

### 3

## DEMOCRACY AND DIVERSITY

### CONCEPT

- Read this real event, which happened in 1968 during the Olympics held at Mexico city.

#### A Case Study — Mexico Olympics

- Two **African-American** athletes, Tommie Smith and John Carlos, won the gold and bronze medal respectively in the 200 mt. race. For the medal ceremony, both of them wore no shoes and stood in their black socks. They were representing Black poverty, and racial discrimination against them in the USA. They also raised black-gloved clenched fists to symbolise **Black Power**. The athlete from Australia, Peter Norman, who won the silver medal, wore a human rights badge to declare his support to the two Americans.
- Do you know what was the result of their actions? The Olympic Committee took back their medals for making a political statement and thus violating the Olympic spirit.
- When they returned to USA, they had to face public criticism.
- Peter Norman was also penalised by not being included in the next Olympic.
- Martin Luther King started a movement called **Civil Rights Movement** in the USA (1954-1968) to abolish legal racial discrimination against the African Americans. They used a non-violent approach and used civil disobedience as a method against discrimination.
- Another movement, which started in 1966 and lasted till 1975, was called **The Black Power** movement. It was a militant movement and even advocated violence to end racism in USA.

#### Origin of Social Differences

This incident shows how people respond to social **divisions** and **inequalities**.

- Social divisions can have many forms.

S	→ Social divisions can be based on regional differences (as in Belgium and Sri Lanka — different languages spoken in different regions).
O	→ They can be based on different religions (Sri Lanka)
C	→ They can be based on racial discrimination (USA, South Africa)
I	→ Social divisions can lead to social inequalities.
D	→ Two kinds of social divisions : (i) Based on accident of birth, (ii) Based on people's own choices.
A	→ All social differences do not result in social divisions. Some can unite people also.
I	
L	
V	
I	
S	
I	
O	
N	
S	

## Now think

- (i) Most of the social differences are not of our own making, they are based on an accident of birth. Our race, our colour, our religion, our gender or country of birth, are not chosen by us.
  - (ii) But some social differences are made by us only by choice. For example –
    - (i) Non-belief in God, or to follow a different religion, (ii) where and what to study, (iii) which profession to follow (iv) also choose the games or cultural activities we want to follow, etc.
  - Our choices lead to the formation of social groups.
  - (iii) It is not necessary that all social differences should lead to social divisions. People belonging to different social groups share differences and similarities, which cut across all political boundaries.
- Important :** If religion creates similarities, it can divide people over the issue of caste or sect (Catholic or Protestant, Brahmin or Scheduled Caste)
- Rich and poor persons in the same family differ from each other and lack closeness to each other, for they feel they are different.

## Overlapping and Cross-Cutting Differences

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Why was there a social division between the Whites and Blacks in USA?</li><li>● The same problem is faced by the <b>Dalits</b> in India. here. They are poor and landless.</li></ul> | <p>There was a division because the Blacks were poor, homeless and discriminated against. They were not given justice and this created social differences and divisions.</p> <p>The <b>Dalits</b> face injustice and discrimination in India at the hands of the upper castes.</p> |
|--|--|

The above is an example of one difference **overlapping** other differences, people of the same religion feel they belong to different communities.

- Take another example : **In Ireland**, a Christian country, the division is because of religion between the **Protestants and Catholics**.

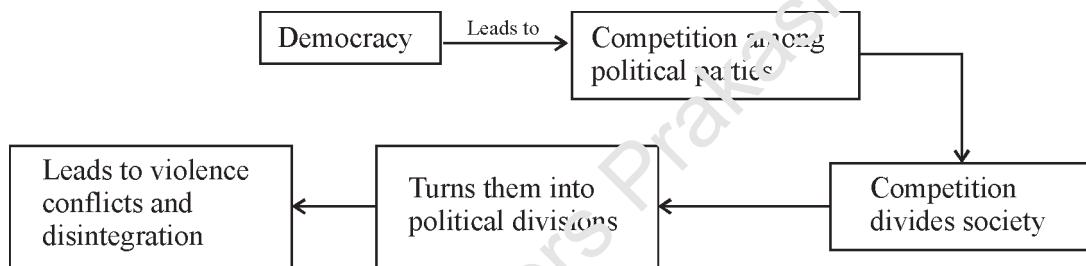
**In Northern Ireland**, if you are a **Catholic** you are bound to be **poor** and you may have been discriminated against. There have been conflicts between the two.

## CROSS-CUTTING DIFFERENCES

- **In Netherlands** : Catholics and Protestants both can be either rich or poor, with the result they have never had any trouble. Unlike Ireland, there has never been any trouble in the Netherlands. There reason class and religion cut across each other.
- Which kind of division is more dangerous?

- **Overlapping social differences.** They can create deep social divisions.  
Examples : (i) Led to ethnic war in Sri Lanka which has not yet ended.  
(ii) Led to the Partition of India in 1947.
- **Cross-cutting social differences** are easier to handle and accommodate.
- It is important to note here that social divisions of one kind or another exist in every country. No country, big or small, has a homogeneous society, i.e., a society with similar kind of people and hardly any ethnic differences.
- There is another reason — People from one region or country shift to another region or country (both within a country and another country) to seek better economic opportunities. These migrants create social differences and divisions.

