

What is democracy and Why democracy? (Important Assignment for class 9th)

Assignment Questions:

- Q.1 Why is it important to define democracy? (3)
- Q.2 What is the basic common factor in all democracies? (2)
- Q.3 Give an example of a government that is not democratic. (2)
- Q.4 What is the significance of distinguishing between a true democracy and a government that pretends to be democratic? (5)
- Q.5 Why do governments often want to be called democracies even if they are not? (2)
- Q.6 How does the word “democracy” evolve over time, according to Matilda Lyngdoh? (2)
- Q.7 Why was Pakistan under General Musharraf not considered a democracy? (2)
- Q.8 What was the problem with elections in Mexico before 2000? (2)
- Q.9 Why is political equality important in a democracy? (2)
- Q.10 Why is the principle of universal adult franchise important in a democracy? (3)
- Q.11 Describe the election process in China and how it limits the choices available to the people. (3)
- Q.12 What are some guarantees that a democratic government should respect in relation to minorities? (3)
- Q.13 Explain how democracy enhances the dignity of citizens. (5)
- Q.14 How does democracy offer a way to peacefully resolve the conflicts among diverse groups? (3)
- Q.15 Why does the application of ideals make it challenging for any country to be a true democracy? (2)
- Q.16 What is the fundamental principle behind democracy as a method of taking decisions? (2)
- Q.17 How can the concept of an ideal democracy help distinguish between a minimal democracy and a good democracy? (3)
- Q.18 What is the strength and weakness of democracy in terms of citizen participation? (5)
- Q.19 Why is active political participation by all citizens crucial in a democracy? (2)

Answers:

Answer 1:

1. **Clarity and Understanding:** It defines core principles like free elections, equal rights, and rule of law, ensuring everyone knows what democracy entails.
2. **Accountability:** It sets standards for governments and leaders, helping citizens recognize and challenge undemocratic actions.
3. **Protection:** It guards against attempts to undermine democratic values and institutions, maintaining stability and fairness in governance.

Answer 2: The basic common factor in all democracies is that power rests with the people, who elect representatives through free and fair elections.

Answer 3: General Pervez Musharraf's undemocratic regime, established through a military coup, undermined democratic processes by seizing power without popular mandate and restricting the rights of elected representatives and citizens.

Answer 4:

True Democracy	Pretentious Democracy
Follows democratic values genuinely.	Shows democracy superficially.
Has clear rules for fair governance.	Lacks checks and balances.
Protects people's rights strongly.	Might restrict freedoms secretly.
Other countries respect it as democratic.	Its democratic claims might be doubted internationally.
Actively supports democracy worldwide.	Doesn't actively promote democracy globally.
For Example: United States: Regular elections, freedom of speech.	Example: North Korea: Claims elections but lacks freedoms.

Answer 5: Governments often desire the label of democracy for international legitimacy and internal stability: it helps gain foreign support, investment, and deflect criticism; domestically, it can placate citizens and maintain power.

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Answer 6: According to Matilda Lyngdoh, the word “democracy” evolves over time as its usage and understanding change. She illustrates that words like “pen,” “rain,” or “love” are used without clear definitions initially, and their meanings evolve through usage. Similarly, the term “democracy” undergoes transformation as societal values and interpretations shift, necessitating a critical examination to define it accurately.

Answer 7: Pakistan under General Musharraf was not considered a democracy due to his seizure of power through a military coup, bypassing the democratic process. Additionally, his regime imposed restrictions on civil liberties and manipulated political processes to consolidate his authority, undermining democratic principles.

Answer 8: Before 2000, elections in Mexico were problematic due to the Institutional Revolutionary Party’s (PRI) dominance. They utilized manipulation and coercion to maintain power, obstructing opposition parties and compromising electoral fairness.

Answer 9:

1. **Fair Representation:** Political equality ensures that every citizen's voice carries the same weight in decision-making processes, preventing the dominance of privileged groups and ensuring fair representation for all.
2. **Inclusive Participation:** It fosters a sense of inclusivity and civic engagement, encouraging all individuals to actively participate in the democratic process, regardless of their background or social status.

