

3. Democracy and Diversity

EXERCISE

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

OR

Explain three factors that determine the outcomes of politics of several divisions.

Ans. Factors that Determine the Outcomes of Politics of Social Divisions:

(i) **Division on the Basis of Religion:** The Protestant as well as catholic christians in Northern Ireland fought a civil war till 1998. The former formed Unionist Party and the latter Nationalist Party. In the same way, the former was willing to remain with U.K. while the latter was willing to annex with Republic of Ireland. The majority of Protestants hence suppressed the desire of the catholics in minority. Yugoslavia was also divided into six independent countries because of this factor.

(ii) **Attitude of Ruling Party:** It can be observed in Sri Lanka where Sinhala has established majoritarianism. A civil war has already occurred in 1990 there.

(iii) **Policy of the Government towards demands of various communities:** The outcomes of politics of social divisions depend on the policy of the government towards demands of various communities. If policy of accommodation towards the demands of minorities is followed social divisions get less dangerous, as it happened in Belgium. Whereas if, if policy of suppression is followed, it causes dangerous consequences as it happened in Sri Lanka.

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

Ans. (i) It happens so when differences are given more importance and for trifle or frivolous reasons, the people start to criticise each other.

(ii) Social division occurs when some social difference overlaps with many other differences. For example: The difference between the Blacks and Whites becomes a social division in the US as the Blacks tend to be poor, homeless and discriminated against.

(iii) When one type of difference becomes or understood much important than any other.

(iv) When issues of difference manifest in procession, sloganeering, roads jam and likewise other demagogue measures conducted to gain much importance from the government. It also is manifested in riot, militancy, turmoils and anarchism.

(v) When people of a community are provoked through political parties to fight for their own political gains.

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

Ans. Social divisions and their affects on politics: Internal unrest, violence and even disintegration of a country occur when society is divided or at the brink of social division.

Examples: We can take the example of Northern Ireland. This part of United Kingdom has been for several year fierce site of violence as well as bitter ethnic political conflict. It was only in 1998, that the UK Government and the Nationalists reached a peace treaty after that the latter suspended their armed struggle.

In Yugoslavia, the story did not get a happy end. Political competition along religious and ethnic lines causes the disintegration of Yugoslavia into six independent countries.

Such examples lead some people to interpret that politics and social divisions must not be allowed to mix. They think that it would be better if there are no social divisions in any country. If social divisions to exist within a country, they must never be expressed in politics.

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 according to social divisions.

Ans. (d) Democracy always leads to disintegration of society according to social divisions.

Q.6. Consider the following three statements.

- (a) Social divisions occur when social differences overlap.
- (b) It is possible that a person can have multiple identities.
- (c) Social divisions exist in only countries such as 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) A and 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 political expression of social division need not be always dangerous.
- (b) Social divisions of one type or the other exist in most countries.
- (c) Parties try to win political support through appealing to social divisions.
- (d) A few social differences may result in social divisions.

- (a) DBCA
- (b) DBAC
- (c) DACB
- (d) ABCD

Ans. (a) DBCA

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) Netherlands

Ans. (c) Yugoslavia .

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-blackmen and whitemen, 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. (i) Social Division: Social division based upon colour and racial differences in AfroAmerican Society of USA is being talked about in this passage.

(ii) Aspirations And Anxieties of Martin: The aspirations as well as anxieties of Martin Luther King Jr. are that he has a dream that his four little children will one day will live in a nation where they would not be judged through the colour of skin but by the content of their character.

His anxieties are that the fight against colour and racial discrimination will have success only after a long struggle. He is very hopeful about his success.

(iii) Incident of Mexico Olympics and Martin's Speech: No we don't observe any

coherence between this speech and the incident that happened in Mexico Olympics. It was a narrow sense of understanding oneself different than others or act on something that represent him merely a miscreant and uncivilized. It was mere prejudice and stereotype of the two athletes.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Choose the correct options:

1. Which of the following statements about social differences in the Netherlands and Northern Ireland are correct?

- (i) Both Northern Ireland as well as the Netherlands are pre-dominantly Christian but divided between catholics and Protestants.
- (ii) In Northern Ireland class and religion overlap each other.
- (iii) Overlapping social differences do not produce possibilities of deep social divisions and tensions.
- (iv) In the Netherlands, class and religion tend to cut across each other.

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

2. What is not the basis of social divisions in India?

- (a) Language
- (b) Health
- (c) Region
- (d) Religion

3. Which of the following statements reflect how social divisions affect politics?

- (i) Combination of both politics and social division is dangerous.
- (ii) Democracy involves competition among various political parties because of which social divisions get reflected in politics.
- (iii) All expressions of social divisions in politics produces disaster.
- (iv) Social divisions affect voting in most countries.
- (v) In a democracy, political parties do not necessarily form policies to redress the grievances of the disadvantaged community.
- (vi) Political competition along religions and ethnic lines causes disintegration of Yugoslavia into six independent countries.

- (a) A, B, D, F
- (b) A, C, E, F
- (c) A, B, D, C
- (d) B, C, D, F

4. Which of the following is associated with the Civil Rights Movement in the USA (1954–1968)?

- (a) Abolishing legal racial discrimination against African Americans.
- (b) Abolishing unequal income distribution
- (c) Education
- (d) Health

5. When does Mexico Olympics were held?

- (a) 1968
- (b) 1964
- (c) 1972
- (d) 1967

6. Who began the Civil Rights Movement in USA?

- (a) John Milton
- (b) Martin Luther King Jr.
- (c) George Bush
- (d) John F. Kennedy

7. Tommie smith and John carlos received their medals wearing black socks and no shoes

- (a) To support civil rights movement
- (b) To show Black poverty
- (c) To show black power
- (d) None of these

8. Descendents of Africans who were sent to USA as Slaves are called

- (a) African Asians
- (b) American Asians
- (c) Anglo-Indians
- (d) African Americans

9. The silver medalist, white Australian athlete, Peter Norman, wore a human rights badge on his shirt during the medal ceremony of Mexico Olympics.

- (a) To show Black poverty
- (b) To support civil rights movement

- (c) To show his support to the American athletes
(d) To represent his anger for IOA
- 10. The black-gloved and raised clenched fists of Tommie Smith and John Carlos were meant to symbolise:**
- (a) White power
(b) Support to the US policy of racial discrimination
(c) Black power
(d) Their pride while listening to the US national anthem
- 11. The International Olympic Association took back the medals of Carlos, Smith and Norman**
- (a) For using drugs
(b) They were got guilty of violating the Olympic spirit by making a political statement
(c) As they were over age
(d) As they refused to come to the stage to collect their medals
- 12. Identify the countries that faced the problem of social divisions:**
- (a) Belgium, Germany and USA
(b) Belgium, Sri Lanka and UK

- (c) Sri Lanka, Canada and India
(d) UK, USA and India
- 13. Most of the social differences are based upon**
- (a) Birth (b) Choice
(c) Caste (d) Religion
- 14. Which one of the following statements is not correct about social division?**
- (a) Too much small divisions are better than a single big division.
(b) Politics is a force of unity when expressions of various types of social divisions occur.
(c) It is only in countries such as India that we have social divisions.
(d) Assertion of social diversities in a country need not be observed as a source of danger.
- 15. By which name were American slaves named between 17th and 19th centuries?**
- (a) Anglo-American
(b) Indian-American
(c) African
(d) Agro-American

Q.10. In the light of the state constitution of J&K, match the following provisions with articles.

Provisions	Articles
1. Urdu as an official language	49
2. Separation of Judiciary from executive	16
3. Reservation of seats for SC	18
4. Organisation of village	45