

7. Outcomes of Democracy

EXERCISE

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

Ans. (i) Ruling party is responsible for its decisions or actions and describes them when so asked by people under democracy. It is its accountability.

(ii) Democracy is responsible to the people of the country. It cares about the opinions, requirements and expectations of the citizens.

(iii) Democracy is legitimate government as after every four or five years people are given right to elect their government. Hence, the majority party or groups of political parties form government.

Q.2. What are the conditions under which democracies accommodate social diversities?

Ans. (i) Power sharing at grassroot levels.

(ii) Allowing equal participation in political process.

(iii) Majority is not acquired terms of preception *i.e.*, recognition, ethnicity, language, etc. whereas in concept-all reasonable and duly thought over.

(iv) Rule by majority should not become rule by majority community in terms of religion or race or linguistic group. Every citizen should have a chance of being a part of majority in one case or the another.

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

(a) Industrialised countries can afford democracy but the poor need dictatorship to become rich.

(b) Democracy can't reduce inequality of income between different citizens.

(c) Government in poor countries should spend less on poverty reduction, food, clothing, health, education and spend more on industries and infrastructure.

(d) In democracy all citizens have one vote, which means that there is absence of any domination and conflict.

Ans. (a) Opposition: Although it is true that rates of economic growth in poor countries under dictatorship are a little bit greater than poor countries under democracy but so far as living with dignity and respect at individual level is associated better to live poor under democracy than dictatorship.

(b) **Support:** The statement is wrong that state democracy cannot lessen inequality of incomes between different citizens. Democracy gives political equality *i.e.*, right to vote and other rights but rich people enjoy a highly disproportionate share of wealth as well as incomes. They dominate the politics of the country. Rich people are becoming more rich and the poor get it difficult to fulfil their basic requirements.

(c) **Opposition:** These are all basic needs to see each citizen has access to them. Thus, priority to expenses on eradication of poverty, food, clothing, health and education is to be provided over industries and infrastructure. The latter are for citizens and citizens are not for them. Healthy and educated people naturally will seek out such means of survival when they are brought up to their prime.

(d) **Support:** I am agree to this statement while it is difficult to arrive at that level of conscience in each individual. The British has infected viruses of domination and subordination within the veins of people in third world countries concluding India. Everyone here escapes from fundamental duties but each one is tempted to have fundamental rights. People here are habitual to live on that earned by others and call it skilled administration. That's why cycle of people here are bound to live rebirth as pauper to taste the fruit of domination they practised on those presently, called elites.

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

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

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

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

Ans. (a) Democracy increases the dignity of individual.

Suggestion: It is elimination according to social hierarchy. Anti untouchability laws

should be followed strictly even prior to intervention of judiciary or law courts.

(b) There is a challenge of the Poverty.

Suggestion: Farmers' associations, sectional pressure groups and local MLAs and MPs should put pressure on the government to run agricultural insurance and credit policy in an efficient way.

(c) This is a challenge to expansion of democracy.

Suggestion: Government should amend in laws conferring right to encounter operations with law enforcing agency.

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. (a) Incorrect, (b) Incorrect, (c) Incorrect, (d) Correct.

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:

Ans. 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 of the local Food and Civil supplies office for the next 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 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 and Supply Officer (FSO), who is the head of circle. The FSO offered him tea and requested him to withdraw his application under 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. (i) Nannu's example represent that Right to Information Act is very essential, useful and it forces the government official and head of the department to take the action in time promptly and inform the people (even an ordinary man) in time.

(ii) The offences in Food and Civil Supplies department would have not huge likewise applications of people like Nannu in the picture.