Answer 10:

1. **Equality:** Universal adult franchise ensures equality by granting every adult citizen the same right to vote, regardless of their social or economic status.
2. **Representation:** Universal adult franchise ensures that the diverse voices and perspectives of society are represented in the political process, enhancing the legitimacy of elected representatives and the responsiveness of government policies.
3. **Legitimacy and Accountability:** By enabling citizens to participate in free and fair elections, universal adult franchise enhances the legitimacy of elected representatives and holds them accountable to the electorate.

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Answer 11: In China, the election process is tightly controlled by the Communist Party. While there are regular elections held every five years, only candidates approved by the Party are allowed to participate. This limits the choices available to the people, as they can only vote for candidates endorsed by the ruling Party. As a result, there is a lack of genuine electoral competition and alternative political voices, undermining the principles of democracy and political pluralism.

Answer 12:

1. **Ensuring Rights:** A democratic government must protect minority rights, actively safeguarding

freedoms like religion, expression, and cultural practices, ensuring their equal treatment under the law.

2. **Facilitating Representation:** It should actively facilitate minority representation in decision-making bodies, enabling their voices to shape policies and address their interests effectively.
3. **Eliminating Discrimination:** A democratic government must actively enforce laws to eradicate discrimination based on ethnicity, race, religion, or other minority statuses, fostering equality and social cohesion.

Answer 13:

1. **Empowering Participation:** Democracy actively empowers citizens by providing equal opportunities to participate in decision-making processes, ensuring their voices actively shape governance.
2. **Ensuring Rights:** It actively protects fundamental rights and freedoms like freedom of speech and expression, affirming citizens' dignity by respecting their autonomy and individuality.
3. **Promoting Inclusivity:** By actively promoting inclusivity and diversity in representation, democracy recognizes the worth and dignity of every citizen, fostering a sense of belonging and respect within society.
4. **Enforcing Accountability:** Democracy actively holds leaders accountable to the people, ensuring transparent and honest governance, which fosters trust and confidence among citizens, affirming their dignity as active participants in the political process.
5. **Facilitating Human Development:** Democracy actively facilitates access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities, empowering citizens to lead fulfilling lives with dignity and agency, contributing to their overall well-being and self-worth.

Answer 14:

1. **Facilitating Dialogue and Compromise:** Democracy actively encourages diverse groups to engage in dialogue, negotiate, and reach compromises to peacefully resolve conflicts, avoiding violence or coercion.
2. **Utilizing Legal Mechanisms:** Democracies actively employ legal institutions such as courts and arbitration to resolve conflicts, ensuring fair and impartial adjudication and upholding the rule of law.
3. **Promoting Inclusive Decision-Making:** By actively involving diverse groups in decision-making processes, democracy ensures that their concerns are actively heard and addressed, fostering inclusivity and legitimacy in conflict resolution.

Answer 15:

1. **Navigating Complexity:** Applying democratic ideals involves navigating complex social, political, and economic realities, posing challenges in implementing principles such as equality and justice effectively.
2. **Balancing Interests:** Achieving a true democracy requires balancing diverse interests and perspectives, which can be challenging due to competing priorities and power dynamics within society.

Easy Notes of History

Answer 16: The fundamental principle behind democracy is that the majority makes decisions through voting, ensuring that the will of the people prevails and governance reflects the collective interests and preferences of the population.

Answer 17:

Minimal Democracy	Good Democracy	Ideal Democracy
Basic voting rights	Encourages everyone to vote	Everyone is involved and actively participates
May not treat all groups fairly	Treats more groups fairly	All groups are treated equally and fairly
Basic freedoms like speech and press	Better protection of freedoms	Strong protection of freedoms like speech and press

Answer 18:

Strengths of Democracy	Weaknesses of Democracy
Inclusiveness: All citizens can participate and have a say.	Apathy: Some citizens may not participate due to disinterest.
Empowerment: Citizens have the power to choose leaders and shape policies.	Inequality: Socioeconomic disparities can limit participation.
Accountability: Elected leaders are accountable to the people.	Manipulation: Risk of manipulation through misinformation.
Civic Education: Encourages civic education and engagement.	Complexity: Decision-making can be slow and complex.
Innovation: Fosters innovation and diverse viewpoints.	Partisan Divide: Political polarization can hinder cooperation.

Answer 19: Active political participation by all citizens is crucial in a democracy because it ensures that diverse voices are heard, promotes accountability of elected officials, strengthens civic engagement, and helps safeguard freedoms and rights through collective decision-making.

Category

1. Assignments for class 9th

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