## POLITICS OF SOCIAL DIVISIONS



## RANGE OF OUTCOMES

### 1. (a) Violent Conflict

**Example :** Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

#### (b) Reason :

**Example :** Republic predominantly Catholic. Northern Ireland 53% Protestant, 44% Catholics. The Republic wanted them to unite.

#### (c) Parties :

The Nationalists represented the Republic, the Unionists represented Northern Ireland and wanted to remain within U.K.

**Example :** Violent war where hundreds were killed. Republic of Ireland fought with Northern Ireland as well as with U.K.

**Final Outcome :** A peace treaty signed in 1998 which ended the armed struggle.

### 2. Yugoslavia

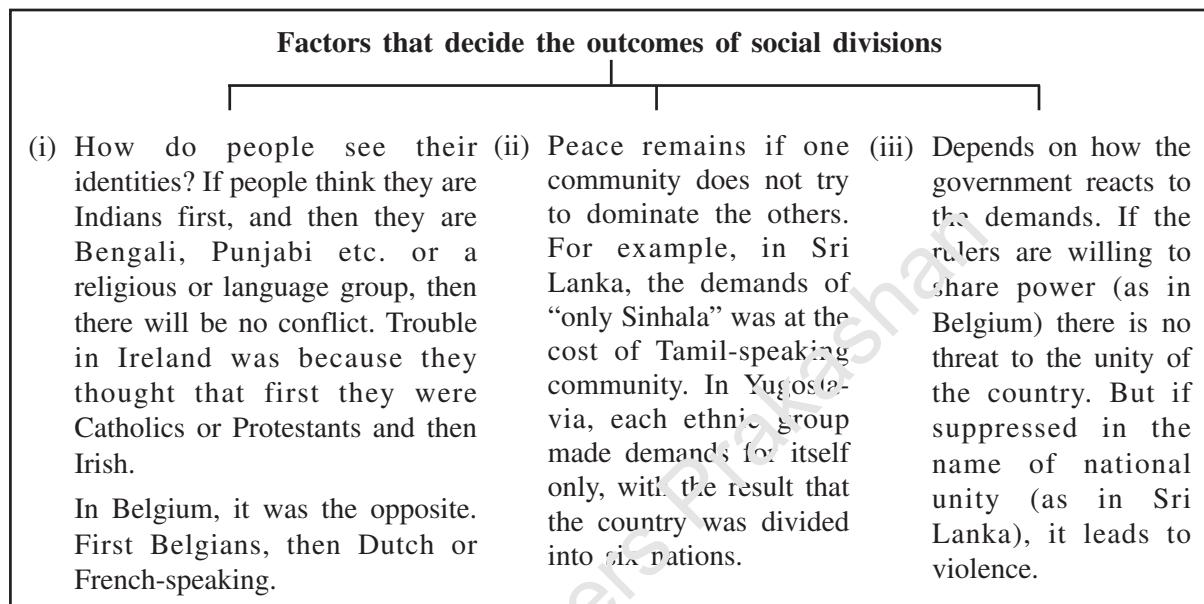
also faced ethno-religious differences. They led to political competition. Civil war followed and Yugoslavia has been broken up now into seven independent nations, namely; Bosnia, Macedonia, Croatia, Herzegovina, Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro.

**Conclusion :** Social divisions should not be allowed to influence the politics of a country. We have seen the result in our own country — Partition into India and Pakistan.

### In a democracy, how do social divisions affect the people?

#### (i) Social divisions will be reflected in politics (Example : India)

- (ii) Political parties will refer to these divisions.
- (iii) Political parties would try to redress the grievances of minorities.
- (iv) Voting is affected in most countries. People from one community prefer some parties more than the others.
- (v) In some countries, there are parties that focus on one community only.



## I. SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

### A. NCERT TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS

#### **Q.1. Discuss three factors that determine the outcomes of politics of social divisions.**

**Ans. First :** It depends on how people see their identities. Are they Irish first and then Protestant and Catholic? Are they Belgians or Dutch-speaking and French-speaking first? Are we Indians or Bengali or Punjabi, Hindu or Muslim? If people realise they have multiple identities and give precedence to the national identity, there will be no trouble in the country.

**Second :** It also depends on how political parties support the claims or raise the demands of any community. The demand to give importance only to ‘Sinhala language’ and ‘Buddhism’ at the cost of Tamil-speaking Hindus and Muslims has led to civil war in Sri Lanka.

**Third :** The attitude of the government and its reaction to demands of different communities also affect the outcomes. In Belgium, or Netherlands, the government was willing to share power with different ethnic groups unlike Sri Lanka or Yugoslavia.

Thus, in a democracy, it is considered healthy to have political expressions of social divisions. It allows those who are at a disadvantage or marginalised to express their grievances. It strengthens and deepens democracy. It is not easy for those in power to accommodate other groups but democracy shows us the path how to fight for equality and justice.

**Q.2. When does a social difference become a social division?**

**Ans.** A social difference becomes a social division when it overlaps with some other social difference. For example, the Whites were rich and powerful and the Blacks were poor and homeless and discriminated against. When one kind of social difference becomes more important than the other, then it leads to division.

**Q.3. How do social divisions affect politics? Give two examples.**

**Ans.** In politics, there is competition between political parties. If these political parties use this competition in support of some social divisions, it can lead to political divisions. This can lead to conflict, violence or even disintegration of a country.