(iii) I have asked my parents about their experiences when they approach government official to attend their problems. They told me that likewise carelessness is adopted through officials in each government department or offices. They make people wandering to and fro even for the matters that fall in their routine.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Choose the correct options:

1. Which of the following do you think as a better form of government?

(a) Monarchy

(b) Democracy

(c) Dictatorship

(d) None of these

2. Which type of government exists in the world?

- (a) Monarchy
 - (b) Democracy
 - (c) Dictatorship
 - (d) All of them
3. **Why is democracy preferred to other forms of government?**
- (a) It makes the country economically developed
 - (b) It promotes equality among citizens
 - (c) People cannot do mistake
 - (d) There is no need to take tough decision.
4. **Rule of the people is called.....**
- (a) Democracy
 - (b) Monarchy
 - (c) Dictatorship
 - (d) Authoritarianism
5. **Democracy is a better form of government as compare to other types of government. Which of the following is not appropriate reason for the same?**
- (a) Democracy promotes equality among citizens
 - (b) It increases the dignity of the individual
 - (c) It gives method to resolve conflicts
 - (d) It creates economic equality.
6. **Which country has successfully negotiated among several populations?**
- (a) Bangladesh
 - (b) Sri Lanka
 - (c) Belgium
 - (d) Pakistan
7. **Democracy is a better form of government as it:**
- (a) Promotes equality among citizens
 - (b) Enhances the dignity of the individual
 - (c) Improves the quality of decision making
 - (d) All of them
8. **Which one of the following is the common feature of democratic countries all over the world?**
- (a) They have political parties
 - (b) They have similar social situations
 - (c) They have equal economic achievements
 - (d) They have similar cultures
9. **How do democracies all over the world differ from each other?**
- (a) Some have formal constitutions whereas others have informal constitutions
 - (b) Some of these countries hold elections
 - (c) They vary in the level of economic development
 - (d) Some of these countries guarantee rights of citizens while others do not give such guarantee
10. **The Indian Constitution has laid emphasis on granting equal status as well as equal opportunities to which two sections of the society:**
- (a) Women
 - (b) Farmers
 - (c) Army men
 - (d) Discriminated castes
11. **What should be the basic outcome of democracy?**
- (a) A government who is accountable to the citizens and responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens
 - (b) Higher economic growth
 - (c) Peace in the country
 - (d) Communal harmony
12. **Social outcomes cover the areas such as:**
- (a) Dignity and freedom of citizens
 - (b) Untouchability and discrimination
 - (c) Gender equality
 - (d) Ban on child labour
13. **Which of the following is most basic outcome of democracy?**
- (a) It produces a government that is accountable to the citizens, and responsive to the requirements and expectations of the citizens
 - (b) It creates economic equality
 - (c) It leads to better economic growth rate
 - (d) It lessens inequality in income
14. **The basic elements of the democracy are:**
- (a) Liberty and equality
 - (b) Fraternity and national unity
 - (c) International understanding and broader outlook
 - (d) Universal adult franchise
15. **Democracies are based upon :**
- (a) Economic inequality
 - (b) Social inequality
 - (c) Political equality
 - (d) Regional equality

16. There is an overwhelming support for the concept of democracy all over the world. Which of the following is most suitable reasons for the same?
- (a) It is people's own government
 - (b) It creates economic equality
 - (c) It leads to high economic growth rate
 - (d) It is free of poverty
17. Democracy is better as it.....
- (a) Promote equality among citizens
 - (b) Enhance dignity of the individual
 - (c) Improve quality of decision-making
 - (d) All of them
18. The word 'Democracy' is formed by which two words?
- (a) Demos and Kratia
 - (b) Demo and Cracy
 - (c) Demos and Kotia
 - (d) Demos and Krotia
19. Which of these is a feature of the democracy?
- (a) Rule of people
 - (b) Equality and freedom
 - (c) Guaranteed rights
 - (d) All of them
20. Which one of the below is the feature of dictatorship?
- (a) No constitution
 - (b) Monopoly over power
 - (c) No value of public opinion
 - (d) All of these
21. Which one of these is not a feature of democracy?
- (a) Rule of people
 - (b) Monopoly over power
 - (c) Equality and freedom
 - (d) Guaranteed rights
22. Which one of given is not the feature of dictatorship?
- (a) No constitution
 - (b) Monopoly over power
 - (c) No value of public opinion
 - (d) Equality of citizens
23. Ability to handle social differences, divisions as well as conflicts is a plus point of:
- (a) Non-democratic regimes
 - (b) Democratic regimes
 - (c) Monarchial regimes
 - (d) Dictatorial regimes