8. Challenges to Democracy

Q.1. Each of these cartoons represents a challenge to democracy. Please describe what that challenge is. Also place it in one of the three categories mentioned in the first section.

Mubarak Re-elected

Shall we open these things?

It's booth-capturing, rigging or secretly opening of ballot boxes prior to counting.
Ans. Challenge of Expansion

Liberal Gender Equality

The liberal Party demands Gender equality & party

Does not apply when picking their own leader

It's challenge of strengthening of the institutions and practice in such a manner that women can feel their expectations of democracy.
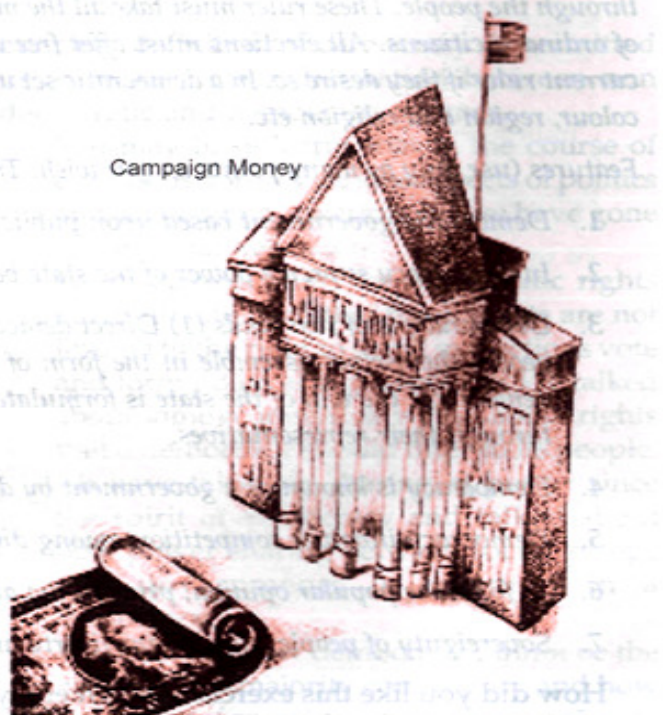**Ans.** Deepening of Democracy

Seeing the democracy

Can you see the democracy there?

This is a challenge of keeping military away from controlling government.
Ans. The foundational challenge

Campaign Money

It's a challenge to bring down the control and influence of rich people in decision making.
Ans. Challenge of deepening of democracy

Q.2. Fill up challenges that democracy requires as per column case and context below:

Ans.

Case and Context	Your description of the challenges for democracy in that situation
Chile: General pinochet's government defeated, but military still in control of several institutions.	**Example:** Establishing civilian control over all governmental institutions, holding the first multi-party elections, recalling all the political leaders from exile.
Poland: After the first success of solidarity, the government imposed martial law and also banned solidarity.	The democratic rights to organise, protest and freely represent opinions were to be restored. Free presidential elections were required such that the military government of General Jaruzelski could be replaced through a democratic government.
Ghana: Just achieved independence, Nkrumah elected president	Nkrumah got himself elected as president for life. The concept of life presidentship is contrary to the spirit of democracy. Such a person will enoy power without accountability as well as responsibility.
Myanmar: Suu Kyi under house arrest for more then 15 years, army rulers obtaining global acceptance.	In 1990, elections were held in the country. The National League for Democracy led through Suu Kyi won the election. The army did not accept the people's verdict. Suu Kyi is under arrest. Citizens haven't any basic democratic rights.
International organisations: Us as the only super power disregards the UN and acquires unilateral action.	The UN system is highly loaded in favour of five permanent members; they have a veto right. It is contrary to democratic principles. The US acts against the expressed desire of the UN. This is further a challenge to the democratic functioning of the UN.
Mexico: Second free election after the defeat of PRI in 2000; defeated candidate alleges rigging.	Free and fair election is the essence of democracy. A rigged election does not show the will of the people.
China: Communist Party adopts economic reforms while maintains monopoly over political power.	Democracy is inconsistent with one-party system; in this system there is no scope for the difference of opinion and views. Free expression of views and opinions, peaceful means of protest are not allowed.
Pakistan: General Musharraf holds referendum, allegations of fraud in voters' list.	A referendum is held to gain legitimacy for the military rule. The army uses its might to prepare electroral rolls. Apparently, the election results do not show people's verdict.
Iraq: Widespread sectarian violence because the new government fails to set its authority.	The ruling group with the support of the outside powers suppresses the other social and religious groups; in retaliation violence erupts. There is no scope for a negotiated settlement through talks as well as exchange of views.
South Africa: Nelson Mandela retires from active politics, pressure on his successor Mbeki to withdraw a few concessions provided to white minority.	**Deepening of Democracy:** In 1993, a democratic constitution was established and apartheid government ended giving way to the creation of a multi-racial government.