- (i) One example is of Northern Ireland where religious divisions led to ethno-political conflict. Two major sects of Christianity : 53% Protestants and 44% Catholics dominate the country. The Catholics wanted Northern Ireland to join the Republic of Ireland and the Protestants wanted to remain with UK. This led to years of violence where thousands were killed. Only in 1998, peace returned when the UK government and the Nationalists reached a peace treaty and stopped all violence.
- (ii) The second example is of Yugoslavia where the political parties refused to accommodate each other. Each ethno-religious group wanted to dominate the other. Result – disintegration of Yugoslavia into seven independent countries.

**Q.4. Fill in the blanks :**

\_\_\_\_\_ social differences create possibilities of deep social divisions and tensions.  
\_\_\_\_\_ social differences do not usually lead to conflicts.

**Ans.** Overlapping; Cross-cutting.

**Q.5. In dealing with social divisions which one of the following statements is NOT correct about democracy?**

- A. Due to political competition in a democracy, social divisions get reflected in politics.
- B. In a democracy, it is possible for communities to voice their grievances in a peaceful manner.
- C. Democracy is the best way to accommodate social diversity.
- D. Democracy always leads to disintegration of society on the basis of social divisions.

**Ans.** (d) Democracy always leads to disintegration of society on the basis of social divisions.

**Q.6. Consider the following three statements.**

- A. Social divisions take place when social differences overlap.
- B. It is possible that a person can have multiple identities.
- C. Social divisions exist in only big countries like India.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

- |                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| (a) A, B and C | (b) A and B |
| (c) B and C    | (d) Only C  |

**Ans.** (b)

**Q.7. Arrange the following statements in a logical sequence and select the right answers by using the code given below :**

- A. But all the political expression of social divisions need not be always dangerous.
  - B. Social divisions of one kind or the other exist in most countries.
  - C. Parties try to win political support by appealing to social divisions.
  - D. Some social differences may result in social divisions.
- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| (a) DBCA | (b) DBAC |
| (c) DACB | (d) ABCD |

**Ans. (b)**

**Q.8. Among the following, which country suffered disintegration due to political fights on the basis of religious and ethnic identities?**

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| (a) Belgium    | (b) India      |
| (c) Yugoslavia | (d) Netherland |

**Ans. (c)**

**Q.9. Read the following passage from a famous speech by Martin Luther King Jr. in 1963. Which social division is he talking about? What are his aspirations and anxieties? Do you see a relationship between this speech and the incident in Mexico Olympics mentioned in this chapter?**

“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character. Let freedom ring. And when this happens, and when we allow freedom ring — when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God’s children—Black men and White men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics — will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual : ‘Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!’ I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed : ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident : that all men are created equal’.”

- Ans.** ● The social division he is talking about is of racism. American society has been divided into Black and White races, where the Blacks are discriminated against because of the colour of their skin.
- His aspirations are for his children and citizens of America to live in a country which is truly free — free of prejudices of colour and race, religion, gender and class, where everyone is equal. He does not want his people or his children to be judged because of colour of their skin but appreciated or condemned because of their character.

He wants **all** American citizens to believe that “all men are created equal and it’s only the strength of our character that makes us better than others. “Free at last” is to be free of all prejudices, social divisions that affect a person’s life.

- What Martin Luther is asking is equality for Blacks, same opportunities as the Whites to rise in life. The two Americans (Tommie Smith and John Carlos) who protested at the Mexico Olympics were doing the same — asking for equality, respect and same opportunities, and making the world aware of the condition of the Blacks in USA, the injustice done to them, their poverty, their struggle for freedom from racial prejudice.

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

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

**Q.1. When did the Civil Rights Movement take place in USA?**

- (a) 1953-1958      (b) 1954-1968      (c) 1960-1978      (d) 1946-1968

**Ans.** (b)

**Q.2. Which of these sentences is not correct about the “Black Power Movement”?**

- (a) It emerged in 1966      (b) It lasted till 1975  
(c) It was a more militant movement      (d) It advocated peaceful methods

**Ans.** (d)

**Q.3. What was special about the 1968 Olympics held at Mexico city?**

- (a) All the Gold Medals went to US athletes  
(b) Protest by African-American athletes against the racial discrimination of African-Americans  
(c) Mexico City supported the demand  
(d) US government announced the end of racism

**Ans.** (b)

**Q.4. Who led the Civil Rights Movement in USA?**

- (a) Martin Luther      (b) Martin Luther King Jr  
(c) Martin Davis      (d) Benjamin Franklin

**Ans.** (b)

**Q.5. How did the San Jose State University honour Tommie Smith and Carlos?**

- (a) By giving them bravery awards  
(b) By installing their statues in the University campus  
(c) By starting a sports organisation in their name  
(d) By giving them jobs

**Ans.** (b)

**Q.6. Which of these sentences is correct?**

- (a) Every social difference does not lead to social division  
(b) Social differences divide similar people from one another  
(c) They also unite very different people      (d) All the above

**Ans.** (d)

**Q.7. Which of the communities in India was in a more or less similar position as that of Blacks in USA?**

- (a) Brahmins      (b) Dalits      (c) Vaishyas      (d) Kshatriyas

**Ans.** (b)

**Q.8. Name the prominent religious group in Northern Ireland and the Netherlands.**

- (a) Judaism      (b) Christianity      (c) Islam      (d) None of the above

**Ans.** (b)

**Q.9. Which of these is incorrect about the Catholic Christians of Northern Ireland?**

- (a) They are likely to be poor.
- (b) They may have suffered a history of discrimination.
- (c) Catholics have lived peacefully with Protestants.
- (d) All the above.

