing, health and education, and industries. The former are a part of human development, without which industrialisation will not achieve much.
- (iv) The principle of one vote does not mean that there is absence of any domination and conflict in a democracy. Conflicts can happen if demands of one group are against the demands of other social groups. Democracy only avoids conflicts by accommodating and negotiating, and avoids any possibility of conflict by giving everyone equal rights and freedom in the society. One advantage is that since every citizen has one vote, political parties cannot ignore any social group. They have to promote policies that include all social groups to win their support during elections.

**Q.4. Identify the challenges to democracy in the following descriptions. Also suggest policy/institutional mechanism to deepen democracy in the given situation.**

- (a) Following a High Court directive, a temple in Orissa that had separate entry doors for dalits and for all non-dalits allowed entry from the same door.

**Ans.** (a) The challenge was practising untouchability or casteism, that was banned by our Constitution. The High Court restored the Right to Equality.

Casteism should be eradicated from India with the help of education and by promoting national festivals.

(b) A large number of farmers are committing suicide in different states of India.

**Ans.** (b) Here the challenge is poverty. The government has to provide economic equality by promoting agriculture and diversity in agriculture, so that it raises the economic standard of the farmers.

(c) Following allegation of killing three civilians in Fulwama in a fake encounter by Jammu and Kashmir police, an enquiry has been ordered.

**Ans.** (c) Here the challenge is the security of citizens; a fundamental right is violated.

These incidents can be avoided by practising transparency in the police department and their actions. The government should promote human rights.

**Q.5. In the context of democracies, which of the following ideas is correct — democracies have successfully eliminated :**

(A) conflicts among people

(B) economic inequalities among people

(C) differences of opinion about how marginalised sections are to be treated

(D) the idea of political inequality

**Ans.** (D) the idea of political inequality

**Q.6. In the context of assessing democracy, which among the following is odd one out. Democracies need to ensure :**

(A) free and fair elections

(B) dignity of the individual

(C) majority rule

(D) equal treatment before law

**Ans.** (D) equal treatment before law

**Q.7. Studies on political and social inequalities in democracy show that**

(A) Democracy and development go together

(B) Inequalities exist in democracies

(C) Inequalities do not exist under dictatorship

(D) dictatorship is better than democracy

**Ans.** (B) Inequalities exist in democracies

**Q.8. Read the passage below :**

*Nannu is a daily wage earner. He lives in Welcome Mazdoor Colony, a slum habitation in East Delhi. He lost his ration card and applied for a duplicate one in January 2004. He made several rounds to the local food & Civil Supplies office for the last three months. But the clerks and officials would not even look at him, leave alone do his job or bother to tell him the status of his application. Ultimately, he filed an application under the Right to Information Act asking for the daily progress made on his application, names of the officials, who were supposed to act on his application and what action would be taken against these officials for their inaction. Within a week of filing application under the Right to Information Act, he was visited by an*

inspector from the Food Department, who informed him that the card had been made and he could collect it from the office. When Nannu went to collect his card next day, he was given a very warm treatment by the Food & Supply Officer (FSO), who is the head of a Circle. The FSO offered him tea and requested him to withdraw his application under the Right to Information, since his work had already been done.

What does Nannu's example show? What impact did Nannu's action have on officials? Ask your parents their experiences when they approach government officials to attend to their problems.

**Ans.** Nannu's example shows that he was aware of his rights. He was denied the right to information and not given his rights as a citizen because he was poor. Nannu's application frightened the officers and they hurried to give him his ration card, which was their duty to do. The officers were corrupt and fear of disclosure made them perform their duty. This case clearly shows that everyone has a right to equality. Nannu did not give in to the pressure tactics of the clerks, exercised his rights and exposed the corruption prevalent in the department. People have to enforce their rights themselves and not wait for the government to do so.

