



# INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

<b>Class: X</b>	<b>Department: Social Science</b>	<b>Sub: CIVICS</b>
<b>Chapter-3</b> <b>Question Bank:3</b>	<b>Topic: Gender, Religion and Caste</b>	<b>Year: 2022-2023</b>

1	<p><b>'Gender division is not based on biology but on social expectations and stereotypes.'</b> <b>Support the statement.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Or</b></p> <p><b>What is Gender division? How is it practiced? What are its consequences?</b> <b>Ans:</b> <b>Gender division:</b> It is a form of hierarchical social division. Generally, it is considered as natural and unchangeable. Actually, it is based not on biology but on social expectations and stereotypes. <b>Gender division in practice:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There is common belief that the main responsibility of women is housework and bringing up children as reflected in a sexual division of labour.</li><li>• Men do the work such as cooking, tailoring if these jobs are paid for. For example, most tailors or cooks in hotels are men.</li><li>• Women too work outside their home. Poor women work as domestic servant in middle class homes while in urban area women work in offices along with men. It is done in addition to their domestic work. But their work is not valued and does not get recognition.</li></ul> <p><b>Consequences:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Although the population of women is half of the humanity, their role in public life especially politics, is minimal in most societies.</li><li>• This has led to agitations for equal rights for women such as voting rights, enhancing the political and legal status of women and improving their educational and career opportunities. These movements are called 'feminist' movements.</li></ul>
2	<p><b>What are feminist movements? What were the causes of these movements? How have they brought improvement in the condition of women?</b> <b>Ans:</b> A woman or man who believes in equal rights and opportunities for women and men is a feminist. Thus, these feminist movements aimed at equality in personal and family life. <b>The main political demands of the Feminists in India:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To have fair proportion of women in elected bodies. In the sphere of Panchayati Raj it has been done. Under it at least one-third of all positions are reserved for women.</li><li>• Women organizations' demand is a similar reservation of at least one-third of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. A bill with this proposal has been pending before the Parliament for more than a decade.</li></ul>

	<p><b>As a result of these feminist movements, the condition of women has improved as mentioned below:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Their role in public life has improved.</li> <li>• They are working as scientists, doctors, engineers, lawyers, managers, college and university teachers which were earlier not considered suitable for women.</li> <li>• In Scandinavian countries such as Sweden, Norway and Finland, the participation of women in public life is very high.</li> </ul>
3	<p><b>'In our country, women still lag much behind men despite some improvements since independence.' Justify.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Or</p> <p><b>"Women in India still face discrimination and oppression in various ways ?" Support the statement with five examples.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Or</p> <p><b>"Women are discriminated or disadvantaged in India." Justify the statement with suitable examples.</b></p> <p><b>Ans:</b> In our country women still lag much behind men despite some improvements since Independence. Women face disadvantage, discrimination and oppression in various ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>literacy rate</b> among women is only 54 percent as compared with 76 percent among men. Similarly, a smaller proportion of girl student go for higher studies. Girls are performing as well as boys in school. But they drop out because parents prefer to spend their resources for their boys' education rather than spending equally on their sons and daughters.</li> <li>• The proportion of women among the <b>highly paid and valued jobs is still very small</b>. On an average an Indian woman works one hour more than an average man every day.</li> <li>• <b>The Equal Wages Act</b> provides that equal wages should be paid to equal work. However, in almost all areas of work, from sports and cinema, to factories and fields, women are paid less than men even when both do exactly the same work.</li> <li>• In many parts of India, parents prefer to have sons and find ways to have the girl child aborted before she is born. Such <b>sex-selective abortion</b> led to a decline in child sex ratio.</li> <li>• Woman face <b>harassment, exploitation and violence</b> on the domestic front.</li> </ul>
4	<p><b>Describe the relationship between religion and politics. Also mention its effects.</b></p> <p><b>Ans:</b> <b>The instances showing relationship between religion and politics are as mentioned below:</b></p>

