

Popular Struggles and Movements

Very Short Answer Type Questions _____ (1 mark each)

Q. 1. Name any one political party of India which grew out of a movement.

[CBSE OD, Term 2, Set 1, 2017]

Ans. The political party of India that grew out of movement is 'Asom Gana Parishad.'

Q. 2. How 'pressure groups' are formed?

[CBSE Delhi, Term 2, Set 1, 2017]

Ans. Pressure groups are those organizations that attempt to influence the government policies. These organizations are formed when people with common interest, aspirations or opinions come together in order to achieve a common objective.

Q. 3. Give an example of any 'pressure group' of India which functions as a branch of 'political party'.

[CBSE Delhi, Term 2, Set 1, 2017]

Ans. Pressure groups are normally led by leaders of political parties or act as an extended arm of political parties. These can be trade union or student organizations. e.g., INTUC, AITUC, ABVP etc.

Q. 4. Explain the main reason for 'Bolivia Water War.'

[CBSE Delhi, Term 2, Set 3, 2017]

Ans. The Government of Bolivia gave control of municipal water supply to an MNC. The MNC increased the water supply rates/prices four times, which led to serious agitation, known as 'Bolivia Water War'.

Q. 5. Explain any one difference between a pressure group and a political party.

[CBSE OD, Term 2, Set I, 2017]

OR

Distinguish between Pressure Groups and Political Parties by stating any one point of distinction.

[CBSE OD, Term 2, Set 1, 2016]

Ans. Pressure groups do not aim to directly control or share political powers but political parties directly control and share political powers.

Q. 6. Name any two sectional interest groups.

[CBSE OD, Term 2, Set 1, 2016]

Ans. The two sectional interest groups are: Trade Unions and Business Associations.

Q. 7. How are issue specific movements different from generic movements?

[CBSE Delhi, Term 2, Set 1, 2016]

Ans. Issue specific movements seek to achieve a single objective within a limited time frame. Generic movements seek to achieve a broad goal in the long term.

Q. 8. Which organisation led the protest against water privatisation in Bolivia?

[CBSE Delhi, Term 2, Set 1, 2016]

Ans. FEDECOR

Q. 9. Who dissolved the popularly elected parliament in February 2005, in Nepal?

[CBSE Delhi, Term 2, Set 1, 2015]

Ans. In February 2005, king Gyanendra of Nepal dissolved the popularly elected parliament.

Q. 10. What was the main role of 'FEDECOR' organisation in Bolivia?

[CBSE Delhi, Term 2, Set 1, 2015]

Ans. The protest against water privatisation in Bolivia was led by FEDECOR. It also made the government concede to all demands of the protestors.

Short Answer Type Questions-II _____ (3 marks each)

Q. 1. Analyse the role of popular struggles in the development of democracy.

[CBSE OD, Term 2, Set 1, 2017]

Ans. Democracy evolves through popular struggles. It is possible that some signifi-

cant decisions may take place through consensus and may not involve and conflict at all. But that would be an exception. Defining moments of democracy usually involve conflict between those

groups who have exercised power and those who aspire for a share in power. These moments come when the country is going through transition to democracy, expansion of democracy or deepening of democracy.

- (i) Democratic conflict is resolved through mass mobilization. Sometimes it is possible that the conflict is resolved by using the existing institutions like the parliament or the judiciary. But when there is a deep dispute, very often these institutions themselves get involved in the dispute. The resolution has to come from outside, from the people.
- (ii) These conflicts and mobilizations are based on new political organisations. True; there is an element of spontaneity in all such historic moments. But the spontaneous public participation becomes effective with the help of organized politics. There can be many agencies of organized politics. These include political parties, pressure groups and movement groups.

Q. 2. How do the pressure groups and movements influence politics? Explain with examples.

[CBSE Delhi, Term 2, Set 1, 2017]

Ans. Pressure groups and movements influence politics in various ways:

- (i) They try to gain public support and sympathy for their goals and activities by carrying out information campaigns, organizing meetings, filing petitions, etc.
- (ii) They often organize protest activities like strikes or disrupting government programmes and sometimes political parties grow out of movements.
- (iii) Some persons from pressure groups or movements groups may participate in official bodies and committees that often advise the government.

Q. 3. How do pressure groups and movements strengthen democracy? Explain.

[CBSE OD, Term 2, Set 1, 2017]

Ans. Pressure groups and movements exert influence on politics in the following ways:

- (i) Information campaigns, organising meetings, file petitions: Pressure groups carry out information campaigns, organise meetings and file petitions to attract public attention and gain support for their activities. They influence media to attract more attention to their issues.
- (ii) Protest activities: Pressure groups organise protest activities like strikes, demonstrations or disrupting government's programmes. Such tactics are employed by worker's organisations, employees' associations and most of the movement groups in order to force the government to take note of their demand.
- (iii) Lobbying: Business groups employ professional lobbyists or sponsor expensive advertisements. They participate in official bodies and committees that offer advise to the government.
- (iv) Take a political stand on major issues: Pressure groups and movements do not directly take part in party politics but try to exert influence on political parties by taking a political stand on different issues. They have their own political ideology and political position on major issues.

Thus, the pressure groups and the movements exert influence on politics in different ways in a democracy.