**Ans. (c)**

**Q.10. What is the society with similar kinds of people called?**

- (a) Homogeneous
- (b) Heterogenous
- (c) Humane
- (d) Humble

**Ans. (a)**

**Q.11. Which of these sentences is not false?**

- (a) Migrants bring with them their own culture.
- (b) They tend to form a different social community.
- (c) They help in making the world multicultural.
- (d) All the above.

**Ans. (d)**

**Q.12. Which of these sentences is not true?**

- (a) Democracy involves competition among various political parties.
- (b) Their competition tends to unite the country, if they compete in terms of existing social divisions.
- (c) Social divisions change into political divisions and lead to conflict, violence etc.
- (d) It can even lead to the disintegration of the country.

**Ans. (b)**

**Q.13. The percentage of Protestant Christians in Northern Ireland is :**

- (a) 52
- (b) 53
- (c) 54
- (d) 55

**Ans. (b)**

**Q.14. Which of these sentences is correct?**

- (a) The Catholics in Northern Ireland were represented by Nationalist parties.
- (b) They demanded that Northern Ireland should be unified with the Republic of Ireland.
- (c) Republic of Ireland was a predominantly Catholic country.
- (d) All the above.

**Ans. (d)**

**Q.15. Which of these is true about the Protestants of Northern Ireland?**

- (a) They were represented by the Unionist Party.
- (b) They wanted to remain with UK.
- (c) Both (a) and (b).
- (d) None of the above.

**Ans. (c)**

**Q.16. When did the Nationalists and the UK government arrive at an agreement?**

- (a) 1992
- (b) 1995
- (c) 1998
- (d) 1999

**Ans. (c)**

**Q.17. Which of these sentences is correct in relation to Yugoslavia?**

- (a) There was political competition along religious and ethnic lines.

- (b) This led to the disintegration of Yugoslavia.
- (c) As a result, seven independent countries have come to be set up.
- (d) All the above.

**Ans.** (d)

**Q.18. Fill in the blanks.**

It is easier if the people see that their identities are \_\_\_\_\_ and are \_\_\_\_\_ to national identity.

- (a) Single, contrary
- (b) Multiple, complementary
- (c) Single, complementary
- (d) Multiple, contrary

**Ans.** (b)

**Q.19. A majority of Belgians feel that they are as much Belgians as they are Dutch or German-speaking. What does it mean?**

- (a) They have lost their individual identity.
- (b) This helps them to stay together.
- (c) They are not happy with this arrangement.
- (d) None of the above.

**Ans.** (b)

**Q.20. Which of these are examples of not accommodating other communities' demands?**

- (a) Sri Lanka
- (b) Yugoslavia
- (c) Belgium
- (d) (a) and (b)

**Ans.** (d)

**Q.21. Fill in the blanks.**

A factor crucial in deciding the outcome of politics of social divisions is how the \_\_\_\_\_ react to the demands of different groups.

- (a) Political parties
- (b) Governments
- (c) Communities
- (d) Judges

**Ans.** (b)

**Q.22. Dealing with social divisions, which one of the following statements is not correct about democracy?**

- (a) Democracy is the best way to accommodate social diversity.
- (b) Democracy always leads to disintegration of society on the basis of social divisions.
- (c) In a democracy, it is possible for communities to voice their grievances in a peaceful manner.
- (d) Due to political competition in a democracy, social divisions get reflected in politics.

**Ans.** (b)

**Q.23. Look at the following sentences—**

- (i) Social divisions take place when social differences overlap.
- (ii) It is possible that a person can have multiple identities.
- (iii) Social divisions exist in only big countries like India.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

- (a) (i), (ii) and (iii)
- (b) (i) and (ii)
- (c) (ii) and (iii)
- (d) only (iii)

**Ans.** (b)

**Q.24. Which of these statements is correct?**

- (a) The assertion of social diversities in a country need not be seen as a source of danger.
- (b) Political expression of social divisions is very normal.
- (c) It allows disadvantaged groups to express their grievances.
- (d) All the above.

**Ans. (a)**

### PREVIOUS YEARS' QUESTIONS

**Q.1. When did the Civil Rights Movement take place in USA?**

- (a) 1953-1958
- (b) 1954-1968
- (c) 1960-1978
- (d) 1946-1968

**Ans. (b)**

**Q.2. Which of these sentences is not correct about the “Black Power Movement”?**

- (a) It emerged in 1966
- (b) It lasted till 1975
- (c) It was a more militant movement
- (d) It advocated peaceful methods

**Ans. (d)**

**Q.3. What was special about the 1968 Olympics held at Mexico City?**

- (a) All the Gold Medals went to US athletes
- (b) Protest by African-American athletes against the racial discrimination of African-Americans
- (c) Mexico City supported the demand
- (d) US government announced the end of racism

**Ans. (b)**

**Q.4. Who led the Civil Rights Movement in USA?**

- (a) Martin Luther
- (b) Martin Luther King Jr
- (c) Martin Davis
- (d) Benjamin Franklin

**Ans. (b)**

**Q.5. How did the San Jose State University honour Tommie Smith and Carlos?**

- (a) By giving them bravery awards
- (b) By installing their statues in the University campus
- (c) By starting a sports organisation in their name
- (d) By giving them jobs