### OTHER IMPORTANT QUESTIONS (AS PER CCE PATTERN)

#### B. MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (1 MARK)

**Q.1. Studies on political and social inequalities in democracy show that :**

- (a) democracy and development go together
- (b) inequalities exist in democracies
- (c) inequalities do not exist under dictatorship
- (d) dictatorship is better than democracy

**Ans.** (b)

**Q.2. Why is there a delay in decision-making and implementation in a democracy?**

- (a) The government is afraid of taking decisions
- (b) The government is hesitant in taking decisions
- (c) Democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation
- (d) A democratic government is not interested in taking quick decisions

**Ans.** (c)

**Q.3. Democracy is a better form of government because it ....**

- (a) promotes equality among citizens
- (b) enhances the dignity of the individual

- (c) provides a method to resolve conflicts
- (d) all the above

**Ans.** (d)

**Q.4. Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

- (a) Most of the democracies have constitutions, they hold elections, have parties and they guarantee rights to citizens
- (b) Democracies are very much different from each other in terms of their social, economic and cultural achievements
- (c) All democracies are similar as far as social, economic and cultural conditions are concerned
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

**Ans.** (d)

**Q.5. Which regime usually develops a procedure to conduct social competition and reduce the possibility of social tension?**

- (a) Democratic regime
- (b) Dictatorial regime

- (c) Non-democratic regime
- (d) None of these

Ans. (a)

**Q.6. Choose the correct statement.**

- (a) Democracies can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups
- (b) Dictatorships can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups
- (c) No regime can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups
- (d) None of these

Ans. (c)

**Q.7. Which factor is often missing from a non-democratic government?**

- (a) Efficiency
- (b) Effectiveness
- (c) Transparency
- (d) None of these

Ans. (c)

**Q.8. Decisions taken by which type of government are likely to be more acceptable to the people and more effective?**

- (a) Democratic government
- (b) Non-democratic government
- (c) Military dictatorship
- (d) Theocracy

Ans. (a)

**Q.9. Why is the cost of time that democracy pays for arriving at a decision worthwhile?**

- (a) Decisions are taken following due procedures
- (b) Decisions are always in favour of people
- (c) Decisions are more likely to be acceptable to the people and more effective
- (d) None of these

Ans. (c)

**Q.10. On which of the following practices and institutions can the accountability of government and involvement of people in decision-making process in a democracy be measured?**

- 1 – regular, free and fair elections
- 2 – public debate on major policies and legislations
- 3 – citizens' right to information about government and its functioning

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 and 3
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans. (d)

**Q.11. There is one respect in which a democratic government is certainly better than its alternatives. What is it?**

- (a) Efficiency
- (b) Decision-making
- (c) Legitimacy
- (d) None of these

Ans. (c)

**Q.12. Which among the following has a higher rate of economic growth and development?**

- (a) Democracies
- (b) Dictatorships
- (c) All non-democratic regimes
- (d) Monarchies

Ans. (b)

**Q.13. Which of the following statements is correct regarding the distribution of economic benefits in democracies?**

- (a) Incomes of both the rich and the poor have been increasing
- (b) Incomes of both the rich and the poor have been declining
- (c) Incomes of the rich have been increasing and those of the poor have been declining
- (d) None of the above

Ans. (c)

**Q.14. In which of these countries half of the population lives in poverty?**

- (a) India
- (b) Sri Lanka
- (c) Bangladesh
- (d) Pakistan

Ans. (c)

**Q.15. Which regime is best suited to accommodate social diversity?**

- (a) A democratic regime
- (b) A non-democratic regime
- (c) Only a dictatorial regime
- (d) None of these

**Ans.** (a)

**Q.16. Which regimes often turn a blind eye to or suppress internal social differences?**

- (a) Democratic regimes
- (b) Non-democratic regimes
- (c) Monarchy
- (d) Oligarchy

**Ans.** (b)

**Q.17. Which among the following countries is a perfect example of accommodation of social diversity?**

- (a) Sri Lanka      (b) Belgium
- (c) Saudi Arabia    (d) Pakistan

**Ans.** (b)

**Q.18. Democracy stands much superior to any other form of government in promoting**

- (a) economic growth

- (b) dignity and freedom of the individual
- (c) economic equality
- (d) None of these

**Ans.** (b)

**Q.19. Which of these values have the moral and legal sanctions in a democracy?**

- (a) Gender equality
- (b) Caste-based equality
- (c) Economic equality
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

**Ans.** (d)

**Q.20. In the context of democracies, which of the following ideas is correct? Democracies have successfully**

- (a) eliminated conflicts among people
- (b) eliminated economic inequalities among people
- (c) eliminated differences of opinion about how marginalised sections are to be treated
- (d) rejected the idea of political inequality

**Ans.** (d)

### C. SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (3 MARKS)

**Q.1. Which factors help economic growth in the country?**

- Ans.** (i) Economic growth depends on the size of the population of a country. We can see that in our country economic growth cannot cope with the problem of a bursting population of more than a billion people.
- (ii) It also depends on the global situation and cooperation from other countries. All developing countries need help of the rich and developed nations to grow.
- (iii) The policies of the government also affect economic growth of country.