Case and Context	Your description of the challenges for democracy in that situation
US, Guantanamo Bay: UN secretary general calls this a violation of international law, US refuses to respond.	**Challenge to Expansion of Democracy and challenge of Muscle Power:** This consists the government of one country denying rights to citizens of another country.
Saudi Arabia: Women not allowed to take part in public activities, no freedom of religion for minorities.	**Deepening of Democracy:** People do not elect their rulers and have no say in decision-making.
Yugoslavia: Ethnic tension between serbs and albanians on the rise in the province of Kosovo. Yugoslavia disintegrated violence.	**Expansion of Democracy:** Political competition along religious and ethnic lines caused the disintegration of Yugoslavia into six independent countries.
Belgium: One round of constitutional change happened, but the Dutch speakers not satisfied; they want more autonomy.	**Deepening Democracy:** Leaders felt that the unity of the country is possible only by respecting the feelings and interests of different communities. Thus, mutually acceptable arrangement for power sharing was made.
Sri Lanka: The peace talks between the government and the LTTE split down, renewed violence.	**Expansion of Democracy:** Sri Lankan Tamils launched parties and struggles demanding an independent Tamil Eelam (state) in Sri Lanka. While majority rule/dominance established.
US, Civil Rights: Blacks have won equal rights, but are still poor, less marginalised and educated.	**Deepening Democracy:** This movement practised non-violent procedures of civbil disobedience against racially discriminatory laws and practices.
Northern Ireland: The civil war has finished while Protestants and Catholics yet to develop trust.	**Expansion of Democracy:** In Northern Ireland class and religion overlap each other. This produced the possibilities of deep social divisions and tensions.
Nepal: Constituent Assembly about to be elected, unrest in Terai areas, Maoists have not surrendered arms.	**The foundational challenge:** Here the famous struggle was about the foundation of the country's politics, i.e. the demand for restoration of parliament as well as power to all party government.
Bolivia: Morales, a supporter of water struggle, becomes Prime Minister, MNCs threaten to leave the nation.	**Challenge of Money Power:** Bolivia's famous struggle was about one specific policy and claims on an elected, democratic government. The power of the people compelled the officials of MNCs to flee and made the government concede to all the demands of the protesters.

Q.3. Given below are some spheres or sites of democratic politics. You may place against each of these the specific challenges that you noted for one or more countries or cartoons in the previous sections. In addition to that, write one item for India for each of these spheres. In case you find some challenges that do not fit into any of the categories given below, you can create new categories and put some item under that.

Query side	Answer side
Constitutional design	Foundational challenge associated to Constituent Assembly and framing of the constitution.
	Countries: Chile, Poland, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka Belgium and Nepal.
Democratic rights	Deepening and Expansion of Democracy in dictatorships
	Countries : Poland, Saudi Arabia and Nepal.
Working of Institutions	The Foundational Challenges in non-democratic countries.
	Countries : Ghana, South Africa, Iraq, US in Guantamo Bay and Nepal, Mexico.
Elections	Deepening of democracy in the way of free, fair election and famous participation.
	Country : Mexico
Federalism, decentralisation	Deepening of democracy at grass-roots levels, i.e., local self government.
	Countries : Sri Lanka, Yugoslavia and Belgium.
Accommodation of diversity	Expansion of democracy towards socio-economic equality.
	Countries : Yugoslavia, Belgium, Sri Lanka and South Africa.
Political Organisations	The foundational challenges in the democratic and non-democratic institutions in the forms of pressure groups as well as political parties.
	Countries : South Africa, Northern Ireland and Bolivia.
Affidavit concerned with politics	Challenge of corruption in Indian politics regarding politicians' criminal records and possessions.
Free and Fair Elections	Challenge of criminalisation in Indian politics in the way of use of money and also muscle power.