	<p><b>1. Religion cannot be separated from politics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gandhiji considered religion as a part of politics.</li> <li>• For Gandhiji religion was not particular religion like Hinduism or Islam but moral values that inform all religions. Religion brings morality into politics. He believed that politics must be guided by ethics drawn from religion.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Government to protect religious minorities:</b> Human rights groups are of the view that the communal riots in the country affect the religious minorities – who are the only victims in such incidents. They demand that the government should protect the religious minorities.</p> <p><b>3. Family laws:</b> Women’s movement has argued that the family laws of all religions discriminate against women. They demand that steps should be taken by the government to enhance their rights and to bring equality between men and women.</p> <p><b>Effects:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All these instances involve a relationship between religion and politics. These are not dangerous ideas.</li> <li>• Ideas, ideals and values drawn from different religions should play a role in politics.</li> <li>• People should be able to express in politics their needs, interests and demands as a member of a religious community.</li> <li>• The government should be able to regulate the practice of religion so as to prevent discrimination and oppression. Every religion should be treated equally.</li> </ul>
5	<p><b>What is communal politics? Highlight different situations when the problem of communalism becomes acute.</b></p> <p><b>Ans:</b> Communal politics/Communalism relates to the use of religion in politics.</p> <p><b>The problem of communalism begins and becomes acute in the following situations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When religion is seen as the basis of the nation.</li> <li>• When religion is expressed in politics in exclusive and partisan terms. One religion and its followers are pitted against another.</li> <li>• When beliefs of one religion are presented as superior to those of other religions.</li> <li>• When the demands of one religious group are formed in opposition to another and state power is used to establish domination of one religious group over the rest.</li> </ul>
6	<p><b>What are the ideas that involve communalism? Explain.</b></p> <p><b>Ans:</b> <b>The ideas that involve communalism are as mentioned below:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is based on the idea that religion is the principal basis of social community.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It believes that the followers of a particular religion must belong to one community. Their fundamental interests are the same. Any difference that they may have is irrelevant.</li> <li>• It also follows that people who follow different religions cannot belong to the same social community. If the followers of different religions have some commonalities these are superficial. Their interests are bound to be different and involve a conflict.</li> <li>• In its extreme form communalism leads to the belief that people belonging to different religions cannot live as equal citizens within one nation. Either, one of them has to dominate the rest or they have to form different nations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Drawbacks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People of one religion do not have same interests and aspirations in every context.</li> <li>• Everyone has several other roles, positions and identities. There are many voices inside every community. All these voices have a right to be heard and should not be suppressed.</li> </ul>
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7	<p><b>How can communalism take various forms in politics? Explain</b></p> <p><b>Ans:</b></p> <p><b>Communalism can take various forms in politics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The most common expression of communalism is in everyday beliefs. This is so common that we fail to notice it, even when we believe in it. For example; belief in the superiority of one's religion and inferiority of other religions. As long as people in Northern Ireland saw themselves only as Catholics or Protestants, their differences were difficult to reconcile.</li> <li>• A communal mind often leads to a quest for political dominance of one's own religious community. In a majority community this takes the form of majoritarian dominance. For those belonging to the minority community, it can take the form of a desire to form a separate political unit.</li> <li>• Political mobilization on religious lines is another form of communalism. This involves the use of sacred symbols, religious leaders, to bring the followers of one religion together.</li> <li>• Sometimes, communalism takes its most ugly form of communal violence riots and massacre. The post-Independence period has seen large scale communal violence in our country.</li> </ul>
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8	<p><b>What is a secular state? Explain factors which make India a secular state.</b></p> <p><b>Ans:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A secular state is a concept of secularism, whereby a state is supporting neither religion nor irreligion. It grants equal status to all religions.</li> <li>• In India secularism means equal treatment of all religions by the state. With the 42nd Amendment of the Constitution of India enacted in 1976, the Preamble to the Constitution asserted that India is a secular nation.</li> </ul> <p><b>The factors that make India a secular state is as mentioned below:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no official religion in India. Our Constitution does not give a special status to any religion as has been done in Sri Lanka (Buddhism), Pakistan (Islam) and England (Christianity).</li> <li>• The Constitution provides to all individuals and communities freedom to profess, preach and practice their own religion. It grants the right to establish and maintain their educational institutions.</li> <li>• The Constitution prohibits discrimination on the grounds of religion.</li> <li>• The Constitution allows the state to intervene in the matters of religion in order to ensure equality within religious communities. For example, it bans untouchability. The state could also help religious communities by giving aid to educational institutions run by them.</li> <li>• Thus, in India secularism is not just an ideology of some parties or persons. This idea constitutes one of the foundations of our country. The makers of our Constitution were aware that communalism was and continues to be one of the major challenges to democracy in India. Hence, they chose the model of a secular state.</li> </ul>