**Q.2. How have democracies fallen short of people's expectations?**

- Ans.** Democracies have failed to hold elections which give a fair chance to everyone. They have failed in transparency, i.e. sharing information with citizens. They are also blamed for not holding public debate. And finally, corruption is the biggest charge against democratic governments.

**Q.3. What is a must for a successful democratic government?**

- Ans.** In a democracy, there must be a government which is **accountable** to the citizens, responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens only then it can be effective and efficient.

**Q.4. What do you understand by the term ‘majority’ in a democracy?**

**Ans.** Democracy does not rule simply by majority opinion. ‘Majority’ does not mean a community in terms of religion, race or linguistic group. Rule by majority means that in case of every decision, or in case of every election, different people and groups can form a majority.

**Q.5. What are the conditions under which democracies accommodate social diversities?**

[2011 (T-2)]

**Ans.** (i) The majority always needs to work with the minority so that governments function to represent the general views.

(ii) It is necessary that rule by majority does not become rule by majority community in terms of religion, race, linguistic group, etc. Different persons or groups should be allowed to form a government as a result of an election conducted.

**Q.6. Some people think that democracy produces less efficient and effective government. Do you agree with their views?**

[2011 (T-2)]

**Ans.** It is true that some delay is bound to take place in democracy as it is based on deliberation and negotiation. It is also true that non-democratic rulers can be very quick and efficient in decision-making and implementation. But they may take decisions that are not acceptable to the people but are forced on them. On the other hand, because democratic governments follow procedures, its decisions may be more acceptable to the people and more effective. So I do not agree with the view that democracy is a less effective and more inefficient form of government.

**Q.7. Examine with the help of three examples how the dignity and freedom of citizens are best guaranteed in a democracy.**

[2011 (T-2)]

**Ans.** (i) **Dignity of women.** Long struggles by women have created some sensitivity today that respect to and equal treatment of women are necessary ingredients of a democratic society.

(ii) **Caste inequalities.** Democracy in India have strengthened the claims of the disadvantaged and discriminated castes for equal status and equal opportunity.

(iii) **Public expression of dissatisfaction.** A public expression of dissatisfaction with democracy shows the success of the democratic project : it transforms people from the status of a ‘subject’ to that of a ‘citizen’. Public expression shows that people are aware and have the ability to look critically at the powerholders.

### PREVIOUS YEARS’ QUESTIONS

**Q.1. “Democracy is a better form of government.” Support the statement with three arguments.**

[2008]

OR

**Why do people prefer democracy? Explain with four reasons.**

[2011 (T-2)]

**Ans.** People prefer democracy because :

(i) People are their own masters. In a democracy, every individual has a right to vote and choose his representatives in the government. The government is of the people **and the laws are made by the people** (or the representatives chosen) in the government. Laws are made to protect the liberty and freedom of the people.

(ii) 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.

- (iii) The government is not by force. The opposition parties are allowed to criticise the government.
- (iv) 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. In politics, dignity of the individual is cared for.

**Q.2. How does democracy lead to peaceful and harmonious life among citizens? Explain.**

[2011 (T-2)]

- Ans.** (i) Democracies accommodate various social divisions. For example, Belgium has peacefully solved her ethnic problems and solved the differences.
- (ii) All democracies usually develop a procedure to conduct competition, i.e. conduct elections, power-sharing, etc. This reduces the possibility of tensions, due to social divisions, turning violent or explosive.
- (iii) Democracy teaches people to respect the differences and resolve conflicts among different groups peacefully. In non-democratic countries, rulers either turn a blind eye to or suppress internal differences. For example, Sri Lanka. The plus point in democratic regime is the ability to handle social differences, divisions and conflicts.
- (iv) A democracy is not just a rule by majority opinion. The majority always needs to work with the minority so that the government represents the general view.
- (v) A democratic government ensures that the rule by the majority does not become autocratic in terms of religion, race or linguistic group etc. It tries that in case of every election, different persons and groups can form a majority. It tries to see that every citizen has a chance to be in majority at some point of time and is not barred on the basis of birth.
- All these things ensured by a democratic regime lead to a peaceful and harmonious life.