Q.4. Let us group these again, this time by the nature of these challenges as per the classification suggested in the first section. For each of these categories, find at least one example from India as well.

Query-side	Answer-side
1. Foundational challenge	A country having a monarchy. Granting full statehood to Delhi and Andaman and Nicobar in India. Other countries : Myanmar, Pakistan, Poland, Iraq, Nepal.
2. Challenge of expansion	More representation in state assemblies and Lock Sabha to women (in India). No discrimination upon the basis of gender, caste language etc. More power to local governments. Other countries : Ghana, International organisations, Saudi Arabia, Yugoslavia, Sri Lanka, Northern Ireland.
3. Challenge of deepening	Constitutional amendment not allowing to hold two essential port folio at the same time like president of a national political party or a state level party along with the post of Prime Minister or Chief Minister.
	Other countries: South Africa, Belgium, Mexico, US Civil Rights and Bolivia.

Q.5. Now let us think only about India. Think of all the challenges that democracy faces in contemporary India. List those five that should be addressed first of all. The listing should be in order of priority, *i.e.*, the challenge you find most important or pressing should be mentioned at number 1, and so on. Give one example of that challenge and your reason for assigning it the priority.

	Query-Side		Answer-Side
Priority	Challenges to democracy	Example	Reasons for preference
1.	Foundational Challenge	Change in the Constitutional design to suit the present challenges of India	In the changing world towards globalisation India requires some reforms in the constitutional designs to cope up with.
2.	Challenge of Deepening	Representation to women and SCs and STs	With the constitutional change India is needed to accommodate social diversity as well.
3.	Challenge of Criminalisation	Electoral refroms of use money and muscle power	In order to have free and fair elections under the electoral reforms, influence of money and power must be stopped.
4.	Challenge of Expansion	Federal Decentralisation	Keeping in view the vastness of our country representation must be provided at the local level also.
5.	Challenge of Corruption	Politicians and their possessions	In order to check the corruption among politicians and their criminal record the idea of Affidavit has been introduced in India.

Note: Example and Reasons for preference are answers to their left column.

Q.6. (Write your name here) ....'s definition of good democracy (not more than 50 words) :

Ans. Name XYZ

Definition of good democracy : Democracy is a form of government in which the rulers are elected through the people. The rulers elected by the people must take all the chief decisions in keeping needs and aspiration of ordinary citizens.

Q.7. Features (use only as many points as you want. Try to compress it in as few points as possible):

Ans. Features:

1.	**People's Rule**	In a democracy, the final decision-making power rests with the people directly or indirectly.
2.	**Free and Fair Election**	A democracy is based upon a free and fair election where those currently in power have a fair chance of losing.
3.	**Universal Adult Franchise**	In a democracy, each adult citizen is providing one vote.
4.	**Rule of Law, Franchise**	Democratic government rules within limits set by constitutional law and citizens rights.
5.	**Accountable Government**	Democratic government is an accountable form of Government which responds to the requirements of the people.
6.	**Enhances Dignity of Citizens**	Democracy is based on the equality, thus promotes equal status and opportunities to all.
7.	**Accommodates Social Diversities**	Democracy gives a method to deal with differences and conflicts.

Q.8. How did you like this exercise? Was it enjoyable? Very demanding? A little frustrating? And a little scary? Are you a little resentful that the textbook did not help you in this crucial task? Are you worried that your definition may not be correct?

Ans. How did I like this exercise: I liked this exercise so much.

Was it enjoyable?

It is enjoyable as we have been asked to give a good definition of democracy. We have read in several chapters of the book about democracy.

Very Demanding?

It is not very demanding as definition and features of democracy are very easy.

A little frustrating? It is not at all frustrating.

I am habitual to live in democratic country and Indian democracy is the biggest democracy in the world.

And a little scary: Our democracy is not a scary. India is an indirect democracy and there are opened broad gates for criticising the government.

Are you a little resentful that the text book did not help in this crucial task?