**Ans. (b)**

**Q.6. Which of these sentences is correct?**

- (a) Every social difference does not lead to social division
- (b) Social differences divide similar people from one another
- (c) They also unite very different people
- (d) All the above

**Ans. (a)**

**Q.7. Which of the communities in India was in a more or less similar position as that of Blacks in USA?**

- (a) Brahmins
- (b) Dalits
- (c) Vaishyas
- (d) Kshatriyas

**Ans. (b)**

**Q.8. Name the prominent religious group in Northern Ireland and the Netherlands.**

- (a) Judaism                    (b) Christianity                    (c) Islam                    (d) None of the above

**Ans. (b)**

**Q.9. Which of these is incorrect about the Catholic Christians of Northern Ireland?**

- (a) They are likely to be poor.  
(b) They may have suffered a history of discrimination.  
(c) Catholics have lived peacefully with Protestants.  
(d) All the above.

**Ans. (d)**

**Q.10. What is the society with similar kinds of people called?**

- (a) Homogeneous                    (b) Heterogenous                    (c) Humane                    (d) Humble

**Ans. (a)**

**Q.11. Which of these sentences is not false?**

- (a) Migrants bring with them their own culture.  
(b) They tend to form a different social community.  
(c) They help in making the world multicultural.  
(d) All the above.

**Ans. (d)**

**Q.12. Which of these sentences is not true?**

- (a) Democracy involves competition among various political parties.  
(b) Their competition tends to unite the country if they compete in terms of existing social divisions.  
(c) Social divisions change into political divisions and lead to conflict, violence etc.  
(d) It can even lead to the disintegration of the country.

**Ans. (d)**

**Q.13. The percentage of Protestant Christians in Northern Ireland is :**

- (a) 52                            (b) 53                            (c) 54                            (d) 55

**Ans. (b)**

**Q.14. Which of these sentences is correct?**

- (a) The Catholics in northern Ireland were represented by Nationalist parties.  
(b) They demanded that Northern Ireland should be unified with the Republic of Ireland.  
(c) Republic of Ireland was a predominantly Catholic country.  
(d) All the above.

**Ans. (d)**

**Q.15. Which of these is true about the Protestants of Northern Ireland?**

- (a) They were represented by the Unionist Party.  
(b) They wanted to remain with UK.  
(c) Both (a) and (b).  
(d) None of the above.

**Ans. (c)**

**Q.16. When did the Nationalists and the UK government arrive at an agreement?**



**Ans. (c)**

**Q.17. Which of these sentences is correct in relation to Yugoslavia?**

- (a) There was political competition along religious and ethnic lines.
  - (b) This led to the disintegration of Yugoslavia.
  - (c) As a result, six independent countries have come to be set up.
  - (d) All the above.

**Ans. (d)**

**Q.18. Which of these are examples of not accommodating other communities' demands?**



**Ans.** (d)

**Q.19. Dealing with social divisions, which one of the following statements is not correct about democracy?**

- (a) Democracy is the best way to accommodate social diversity.
  - (b) Democracy always leads to disintegration of society on the basis of social divisions.
  - (c) In a democracy, it is possible for communities to voice their grievances in a peaceful manner.
  - (d) Due to political competition in a democracy, social divisional get reflected impolities.

**Ans.** (d)

**Q.20. Which of these statements is correct?**

- (a) The assertion of social diversities in a country need not be seen as a source of danger.
  - (b) Political expression of social divisions is very normal.
  - (c) It allows disadvantaged groups to express their grievances.
  - (d) All the above.

**Ans. (d)**

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

**Q.1. What could be the two possible outcomes of politics of social divisions?**

**Ans.** The two outcomes are :

- (i) Political divisions could lead to violence and disintegration of a country. Example : Yugoslavia.
  - (ii) They could be amicably settled in a democracy where rulers share power, and people think of themselves as nationalists and then as belonging to a religious or ethnic or linguistic group. Example : India.

**Q.2. When does a social difference become a social division?**

**Ans.** Social division takes place when some social differences overlap with other differences. For example, the difference between the Blacks and Whites becomes a social division in the US because the Blacks tend to be poor, homeless and discriminated against. Similarly, in our country, Dalits tend to be poor and landless.

**Q.3. Is the combination of social division with politics always explosive? Substantiate with examples from India. [HOTS]**

**Ans.** The combination of social division with politics is not always explosive. Rather in a democracy, political expression of social divisions is very normal and healthy. This allows various disadvantaged and marginal social groups to express their grievances and get the government to attend to these. This leads to the strengthening of democracy.

**Q.4. Discuss the ways in which social divisions are reflected in a democracy.**

- Ans.**
- (i) In a democracy, it is natural that political parties talk about the social divisions and make different promises to different communities.
  - (ii) They look after the representation of various communities and make policies to redress the grievances of the disadvantaged communities.
  - (iii) Social divisions affect voting in most countries. People from one community tend to prefer some party more than others.

**PREVIOUS YEARS' QUESTIONS**

**Q.1. "We all have more than one identity and can belong to more than one social group."**  
**Discuss the statement with suitable examples.** [2010, 2011 (T-I)]

**Ans.** It is fairly common for people belonging to the same religion to feel that they do not belong to the same community, because their caste or sect is very different. It is also possible for people from different religions to have the same caste and feel close to each other. Rich and poor persons from the same family often do not keep close relations with each other for they feel they are different. Example – Carlos and Smith were similar in one way that they both were Afro-American and thus different from Norman who was white. But they were all athletes who stood against racial discrimination. Thus we all have more than one social group.