**Q.3. What are the differences between democratic and non-democratic governments in the decision making process?**

[2011 (T-2)]

- Ans.** The decision making process of the non-democratic rulers is very quick. They are also efficient in decision making and even in the implementation of the decisions. This all happens because non-democratic rulers do not have to bother about deliberation in assemblies or about the public opinion.

On the other hand, democratic form of government is based on deliberation and negotiation. This causes the process slow. They followed procedures, their decisions may be more acceptable to the people and are more effective.

**Q.4. How do political parties shape public opinion? Explain with three examples.**

[2011 (T-2)]

- Ans.** Political parties shape public opinion. They raise and highlight issues. They have lakhs of members and activists spread all over the country. Many of the pressure groups are the extensions of political parties among different sections of society. Political parties sometimes also launch movements for resolving the problems faced by people. Often opinion in the society crystallise on the lines parties take.

**Q.5. "There is lack of internal democracy within the political parties." Justify the statement with three arguments.**

[2011 (T-2)]

- Ans.** There is lack of internal democracy within parties. All parties having tendency that there is only one or few leaders should be at top to grab the power. They do not have check on membership registers. They do not call organisational meetings neither they conduct internal

elections regularly. Not all the members of the party have information regarding internal party matters. The ordinary member of the party do not have the means or the connections needed to influence the decisions. Every decision of the party is taken only by few leaders in the name of party.

**Q.6. “Most negative feature of democracy is that its examination never gets over.” Support the statement with three arguments. [2011 (T-2)]**

**Ans.** The working sphere of democracy –

- (i) Promote equality among citizens
- (ii) Enhance the dignity of the individual
- (iii) Improve the quality of decision making
- (iv) Provide a method to resolve conflict.

Democracy is also having the fields of work are – social situations, economic achievement and the culture of the nation.

It have great responsibilities, huge working area and the high population. So whatever work is done by democracy seems to be very small in terms of problems. That’s why it is said that the most negative feature of democracy is that its examination never gets over.

**Q.7. What is the main outcome of democracy with reference to reduction of inequality and poverty? Give any two arguments to support your answer. [2011 (T-2)]**

**Ans.** Democracies are based on political equality. All individuals have equal right in electing representatives. Parallel to the process of bringing individuals into the political arena on an equal footing, find growing economic inequalities. A few number of rich enjoy a highly disproportionate share of wealth and incomes. Not only that, their share in the total income of the country has been increasing. Those at the bottom of the society have very little to depend upon. Their incomes have been declining and sometimes they find it difficult to meet their basic needs of life such as food, clothing, house, education and health.

**Q.8. Why is a democratic government considered better than dictatorship ? Explain any three reasons. [2011 (T-2)]**

**Ans.** Democratic government is legitimate government. It may be slow, less efficient, not always very responsive or clean but a democratic government is people’s own government. This is not true in case of dictatorship.

In a democratic government citizens have fundamental rights and duties but in dictatorship it is not so.

In a democratic form of government, the decision making process is slow. Because it is follow by the procedures and its decisions are more acceptable to the people. This is not seen in the dictatorship type of government.

**Q.9. Examine any three features on the basis of which maximum number of countries claim to practise democratic politics ? [2011 (T-2)]**

**Ans.** When any country follows this pattern, then they are able to claim to practise democratic politics.

- (i) Elections are held at regular intervals and are fair and free.
- (ii) Freedom of speech, expression and thought is another feature of democracy.
- (iii) The dignity of the individual is recognised.

**Q.10. “In actual life, democracies do not appear to be very successful in reducing economic inequalities.” Support this statement giving three arguments. [2011 (T-2)]**

**OR**

**Do democracies lead to a just distribution of goods and services. Justify your answer. [2011 (T-2)]**

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

**Q.25. Mention the political outcomes of democracy. [2011 (T-2)]**

**Ans.** These are some political outcomes of democracy –

- (i) People will have the right to choose their ruler and also have control over the rulers.
- (ii) Whenever possible and necessary, citizens should be able to participate in decision making that affects them all.
- (iii) People have the right to stand up for any political post.