No, not at all. Text book is so good. It has dealt systematically the topics on democracy in seven chapters.

Are you worried that your definition may not be 'correct'? Such apprehension does not arise as I am a confident student without wavering mind.

Q.9. Here are some challenges that require political reforms. Discuss these challenges in detail. Study the reform options offered here and give your preferred solutions with reasons. Remember that none of the options offered here is 'right' or 'wrong'. You can opt for a mix of more than one option, or come up with same thing that is not offered here. But you must give your solution in details and after reasons for your choice.

Doctor's Absenteeism	Political Funding
Challenge: The government of Uttar Pradesh got a survey performed and found out that most of the doctors posted in that village primary health centres are simply not there. They are settled in a town, visit the village where they are posted just once or twice in the whole month and carry out private practice. Villagers have to travel to towns hospitals and pay much high fee to private doctors even for common ailments. **Reform Proposals :** • The government should make it compulsory for the doctors to live in that village where they are posted, otherwise they should be terminated from their service. • Police as well as district administration should carry out surprise raids to observe the attendence of the doctors. • Village panchayat should be given the power to write the annual report of the doctor that should be read out in the gram sabha meeting. • Problems like this can be solved only the Uttar Pradesh is divided into several smaller states that can be administered more efficiently.	**Challenge:** On an average, every candidate that contested the last Lok Sabha elections owned a property of greater than Rs. one crore. There is a fear that only wealthy people or those with their support can afford to fight elections. Most of political parties are dependent on money given by huge business houses. The worry is that the role of money in politics will lessen whatever little voice the poor have in our democracy. **Reforms Proposals:** • The financial accounts of each political party should be made public. Such accounts should be checked by government auditors. • There should be state funding of elections. Parties should be provided some money by the government to meet their election expenditure. • Citizens should be inspired to give more donations to parties and to political workers. Such donations should be exempted from income tax:

10. Indicate the following statements as true or false:
    (a) Foundational challenge is the challenge of the most of the non-democratic countries
    (b) Challenge of deepening of democracy is faced through only communist countries
    (c) Challenge of expansion is faced by established democracies
    (d) The right to information is an example of the political reforms
    (e) The challenge means facing difficulties without any solution.

11. Foundational challenge of democracy includes ....
    (a) Bringing down the non-democratic regime
    (b) Keeping military away from controlling government
    (c) Establishing sovereign and functional state
    (d) All of them

12. Challenge of expansion in democracy includes ....
    (a) More powers to local government
    (b) Application of the basic principle of democracy everywhere
    (c) Including women and minority in decision-making process
    (d) All of them

13. Ensuring greater power to local governments, extension of the federal principle to all the units of the federation, inclusion of women and minority groups is covered under ....
    (a) Challenge of expansion
    (b) Challenge of deepening of the democracy
    (c) Foundational challenge
    (d) None of these

14. Which of the following challenge is faced by every democracy in one form or another.
    (a) Challenge of the expansion
    (b) Challenge of deepening of democracy
    (c) Foundational challenge
    (d) None of these

15. Which of the following represents a challenge to democracy?
    (a) Women not allowed to participate in public activities in Saudi Arabia.
    (b) Renewed violence in Sri Lanka following the break down of talks between the government as well as LTTE
    (c) Money and muscle power during election
    (d) All of them

16. How can the institution that help people's participation and control be strengthened?
    (a) By bringing down the control and influence of rich as well as powerful people in governmental decision making
    (b) By inspiring more and more women to participate in elections
    (c) By organising hartals and dharnas
    (d) By applying militant means

17. All the suggestions or proposals about overcoming different challenges to democracy are known as
    (a) Political proposals
    (b) Democratic suggestions
    (c) Democratic reforms or the political reforms
    (d) Public reforms

18. In which one of the following countries, women are not allowed to participate in public activities?
    (a) India
    (b) Mexico
    (c) Saudi Arabia
    (d) Chile

19. In the context of the challenge of expansion which of the following concept is correct.
    (a) Ensuring greater power to the local government
    (b) Establishing a sovereign and functional state
    (c) Extension of federal principles to all the units of federation
    (d) Inclusion of women as well as minority groups