**Q.2. Discuss two reasons why differences occur in society. Give an example to show that social differences do not lead to social division.** [2010, 2011 (T-I)]

**Ans.** The social differences are mostly based on accident of birth. Normally we do not choose to belong to our community. We belong to it simply because we were born into it. People around us are male or female, they are tall or short, having different complexion or have different physical abilities or disabilities. But all kind of social differences are not based on accident of birth. Some of the differences are based on our choices. Example – some people are atheists. They don't believe in god or any religion. All these lead to formation of social groups that are based on our choices.

Every social difference does not lead to social division. Social differences divide similar people from one another, but they also unite very different people.

**Q.3. What are the features of a homogeneous society? Mention the name of any one country having such society?** [2010, 2011 (T-I)]

**Ans.** Homogenous society is a kind of society that has similar kinds of people, especially where there are no significant ethnic differences. But these kinds of society are rare, even those countries such as Germany and Sweden that were once highly homogenous are undergoing rapid change with influx of people from other parts of the world. Migrants bring with them their own culture and tend to form a different social community. In this sense, most countries of the world are multicultural.

**Q.4. What was the Black Power movement? Explain.** [2010, 2011 (T-1)]

**Ans.** The Black power movement emerged in 1966 and lasted till 1975, which was a more militant anti-racist movement, advocating even violence, if necessary, to end racism in U.S. This movement became speedy after Olympics of Mexico city in 1968. In it US athletes Tommie Smiths and John Carlos are Afro-American won the gold and bronze medal respectively. They received their medals while wearing black socks and no shoes to represent Black poverty. With this gesture they tried to draw international attention to racial discrimination in the U.S. Their action succeeded in gaining international attention for the civil rights movement in the U.S. Recently the San Jose State University of which they were former students, honoured them and installed their statue in the university campus.

**Q.5. Explain any three elements that show the diversity in India.** [2010 (T-1)]

**Ans.** The elements that show the diversity in India –

- (i) India is a land which gave birth to four religions – Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism and Sikhism. Muslims also lived in India having a good population.
- (ii) Caste system of India is unique like Indian population is divided into Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaisya and Shudra.
- (iii) Different kinds of dances are there in India like Kathak, Bharat Natyam, Odissi, Kathakali and Bhangra.

**Q.6. How were Civil Rights Movement and the Black Power movement different from each other?" Give three features of each.** [2010 (T-1)]

**Ans.** Civil rights movement in the US (1954 – 1968) refers to a set of events and reform movements aimed at abolishing legal racial discrimination against Afro-Americans. Led by Martin Luther King Jr, this movement practised non-violent methods of civil disobedience against racially discriminatory laws and practices.

Afro-American, Black American or Black are the terms used to refer mainly to the descendants of Africans, who were brought into America as slaves between the 17th century and early 19th century.

The Black power movement emerged in 1966 and lasted till 1975, which was a more militant, anti-racist movement, advocating even violence, if necessary, to end racism in the U.S.

**Q.7. How far is it correct to say that social divisions exist in only big countries like India? Explain.** [2010, 2011 (T-1)]

**Ans.** It is not correct to say that social divisions exist in only big countries like India. Here we can take the example of Belgium. The ethnic composition of this small country is very complex. Of the country's total population, 59% live in the Flemish region and speak Dutch language. Another 40% live in the Wallonia region and speak French. Remaining 1% of the Belgians speak German. In the capital like Brussels, 80% people speak French while 20% are Dutch-speaking.

**Q.8. "We have different identities in different contexts." Support the statement with three facts.** [2011 (T-1)]

**Ans.** (i) It is common for people belonging to the same religion to feel that they do not belong to the same community, because their caste or sect is different.

- (ii) It is also possible for people from different religions to have the same caste and feel close to each other.
  - (iii) Rich and poor people from the same family often do not keep close relations with each other because they feel they are very different.
- Thus, we have different identities in different contexts.

**Q.9. How is political expression of social divisions in democracy beneficial?**

[2010, 2011 (T-1)]

**Ans.** In a democracy political expression of social division is very normal and healthy. This allows various disadvantaged and marginal groups to express their grievances and get the government to attend to these. Expression of various kinds of social divisions in politics often results in their cancelling one another out and thus reducing their intensity. This leads to strengthening of a democracy.

**Q.10. What did the African-American athletes in Mexico Olympic, do in order to draw international attention to social discrimination in the United States? [2011 (T-1)]**

**Ans.** In the 1968 Olympics held at Mexico City two US African-American athletes named Tommie Smith and John Carlos won gold and bronze medals respectively. During the medal ceremony, they stood with clenched fists upraised and heads bowed when the national anthem was being played. They also wore black socks and no shoes to show the stark poverty among the black community. With this gesture, they tried to draw international attention to racial discrimination in the United States. The black gloved and raised clenched fists were meant to symbolise Black power.

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

**Q.1. Discuss the various factors that determine the outcomes of politics of social division.**

- Ans.**
- (i) All the outcomes depend on how people perceive their identities. If people see their identities in singular and exclusive terms, it becomes very difficult to accommodate. It is much better if the people see that their identities are multiple and are complementary with the national identity. For example, in our country people think of themselves as Indians as well as belonging to a state or a language group or a social or religious community.
  - (ii) It depends on how political leaders raise the demands of any community. It is easier to accommodate demand that are within the constitutional framework and are not at the cost of another community. The demand for 'only Sinhala' was at the cost of the interest and identity of the Tamil community in Sri Lanka.
  - (iii) It depends on how the government reacts to the demands of different groups. If the government is willing to share power and accommodate the reasonable demands of the minority community, social divisions become less threatening for the country, as it happened in the case of Belgium.