#### D. LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (4 MARKS)

**Q.1. Look at the two images given below and then answer the questions.**

- (i) What are the two images depicting about democratic politics?
- (ii) Take one example for each image and then write a paragraph each on the outcome of democratic politics in both situations.

**Ans.** (i) Image 1 is of a harmonious type irrespective of differences among citizens on the basis of their colour, or any other social differences.

Image 2 is of a divisive society where there are divisions which can lead to conflicts, and even civil war.

- (ii) The first example we can take up is of Belgium where Dutch-speaking and French-speaking people have learnt to share power and live amicably. Here perfect equality is maintained and there is no conflict. No group is allowed to dominate in any way, either in politics or in social and cultural life.

**2. Enemies**



**1. Greeting**



The second example is of Sri Lanka where a civil war continued for decades. The Sinhalese majority has made Buddhism the state religion and Sinhala the state language,

and has given no rights to the Tamil minority. Ireland suffered for many years with religious conflict. Only an agreement in 2005 brought peace for the nation.

**Q.3. Discuss some merits and demerits of democracy in the light of your study of the chapter.**

**Ans. Merits :**

- (i) Promotes equality among citizens
- (ii) Enhances the dignity of the individual
- (iii) Improves the quality of decision making
- (iv) Provides a method to resolve conflicts
- (v) Allows room to correct mistakes

**Demerits :**

- (i) Takes more time to follow procedures before arriving at a decision as compared to a non-democratic government.
- (ii) Most democracies fall short of elections that provide a fair chance to everyone and in putting every decision to public debate.
- (iii) Democratic governments do not have a very good record when it comes to sharing information with citizens.
- (iv) Democracies often frustrate the needs of the people and often ignore the demands of a majority of its population.

### PREVIOUS YEARS' QUESTION

**Q.1. Explain any four features that are common in all democratic set-ups of the government. [2010]**

- Ans.** (i) In a democracy, elections are held at regular intervals and are fair and free.
- (ii) A democracy has a multi-party system and elections are held on the basis of universal adult franchise.
- (iii) Freedom of speech, expression and thought is another feature of democracy. The media also helps in building a sound public opinion.
- (iv) Democracy gives to its citizens a sound political system based on social equality.
- (v) Another feature of a democracy is a strong opposition which keeps in check, the ruling party or the government.
- (vi) Besides these, we also know how in a democracy, the dignity of the individual is recognised and one can correct one's mistakes in a democracy and avoid conflicts.

**Q.2. How are complaints treated as testimony to the success of democracy? Explain with four facts. [2008]**

**OR**

**“The fact that people are complaining is itself a testimony to the success of democracy.”  
Justify the statement with three points. [2011 (T-2)]**

- Ans.** Expectations from democracy also function as a criteria for judging any democratic country. People's complaints in democracy is itself a testimony to its success as it shows that people have developed awareness and the ability to expect and look critically at powerholders and the high and mighty.

Examples of complaint of the following type can prove the point :

- (i) Democracy sets up slow and inefficient government.
- (ii) It is unsuccessful in reducing economic exploitation.
- (iii) It is not free of the evil of corruption.
- (iv) It is not able to end social discrimination. There are still caste-based inequalities and atrocities, although they lack moral and legal foundations.

In all these cases, complaints are there, but so are the efforts made to attack them.

## II. FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

### A. PROJECT

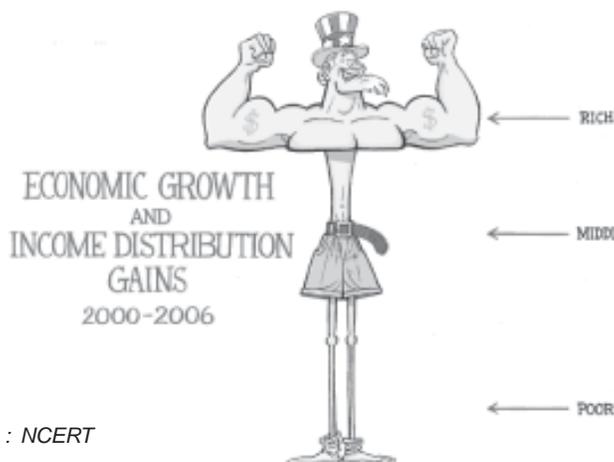
- Topic covered** : Outcomes of democracy
- Objective** : Comparative analysis of democracy against other alternatives, such as monarchy or rule by military or dictatorship or theocracy.
- Skills developed** : Analytical understanding of outcomes of democracy.
- Time required** : 3-4 days
- Method** : (a) Study the outcomes of democracy on various parameters such as (i) accountability (ii) responsiveness (iii) legitimacy (iv) economic growth and development (v) reduction of inequality and poverty (vi) accommodation of social diversity (viii) dignity and freedom of the citizens.
- (b) Compare and contrast these outcomes with those of monarchy, one-party rule, dictatorship, military rule and theocracy.
- (c) Reach a conclusion, describe your assessment.
- (d) Give your personal opinion about democracy. Is it different from the conclusion you have arrived at ?

