



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

CLASS: IX	DEPARTMENT: SOCIAL SCIENCE	SUB: Political Science
CHAPTER: 1 Q.B. NO: 1	TOPIC: UNDERSTANDING DEMOCRACY?	Year: 2026 -2027

1.	<p>What do you understand by the term ‘Democracy’?</p> <p>Ans:</p> <p>The word originated from the Greek word demokratia. The components of the words are demos people and kratos means power. Thus, democracy means “rule by the people”.</p> <p>Democracy is a form of government in which rulers are elected by the people through free and fair election.</p>
2.	<p>The Panchayat system forms the foundation of modern Indian democracy, but its origins go back thousands of years.” Explain the statement with an example.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The word Panchayat derived from panch, meaning five. It refers to a council of five respected elders chosen by the community.➤ This system was democratic in nature because the members were selected by the people and were responsible for them.➤ The Panchayat played an important role in village life by taking key decisions, settling disputes and delivering justice.➤ E.g. The Sakya Republic during the 6th B.C.E used to follow this democratic practice.
3.	<p>“The Gupta Empire is often described as the Golden Age of India.” Justify the sentence in reference to the system of governance.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Administration during the Gupta period was marked by a high degree of decentralisation and local self -government. Village councils, known as Sabhas, played an important role in managing local affairs and delivering justice.➤ These councils were made up of local landowners and merchants chosen by the community, and they functioned independently. These early democratic traditions influenced modern democracy in many ways.➤ They promoted people’s participation in governance, inspired institutions of local self-government, and encouraged respect for discussion and consensus. Thus, modern Indian democracy is deeply rooted in India’s own historical experience rather than being entirely adopted from other countries.

4.	<p>Write down the features of democracy.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Final decision by elected representatives: In a democracy final decision-making power rest with the elected representatives and they function within the limits of Constitutional Laws. ➤ Free and Fair election: A democracy must be based on free and fair election where those currently in power have a chance of losing. In India the Election Commission of India ensures free and fair elections. ➤ Universal Adult Franchise: All adults have the right to vote in the election irrespective of their colour, caste, religion, gender and social conditions. ➤ Freedom of expression: Citizens should have the right to express their opinion. They can also have the right to demonstrate, criticise, organise meetings on public issues. ➤ Freedom to form associations: Citizens have the right to form associations, unions, and political parties, and to join or leave them freely, subject to legal restrictions in the interest of public order and national security. ➤ Freedom of culture and religion: A democracy allows people to follow their own beliefs and faith. People can openly and freely follow any religion, and speak their own language. The rights of the minorities should not be in any way less than those of the majority. ➤ Individual freedoms: In a democracy, citizens enjoy personal freedoms such as freedom of movement, residence, occupation, and education. However, these freedoms are subject to reasonable restrictions in the interest of public order, morality, and national security. ➤ Rule of law: In a democracy, the rule of law prevails. No individual or authority is above the law. Thus, a democratic government rules within limits set by constitutional law and citizens' rights.
5.	<p>“Free and fair elections are necessary features of democracy”. Explain</p> <p>Ans:</p> <p>Democracy must be based on a free and fair election where those currently in power have a fair chance of losing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ voters must be honestly counted (a proper census). ➤ Voters should vote freely without any kind of pressure. ➤ Voters should have the right to choose freely from among those competing in the elections. ➤ Elections should be held regularly and be strictly impartial. In India the Election Commission of India ensures free and fair elections.
6.	<p>Name two kinds of Democracies. Which one is the most prevalent in the contemporary world? Why?</p> <p>Ans.</p> <p>The two kinds of democracies in the world are Direct Democracy and Indirect Democracy or Representative Democracy: Elected representatives run the government and take important decisions on behalf of the people. Representative Democracies become necessary because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Modern democracies involve such a large number of people that it is physically impossible for them to sit together and take a collective decision. ➤ Even if they could, the citizen does not have the time, the desire or the skills to take part in all the decisions.

7. Distinguish between the Presidential and Parliamentary form of government.

Ans:

Parliamentary Democracy

- Parliamentary democracy is a system of government in which the executive derives its authority from the legislature and remains accountable to it. The members of the executive are also part of the legislature.
- The head of the government, usually the Prime Minister, is chosen from the majority party or coalition in the legislature. The Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers are responsible for implementing government policies.
- In a parliamentary system, there is a close relationship between the executive and legislative branches, with the executive being dependent on the confidence of the legislature.
- In this system, the President is the formal or nominal head of the executive, while the Prime Minister is the real head of the government. The President represents the State, but the Prime Minister is responsible for running the government and managing its day-to-day affairs.
- Countries with parliamentary systems include India, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, and Canada.

Presidential Democracy

- The presidential form of government is based on the principle of separation of powers between the executive and the legislature. Under this system, the executive is independent of the control of the legislature.
- In the presidential form of government, the head of the State is also the real executive head. The President directly exercises executive powers. But these powers are limited by constitutional provisions and checks and balances.
- This system is based on the principle of separation of powers, in which the executive, legislature, and judiciary work independently. At the same time, the system follows the principle of checks and balances, that means that they keep a check on one another to prevent misuse of power.
- Another important feature of the presidential system is that political homogeneity is not essential. Members of the cabinet do not have to belong to the same political party as the President. At present, countries like the USA, Brazil, etc. are having presidential form of government.

8. “Democracy has spread over the years in the world.” Explain.

Ans:

Democracy has spread because of three major events:

- (i) The Second World War
- (ii) Decolonization and
- (iii) The collapse of the Soviet Union.

These three external factors started a chain of events in many countries which helped democracy. There were, of course, internal forces and conditions conducive for democracy.

9. “Democracy may be the best form of government but it has to face many problems.” Explain.

Ans:

Democracy has many challenges. They are as follows:

- Wide gaps between rich and poor allow the wealthy to dominate politics, often leading to exploitation of underprivileged voters.
- The growing economic inequality has an adverse impact on politics. Policy-makers may sometimes prioritise the interests of influential economic groups over those of weaker sections, their grievances are not properly addressed.
- Economic inequalities have an adverse effect on elections. People with money have more chances of winning elections. More and more money is being spent on elections - on campaigning, publicity, etc. Party and candidates often use dirty tricks to win the elections.
- The need of the hour is to establish a healthy democracy based on a democratic society. Correct democratic values have to be taught and imbibed at the grassroot levels — beginning with the family, friends and neighborhood.
- All-out effort should be made to root out corruption from public dealings and choose a government which is sensitive to the needs of the people.
- Last of all, the voters must realise how important it is to exercise their voting rights. It is in their hands to elect representatives who can govern with integrity, commitment and ability.