**Q.2. Discuss the ethnic problem in Northern Ireland, its outcome and settlement.**

**Ans.** The population of Northern Ireland is divided into two major sects of Christianity : 53 per cent are Protestants, while 44 per cent are Roman Catholics. For years, this region of United Kingdom has been the site of a violent ethno-political conflict. The Catholics were represented by Nationalist parties, who demanded that Northern Ireland be unified with the Republic of

Ireland, a predominantly Catholic country. The Protestants were represented by Unionists, who wanted to remain with the UK which is predominantly Protestant. Hundreds of civilians, militants and security forces were killed in the fight between the Unionists and Nationalists and between the security forces of the UK and the Nationalists. It was only in 1998, that the UK government and the Nationalists reached a peace treaty, after which the latter suspended their armed struggle.

**Q.3. Why is it said that a positive attitude towards diversity and a willingness to accommodate it do not come about easily?**

**Ans.** This is so because people who feel marginalised, deprived and discriminated have to fight against the injustices. But when such a fight takes the democratic path, demands are made in a peaceful manner based on constitutional methods. But sometimes social differences can take the form of unacceptable level of social inequality and injustice. The struggle against such inequalities sometimes takes the path of violence and defiance of state power. However, it is proved by history that democracy is the best way to fight for recognition and to accommodate diversity.

**Q.4. How did the Olympic Committee react to the protests of the African-American athletes? Do you think they were justified? What would you have done?**

**Ans.** The Olympic Committee took back the medals from the two athletes. They declared that it was against the spirit of the Olympics to make a political protest.

I do not think the protest made by Carlos and Smith was political. They had done it to make the international community take cognisance of Civil Rights Movement in America. It needed a lot of courage to do so and they had to sacrifice their medals. But the action of the Olympic Committee was also justified. Sports are meant to unite people as a world community and cannot become a platform for airing differences, whether political or social. It would have spoilt the atmosphere of the games.

The world realised later that it was not a political gesture, is seen in San Jose State University installing 92 foot high sculpture representing the protest of Smith and Carlos in 2005.

**Q.5. Write a brief note on two kinds of social differences.**

**Ans.** (i) Generally, social differences are based on accident of birth. We do not choose our religion, we are born to it. It depends on the religion followed by our family. Our looks, our physical attribute, our complexions, our gender, or even our abilities and disabilities are not based on our choice. The friends, neighbours, all depend on the family we are born into.  
(ii) The second difference is based on our choices. For example, (i) We may not believe in any God or religion and become an atheist by choice. (ii) We may even change our religion when we grow up. (iii) We have the choice to choose our own area of study, different from that of our parents, we may choose a different occupation, different cultural activities. These differences lead to formation of different social groups based on our choices.

**Q.6. Refer to 'I have a Dream' speech of Martin Luther King. Describe his dream. Has all of his dream been fulfilled? [HOTS]**

**Ans.** His dream was to end the social division created by the discrimination of blacks by the whites. He dreamt of America which would be free of all prejudices of colour and race, religion, gender and class, and where everyone would be equal. His aspirations were that his children

and the citizens of America should live in a country where they should not be judged by their colour but by their character.

Through the Civil Rights Movement in USA and various incidents like the one at Mexico Olympics, efforts have been made to attract international attention to it. The legal – racial discrimination has been abolished against the African-Americans and Blacks are also provided with the same opportunities, the mindset of people may take some more time to change. However, the waves of change are already evident in the election of Barack Obama, a Black, for the post of President of America.

**Q.7. Describe the episode of the Mexico Olympics which took place in 1968. Do you think the athletes were justified in raising the issue? [HOTS]**

**Ans.** In 1968 Olympics at Mexico City, Tommie Smith and John Carlos, the US athletes won gold and bronze medals respectively. During the medal ceremony, they stood with clenched fists upraised and head bowed when the national anthem was being played. They wore black socks and no shoes to represent Black poverty.

Yes, I think they were justified in raising the issue to the International event because the poverty and discrimination being faced by the Black community was not being attended by the government, there was – legal racial discrimination against the African-Americans. Their action succeeded in gaining international attention for the Civil Rights Movement in the US.

**Q.8. What is the difference between overlapping social differences and cross-cutting social differences?**

**Ans.** Overlapping social difference refers to the situation when one kind of social difference becomes more important than the other and people start feeling that they belong to different communities. For example, the difference between the Blacks and Whites in the US is overlapping because the Blacks tend to be poor, homeless and discriminated against. These overlapping differences create possibilities of deep social divisions and tensions. On the other hand, cross-cutting social differences are easier to accommodate. For example, in Netherlands, class and religion tend to cut across each other. Catholics and Protestants are about equally likely to be rich or poor. So there are no conflicts between the two communities there.