### B. ACTIVITIES

- (1) Study and analyse the theme of the given cartoon and explain various aspects of democracy.



- (2) Overall, we cannot say that democracy is a guarantee of economic development. But we can expect democracy not to lag behind dictatorships in this respect. But in actual life, democracies do not appear to be very successful in reducing economic inequalities. The disparities between the rich and the poor go on increasing. Should the gains of economic growth be evenly distributed? How can the poor get a voice for a better share in country's resources? Analyse the aforesaid questions in light of the theme expressed in the cartoon.



Courtesy : NCERT

- (3) Talk to your neighbours, a shopkeeper and a businessman. Interview a political scientist, a union minister and a sociologist. What do they say about democracy? What are their expectations and frustrations? List them and analyse broad patterns. Do you think the analysis about outcomes of democracy given in your textbook is correct?

### C. ASSIGNMENTS

- (1) Study the given tables and analyse the economic outcomes of democracy in relation to other regimes. What would be your verdict on democracy if you had to base it purely on economic performance of democratic regimes in terms of growth and equal distribution?

**Table 1**

Rates of economic growth for different countries, 1950-2000

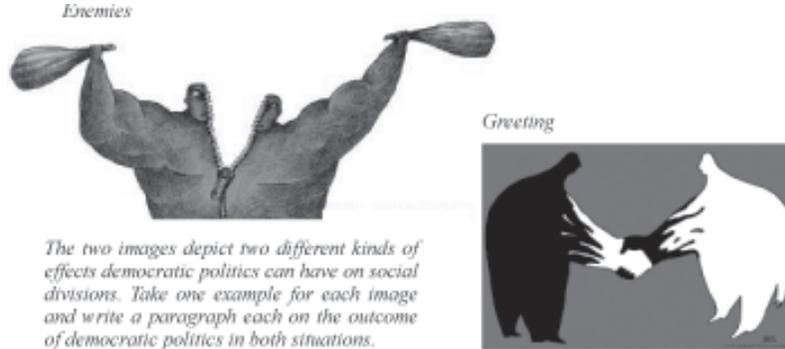
Type of regimes and countries	Growth Rate
All democratic regimes	3.95
All dictatorial regimes	4.42
Poor countries under dictatorship	4.34
Poor countries under democracy	4.28

**Table 2**

Inequality of income in selected countries.

Name of the countries	% share of national income	
	Top 20%	Bottom 20%
South Africa	64.8	2.9
Brazil	63.0	2.6
Russia	53.7	4.4
USA	50.0	40.
United Kingdom	45.0	6.0
Denmark	34.5	9.6
Hungary	34.4	10.0

- (2) Study the given cartoons. The two images depict two different kinds of effects democratic politics can have on social divisions. Take one example for each image and with a paragraph each on the outcome of democratic politics in both situations.



- (3) Democracy stands much superior to any other form of government in promoting dignity and freedom of the individual. Remember the defiance of Rosa Parks which gave great fillip to the Civil Rights Movement in the USA. Study the cartoon and analyse how democracy stands much superior to other regimes in promoting the dignity and freedom of the citizens. Give specific examples from India to illustrate your point.

#### **D. GROUP DISCUSSION**

Divide the students into five groups—each group representing democracy, monarchy, dictatorship, one-party rule, and theocracy. Each group will speak in favour of the regime it represents. Hold a group discussion on the topic, ‘Which form of government is the best?’

#### **E. MAKING A COLLAGE/POSTER**

Make two posters containing collages of cartoons on different aspects of democracy and dictatorships/military rule. Paste these posters side by side on your school notice board.