



# INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

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| <b>Class: x</b>      | <b>Department: SOCIAL SCIENCE</b>   | <b>Date of submission:</b> |
| <b>Question Bank</b> | <b>Topic: Outcomes of Democracy</b> | <b>Year:2020-21</b>        |

**1) Why do we feel that Democracy is a better than any other forms of government? Explain.**

**OR**

**“Democracy is more effective than its other alternatives.” Justify the statement.**

**Ans:**

We feel that democracy is better than any other form of government because:

- Democracy promotes equality among citizens.
- It enhances dignity of individual by giving every person equal treatment. It promotes dignity of women and strengthens the claims of the disadvantaged.
- It improves the quality of decision making. There is transparency in a democracy.
- It provides methods to resolve conflicts.
- Democracy allows room to correct mistakes. Thus democracy is an effective form of government as it provides room to correct its own mistakes and resolves conflicts amicably.
- Above all, a democratic government is people’s own government.

**2) ‘Democracy is seen to be good in principle, but felt to be not so good in practice.’ Justify the statement with suitable arguments.**

**Ans:**

- If we look at some of the democratic policies being implemented in more than one hundred countries of the world, democracy seems to be good. For example, having a formal Constitution, holding regular elections, guaranteeing the citizens certain rights, working for the welfare of the people, etc. make us advocate that democracy is good.
- But if we look in terms of social situations, their economic achievements and varied cultures, we find a very big difference in most of the democracies. The vast economic disparities, social injustice based on discrimination, standard of life, sex discrimination, etc. create many doubts about the merits of democracy.
- Whenever some of our expectations are not met, we start blaming the idea of democracy. Since democracy is a form of government, it can only create conditions for achieving our goals if they are reasonable.

So citizens have to take advantage of those conditions and achieve those goals.

### **3) How does democracy produce an accountable, responsive and a legitimate government?**

**Ans:**

#### **ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT**

Democracy produces an accountable government which is answerable to the people or parliament. In a democracy people elect their representatives who form the government. People have a choice to change the government in the next general elections if they are not satisfied with its working.

#### **RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT**

It is people's government so it has to be responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens. It helps in the formation of public opinion. It provides a mechanism for citizens to hold the government accountable and allows them to take part in the decision-making directly or indirectly. They have the right to criticize and question the government policies.

#### **LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT**

A democratic government is a legitimate government as it is elected by the people. The government has to follow norms and rules while making any decision. Democracies follow a constitution, so they are legitimate. They need to follow a proper procedure while trying to make any changes. Free and fair elections are held in democracies and the people have the power to eliminate parties they are not happy with, in the next election.

### **4) What is 'transparency' in a democracy?**

**Ans:**

Democracy ensures that decision making will be based on norms and procedure. Every citizen has the right and means to examine the process of decision making. This is known as transparency.

### **5) How do democratic governments ensure transparency? Explain any three points.**

**Ans:**

- Democracy ensures that decision-making will be based on norms and procedures. So a citizen, who wants to know if a decision was taken through the correct procedures, can find out as democracy guarantees to the citizens the right and the means to examine the process of decision-making.
- In a democracy people have the right to choose their rulers and people will have control over them. Whenever possible and necessary, citizens should be able to participate in decision-making that affects them all. Thus it ensures transparency by producing a government that is accountable to the citizens and is responsive to their needs and expectations.
- It is right to expect democracy to produce a government that follows procedures and is accountable to people. To do so, the democratic government develops mechanisms for citizens—regular, free and fair elections, open public debate on major policies and legislations and citizens' right to information about the government and its functioning

### **6) Evaluate the most basic outcome of Democracy?**

**OR**

**Is Democratic government efficient and effective?**

**Ans:**

- Most basic outcomes of democracy should be that it produces a government that is accountable to the citizens, and responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens.
- Democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation. So, some delay is bound to take place because it has followed procedures, but its decisions may be both more acceptable to the people and more effective. So, the cost of time that democracy pays is perhaps worth it.
- A citizen who wants to know if a decision was taken through the correct procedures can find this out. She has the right and the means to examine the process of decision-making. This is known as transparency.
- The democratic government develops mechanisms for citizens to hold the government accountable and mechanisms for citizens to take part in decision making.

**7) How does the Democratic government address the problem of economic inequality?**

**Ans:**

- It is reasonable to expect democracies to reduce economic disparities. Democracies are based on political equality. All individuals have equal weight in electing representatives. Parallel to the process of bringing individuals into the political arena on an equal footing, we find growing economic inequalities.
- A small number of ultra-rich enjoy a highly disproportionate share of wealth and incomes. Not only that, their share in the total income of the country has been increasing.
- Those at the bottom of the society have very little to depend upon. Their incomes have been declining. Sometimes they find it difficult to meet their basic needs of life, such as food, shelter and clothing.
- The poor constitute a large proportion of our voters and no party will like to lose their votes. Yet democratically elected governments do not seem to be as keen to address the problem of poverty as we expect.

**8) "Economic development of a country depends on various factors". Which are they?**

**Ans:**

- (i) Country's population size
- (ii) Global situation
- (iii) Cooperation from other countries.
- (iv) Economic priorities adopted by the country.

**9) What are the conditions under which Democracies accommodates social diversities?**

**OR**

**"Democracy accommodates social diversity". Explain.**

**Ans:**

- Democracy usually develop a procedure to conduct their competition. This reduces the possibilities of these tensions becoming violent or explosive.

- It is necessary to understand that democracy is not simply rule by majority always needs to work with majority opinion. The majority always needs to work with minority so that governments function to represent the general view.
- It is also necessary that rule by majority does not become rule by majority community in terms of religion or race or linguistic group etc. Rule by majority means that in case of every decision or election, different persons or groups may and can form a majority

**10) How does Democracy promote dignity and freedom of the citizens? Explain.**

**Ans:**

- Democracy stands much superior to any other form of government in promoting dignity and freedom of the individual.
- The passion for respect and freedom are the basis of democracy. Democracies throughout the world have recognized the passion for respect and freedom of the individual.
- Most societies of the world were historically the male dominated societies. Long struggles by women have created some sensitivity that respect to women and equal treatment to women are necessary ingredients of a democratic society.
- Democracy in India has strengthened the claims of the disadvantaged and discriminated castes for equal status and equal opportunity.
- In democracy the status of the individual is changing from subjects to citizens.

**11) 'A public expression of dissatisfaction with Democracy shows the success of democratic project.' Justify the statement.**

**Ans:**

A public expression of dissatisfaction with democracy shows the success of democratic project. This statement can be justified by giving the following arguments.

- When citizens show their dissatisfaction, it clearly shows that they are actively taking part in democratic projects, because this system is their own.
- A public expression of dissatisfaction shows that people are not just forcefully following or agreeing with whatever they are told.
- It shows that they are enjoying their freedom and hence they are no more subjects but are responsible citizens.
- Their freedom and transformation from the status of subjects to that of citizens is the main aim of democracy.
- As people get benefits, they ask for more. This makes democracy better.