9	<p><b>Describe features of caste inequalities in India.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Or</b></p> <p><b>Why is caste system in India different from other societies?</b></p> <p><b>Ans:</b></p> <p><b>The main features of caste system in India are as mentioned below:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caste division is special to India. It is different from other societies because here hereditary occupational division was sanctioned by rituals.</li> <li>• Members of same caste group used to form a social community that practiced the same or similar occupation.</li> <li>• The members of a community used to marry within the caste group and did not eat with members from other caste groups.</li> <li>• People of lower caste were subjected to inhuman and discriminatory treatment. Sometimes a caste of a person, becomes a curse for life for none of his fault. Thus, caste system was based on exclusion of and discrimination against the 'outcaste groups. They were called untouchables.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That is why political leaders and social reformers like Jotiba Phule, Gandhiji, B.R. Ambedkar and Periyar Ramaswami Naicker advocated and worked to establish a society in which caste inequalities are absent.</li> </ul>
10	<p><b>Explain reasons for the declining of caste system in India.</b> Or <b>Assess the circumstances prevalent in contemporary India which are responsible for bringing about a change in the caste system.</b> Or <b>Why the caste barriers are breaking down in India? Explain any five reasons.</b> <b>Ans:</b> <b>The reasons for breaking down of caste hierarchy are as mentioned below:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Urbanization:</b> In urban areas, people do not bother who is walking along next to us on a street or eating at the next table in a restaurant. There is a shift of population from rural to urban areas.</li> <li>• <b>Economic development:</b> As a result of economic development, the economic condition of lower castes has improved. They live in the areas where people of upper castes are living in the cities.</li> <li>• <b>Occupational mobility:</b> There is a shift from one occupation to another, usually when a new generation takes up occupations other than those practiced by their ancestors. This has helped in breaking the caste hierarchy.</li> <li>• <b>Provisions:</b> The Constitution of India too prohibits discrimination on the basis of caste. So, we find people of different castes working together in offices. Untouchability is a legal offence.</li> <li>• The role played by political leaders and social reformers like Jotiba Phule, Mahatma Gandhi, B.R. Ambedkar and Periyar Ramaswami Naicker was important in this direction. Gandhiji called untouchable 'Harijan'. The efforts of these leaders tried to remove caste-based inequalities from society.</li> </ul>
11	<p><b>Describe three forms of caste politics in India.</b> Or <b>Explain the role of caste in India in politics.</b> Or <b>Describe various forms of caste in politics.</b> <b>Ans:</b> <b>Caste is the sole basis of social community. It can take various forms in politics as given below:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Selection of candidates:</b> At the time of election, political parties select their candidates on the basis of caste of the voters in a constituency so that they may muster necessary support to win elections.</li> <li>• <b>Formation of governments:</b> At the time of formation of government or Council of Ministers, effort is made to have representatives from all castes and communities.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appeal to voters: During election campaign appeals are made to voters to cast their votes in favour of the candidate of their own caste. Some political parties are known to favour some castes and are seen as their representatives.</li> <li>• Effect of Universal Adult Franchise: Universal adult franchise and the principle of one-person-one vote compelled political leaders to gear up to the task of mobilizing and securing political support. It also brought new consciousness among the people of castes that were hitherto treated as inferior and low.</li> </ul>
12	<p><b>“Caste alone cannot determine election results in India”. Justify the statement</b></p> <p>Caste alone cannot determine election results in India because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No parliamentary constituency has a clear majority of one single caste.</li> <li>• No party wins all the votes of a particular caste.</li> <li>• Many political parties may put up candidates from the same caste</li> <li>• The ruling party and the sitting MP or MLA frequently loose elections in our country</li> </ul>
13	<p><b>Assess the influence of politics on caste system.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Or</b></p> <p><b>How caste is politicized? Explain any three points.</b></p> <p><b>Ans:</b></p> <p><b>Politics influences the caste system and caste identities in the following ways:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each caste group tries to become bigger by incorporating within its neighboring castes or sub-castes which were earlier excluded from it.</li> <li>• In the age of coalition politics, various caste groups enter into a coalition with other castes or communities. They enter into a dialogue and negotiate in order to win the election. For example, in May 2002, BSP in UP entered into an agreement with BJP and formed a coalition government there.</li> <li>• Now new caste groups known as ‘backward’ and ‘forward’ caste groups have emerged in political field. Thus, caste plays different roles in politics.</li> </ul>
14	<p><b>Describe advantages and disadvantages of the political expression of caste differences.</b></p> <p><b>Ans:</b></p> <p><b>Advantages of the political expression of caste differences are as mentioned below</b></p> <p>The caste-politics in India has helped Dalits and OBCs to gain better access to decision making.</p> <p>Several political and non-political organisations have come forward in support of particular castes. They have demanded to end discrimination against them. Their demands include more dignity for them, more access to land, resources and opportunities.</p> <p><b>Disadvantages of the political expression of caste differences are as mentioned below</b></p> <p>It can divert attention from other pressing issues like poverty, development and corruption.</p> <p>In some cases, caste division leads to tensions, conflict and even violence.</p>