



<b>Class 9</b>	<b>Social Studies</b>	<b>Civics Ch 1: What is Democracy? Why Democracy?</b>
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Question 1.

The one of the main features of a democratic government is that it rules within the limits set by the constitutional law above \_\_\_\_\_ .

Answer:

Citizen's rights

Question 2.

Why does a democratic government is a better government?

Answer:

Because it is more accountable form of government

Question 3.

The major challenges to democracy are \_\_\_\_\_ .

Answer:

Economic equality among people and abolition of casteism from society.

Question 4.

The strength of democracy is its ability to uphold the values for which it stands for. These values are \_\_\_\_\_ .

Answer:

Freedom, Equality and Justice

Question 5.

Democracy improves the quality of decision-making because

Answer:

Decisions are taken by consultation and discussion.

Question 6.

What is the most common form of democracy in modern world?

Answer:

Representative Democracy

Question 7.

Which body in the Indian political system is an example of direct democracy?

Answer:

Gram Sabha

Question 8.

Give a definition of democracy.

Answer:

Democracy is a form of government in which the rulers are elected by the people.

Question 9.

Name the country where women do not have the right to vote till 2015.

Answer:

Saudi Arabia

Question 10.

What is the role of citizen in promoting democracy?

Answer:

In a democracy, every citizen should be able to play equal role in decision-making. For this the citizen not only needs an equal right to vote but also equal information, basic education, equal resources and a lot of commitment.

What is Democracy? Why Democracy? Class 9 Extra Questions Short Answer Type Questions

Question 1.

What are three features of democracy?

Answer:

Features of democracy are :

- Rulers elected by the people take all the major decisions;
- Elections offer a choice and fair opportunity to the people to change the current rulers;

- This choice and opportunity is available to all the people on an equal basis;
- The exercise of this choice leads to a government limited by basic rules of the constitution and citizens' rights. (Any three)

Question 2.

How does democracy improve the quality of decision making?

Answer:

Democracy is based on consultation and discussion. A democratic decision always involves many persons, discussions and meetings. When a number of people put their heads together, they are able to point out possible mistakes in any decision. This takes time. But there is a big advantage in taking time over important decisions. This reduces the chances of rash or irresponsible decisions. Thus, democracy improves the quality of decision-making.

Question 3.

How does democracy enhances the dignity of citizens?

Answer:

Even if democracy does not bring about better decisions and accountable government, it is still better than other forms of government. Democracy enhances the dignity of citizens. Democracy is based on the principle of political equality, on recognising that the poorest and the least educated has the same status as the rich and the educated. People are not subjects of a ruler, they are the rulers themselves. Even when they make mistakes, they are responsible for their conduct.

Question 4.

How is democracy better than other forms of government?

Answer:

- It is correct that democracy is better than other forms of government because it allows us to correct its own mistakes. There is no guarantee that mistakes cannot be made in democracy.
- No form of government can guarantee that. The advantage in a democracy is that such mistakes cannot be hidden for long.
- There is a space for public discussion on these mistakes. And there is a room for correction. Either the rulers have to change their decisions, or the rulers can be changed. This cannot happen in a non-democratic government.

### Question 5.

Democracy cannot get us everything and is not the solution to all problems. Than why are we interested in democracy?

Answer:

- It is clearly better than any other alternative form that we know. It offers better | chances of a good decision and it is likely to respect people's own wishes and allows different kinds of people to live together.
- Even when it fails to do some of these things, it allows a way of correcting its mistakes and offers more dignity to all citizens. That is why, democracy is considered the best form of government.

### Question 6.

What does 'one person, one vote, one value' mean? Name the countries who deny the equal right to vote.

Answer:

Democracy is based on a fundamental principle of political equality. In a democracy, each adult citizen must have one vote and each vote must have one value. Democracy is linked to the demand for Universal Adult Franchise. Yet, there are many instances of denial of equal right to vote.

- Until 2015, in Saudi Arabia, women did not have the right to vote.
- Estonia has made its citizenship rules in such a way that people belonging to Russian minority find it difficult to get the right to vote.
- In Fiji, the electoral system is such that the vote of an indigenous Fiji has more value than that of an Indian-Fijian.

### Question 7.

Is it correct that a democratic government cannot do whatever it likes? Explain.

Answer:

- A democratic government cannot do whatever it likes because it has won an election. It has to respect some basic rules. In particular, it has to respect some guarantees to the minorities. Every major decision has to go through a series of consultations.
- Every office bearer has certain rights and responsibilities assigned by the constitution and the law. Each of these is accountable not only to the people but also to other independent officials.

- A democratic government rules within limits set by constitutional law and citizens' rights.

Question 8.

What is the significance of the rule of law and respect for rights in democratic country?

Answer:

A democratic government cannot do whatever it likes, simply because it has won an election. It must respect some basic rules. It must respect some guarantees to the minorities. Every major decision has to go through a series of consultations.

Every office bearer has certain rights and responsibilities assigned by the constitution and the law. Each of these is accountable not only to the people but also to other independent officials.

Question 9.

Explain any three differences between democratic country and non-democratic country.

Answer:

**In a Democratic Country :**

- Each adult citizen has a right to vote.
- Each vote has one value.
- Free and fair elections are held.

**In a Non-democratic Country :**

- Elections do not offer a choice and fair opportunity.
- Rulers are not elected by the people.
- The rulers have unlimited power.

What is Democracy? Why Democracy? Class 9 Extra Questions Long Answer Type Questions

Question 1.

“Democracy provides a method to deal with differences and conflicts”. Discuss.

Answer:

Democracy provides a method to deal with differences and conflicts. In any society, people are bound to have differences of opinions and interests. These differences are particularly sharp in a country like ours which has an amazing

social diversity. People belong to different regions, and have different languages, practise different religions and have different castes. They look at the world very differently and have different preferences. The preferences of one group can clash with those of other groups. Democracy provides the only peaceful solution to this problem. In democracy, no one is a permanent winner. No one is a permanent loser. Different groups can live with one another peacefully. In a diverse country like India, democracy keeps our country together.

Question 2.

What are the various aspects of democracy?

Answer:

We may refer to three aspects of democracy—political, social and economic.

- **Political Aspect:** Political democracy requires “government by consent and political equality.” Democracy, as a form of government, implies that elections must be held with reasonable frequency. Moreover, there should be more than one political party competing for political power.
- **Social Aspect:** A democratic society is one in which an atmosphere of equality prevails. There should be no discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex. Every one should have equal access to shops, restaurants, hotels and places of public entertainment. Our Constitution guarantees equality to every person before law.
- **Economic Aspect:** Political democracy will be a reality only when it is supported by economic democracy. The most stable democracies of the world are those which have extensive welfare schemes for the poor people.

Question 3.

What are the merits of a democratic government?

Answer:

The merits of a democratic government are :

- A democratic government is a better government because it is a more accountable form of government.
- Democracy improves the quality of decision-making.
- Democracy provides a method to deal with differences and conflicts.
- Democracy enhances the dignity of citizens.

- It is better than other forms of government because it allows us to correct its own mistakes.

Question 4.

What are the drawbacks of a democracy.

Answer:

The following are the draw backs of a democracy :

- Leaders keep changing in a democracy. This leads to instability.
  - Democracy is all about political competition and power play. There is no scope for morality.
  - So many people have to be consulted in a democracy that it leads to delays.
  - Elected leaders do not know the best interest of the people. It leads to bad decisions.
  - Democracy leads to corruption for it is based on electoral competition.
  - Ordinary people don't know what is good for them; they should not decide anything.
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