**PREVIOUS YEARS' QUESTIONS**

**Q.1. "Some people conclude that politics and social divisions should not be allowed to mix." Support this idea with two arguments. [2008]**

**Ans.** It is true that politics and social divisions should not be allowed to mix. It leads to negative results. We can see this when caste starts influencing politics –

- (i) Each caste group tries to become bigger by incorporating within it new kinds of neighbouring castes or subcastes which it had excluded earlier. New kinds of caste groups like backward and forward emerge. This is not healthy for democracy and can lead to tensions, conflicts and even violence. It diverts attention from other pressing issues like poverty, development and corruption.
- (ii) Political parties and candidates in elections make appeals to caste sentiment to minister support. Some political parties are known to favour some castes and are seen as their

representatives. This is bad, because it gives the impression that elections are about castes and nothing else. This is far from true.

**Q.2. How do social divisions affect politics? Explain with examples. (2009)**

**Ans.** At first, it appears that the combination of politics and social divisions is very dangerous. Democracy involves competition among various political parties. Their competition tends to divide any society. If they start competing in terms of some existing social divisions, it can make social divisions into political divisions and lead to conflict, violence or even disintegration of a country.

In Northern Ireland there was a violent ethno-political conflict between Catholics and Protestants and the government. Similarly, in Yugoslavia, political competition along religious and ethnic lines led to the disintegration of Yugoslavia into six independent countries. But every expression of social divisions in politics does not lead to disasters. In a democracy, it is only natural that political parties would talk about these divisions, make different promises to different communities and make policies to redress the grievances of the disadvantaged communities. Yet all this does not lead to the disintegration of the country.

## II. FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

### A. PROJECT

- Topic covered** : Politics of social divisions  
**Objective** : How the social divisions affect politics and how the politics affects social divisions.  
**Skills developed** : Analytical understanding of politics of social divisions in India.  
**Time required** : 2-3 days  
**Method** :  
(a) Explain the origin of social differences, how social differences lead to social divisions.  
(b) Focus on examples of Northern Ireland, Yugoslavia and India.  
(c) Discuss the Civil Rights Movement in U.S.A.  
(d) Show how in a democracy, political expression of social divisions is very normal and at times healthy.  
(e) In conclusion, show that democracy is the best way to fight for recognition and also to accommodate diversity.

### B. ACTIVITIES

- As you know, political competition along religious and ethnic lines led to the disintegration of Yugoslavia into six independent states.  
With the help of Internet and other sources, prepare a timeline describing events chronologically leading to disintegration of Yugoslavia. Focus on the role of President of Yugoslavia, Mr. Milosevic.
- Collect cartoons, images and pictures from various sources showing social divisions in different aspects of life. For example, social division or discrimination in the field of education, sports, employment.

### **C. ASSIGNMENTS**

1. Anushka is a student of class XII in a famous public school which is run by a Christian missionary group. She is a bright and intelligent student, always ready to help her classmates. At home, she is treated as a lazy girl. Her mother often scolds her for not helping her in the kitchen. She lives in a lower-class locality of Delhi. She aspires and aims to become a doctor but her parents cannot afford higher education. They are looking for a suitable match for her, from her own community.

List various kinds of identities Anushka has – at home, at school, in terms of religion, etc.

2. Study the following cartoon and discuss about its meaning and theme with your classmates. Arrive at a consensus and describe its theme in about 100 words.



3. Read the following two poems entitled ‘Hidden Apartheid’ and ‘Mother’ by two Dalit writers. Write the summary of the two poems explaining their meaning and themes. What do they say about our society? Why is the first poem titled ‘Hidden Apartheid’?

#### **Hidden Apartheid**

*One day someone dug up a twentieth century city  
And ends out his observation.  
Here's an interesting inscription:  
'This wafer tap is open to all castes and religions'.  
What could it have meant:  
That this society was divided?  
That some were high while others were low?  
Well, all right, then this city deserved burying  
Why did they call it the machine age?  
Seems like the Stone Age in the twentieth century.*

– Daya Pawar

#### **Mother**

*Dark, dark slender body---this was my mother.  
Drudged in the woods for sticks from morning on.*

*All we brothers, sitting, waiting, watching for her.  
And if she didn't sell the wood, all of us slept hungry.*

— Waman Nimbalkar

4. Read the following passage from a famous speech by Martin Luther King Jr in 1963 and answer the given questions.
- Which social division, and about which country is he talking about?
  - Mention his anxieties, hopes and aspirations.
  - What is the relationship between the speech and the incident in Mexico Olympics medal ceremony?

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character. Let freedom ring. And when this happens, and when we allow freedom ring – when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children – Black men and White men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics – will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual : 'Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!' I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed : 'We hold these truths to be self-evident : that all men are created equal'."

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

Refer to the medal ceremony of the 200 metres race in the 1968 Olympics held at Mexico city. Do you think that Carlos and Smith were justified in raising an internal matter of American society in an international forum? Would you say that what they did was political? Was the International Olympic Association (IOA) correct in taking back their medals?

Divide the class in groups of ten students and organise a group discussion on above topics.

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

Collect pictures, cartoons and drawings about the medal ceremony of the 200 metres race in the 1968 Olympics held at Mexico city. Prepare a collage.

[Note : As you know several newspapers in Mexico, U.S.A., and several other countries published news and images concerning the controversial incident.]

#### **F. DEBATE**

Some Dalit groups decided to participate in the UN Conference Against Racism in Durban in 2001, demanding the inclusion of caste in the agenda of this conference. But the Indian delegation successfully objected to this.

Organise a debate in the school auditorium on the above topic. Invite ten bright students to speak. Contact a local politician and a Human Rights activist and invite them to throw light on the topic before the commencement of the debate.