Q. 4. How are 'movements' different from "interest groups"? Explain with examples.

[CBSE Delhi, Term 2, Set 2, 2017]

Ans. "Movements" are different from "interest groups" in the following ways:

- (i) Interest groups seek to promote the interest of the particular section or a group of society such as—trade unions, business association, doctor etc. Whereas, the movement groups are issue specific to achieve a single objective within a limited time frame such as the Nepalese Movement for democracy, Narmada Bachao Andolan etc.



- (ii) Interest groups promote collective rather than selective interests such as, BAMCEF (Backward and Minority Communities Employees Federation) whereas, the movement are more generic. They seek to achieve a broad goal in the very long term such as women's movement.
- (iii) Interest groups represent some common or general interest that needs to be defended such as FEDECOR whereas, movement groups are long term and involve more than one issue such as environmental movement.

Q. 5. Differentiate between Nepal's movement and Bolivia's popular struggle.
[CBSE Delhi, Term 2, Set 1, 2017]

Ans. Struggles in Nepal and Bolivia:

Democracy almost invariably involves conflict of interests and viewpoints. These differences are often expressed in organised ways. In Nepal and Bolivia, struggles around conflicting demands and pressures shaped democracy.

Movement in Nepal

- (i) Nepal witnessed an extraordinary popular movement in April 2006.
- (ii) Nepal won democracy in 1990. The King formally remained the head of the state and the real power was exercised by the elected representatives. But when King Gyanendra became the new king of Nepal in 2001, he did not accept democratic rule. Then people revolted against him and started a movement in April 2006 to regain popular control over the government from the king. Finally, the king granted the demands. As a result, the parliament was restored and laws were passed to take away most of the powers of the king.

Bolivia Water War

- (i) Bolivia is a small and poor country in Latin America. The World Bank pressurised the government to give up its control of municipal water supply. The government sold off these rights to an MNC. The company immediately increased the prices four

times. This led to serious agitation. Finally, the contract with MNC was cancelled and water supply was resorted to municipality at old rates.

- (ii) In both cases of Nepal and Bolivia, popular struggles were carried in different ways. In Bolivia, it was about one specific policy, while the struggle in Nepal was about the foundations of the country's policies. In both cases, the struggle involved mass mobilisation.

Q. 6. What are public interest pressure groups? Describe their functioning.
[CBSE OD, Term 2, Set 1, 2016]

Ans. Public interest group or public interest pressure group are those groups which seek to promote their interests for a large section of the society and not for its member only. For example, a group fighting against bonded labour or child labour. Public interest groups are also called promotional groups as they promote collective rather than selective good.

Functioning of Public Interest Group:

Sometimes the members of a public interest group may undertake activity that benefits them as well as others.

For example, BAMCEF (Backward Minorities Community Employees Federation), is an organisation which fights against caste discrimination.

Q. 7. "The struggle of the Nepali people is a source of inspiration to democrats all over the world." Support the statement.
[CBSE Delhi, Term 2, Set 1, 2015]

Ans. The autocratic decision of King Gyanendra in February 2005 resulted in protest by the political parties and people of Nepal. Political Parties having diverse ideology joined together and defied the curfew. The leaders rejected the half-hearted concessions made by the king, ultimately the king was compelled to concede all the three demands made by the protesters. Hence, this struggle of Nepalis known as the Second Movement for Democracy became a source of inspiration to democrats all over the world.



Long Answer Type Questions _____ (5 marks each)

Q. 1. Describe the popular struggle of Bolivia.
[CBSE OD, Term 2, Set 1, 2016]

Ans. The government of Bolivia, under pressure from the World Bank, decided to privatize water supply in the country's third largest city, Cochabamba.

People were dissatisfied with the decision of the government. Demonstrations and a general strike erupted in January 2000 in protest against the tariff increase and the perceived privatization of water resources.

The government arrested the leader of the protesters, Oscar Olivera. But the protests spread to the entire country and the government declared a state of emergency in April. Protests still continued and several people were killed.

The government finally released Oscar Olivera and signed an agreement with him stating that the concession would be ended.

It was due to such protests by the people that the MNC contract was cancelled and the municipal water supply was restored to old rates.

Q. 2. "Pressure groups and movements exert influence on politics in different ways." Support the statement with suitable examples.

[CBSE Delhi, Term 2, Set 1, 2016]

Ans. Influence of pressure groups and movements on politics:

- (i) Pressure groups and movements try to gain public support and sympathy for their goal.
- (ii) They carry out information campaigns, organize meetings and file petitions.
- (iii) They also try to influence media to give more attention to their issues.
- (iv) They often organize protest activity like strikes, etc.
- (v) Worker's organization employees, association and most of the movement groups force the government to consider their demands.

(vi) Business groups often employ professional lobbyists.

(vii) Some pressure groups formed and led by the leaders of political parties.

(viii) Some political parties grow out of movements.

Q. 3. "The democracy has been evolved through struggles and movements all over the world." Support the statement with examples.

[CBSE OD, Term 2, Set 2, 2015]

Ans. The democracy has been evolved through struggles and movements all over the world. These usually take place when the country is going through transition to democracy, expansion of democracy to deepening of democracy. This is evident with the case of Nepal and Bolivia. There was conflict in Nepal because it faced the foundational challenge. Bolivia on the other hand faced the challenge of expansion and deepening.

Examples:

(i) In Nepal, the movement of democracy was aimed at regaining popular control over the government from the king.

(ii) In Bolivia, the World Bank pressurised the government to give up its control of municipal water supply. The government sold these rights for the city of Cochabamba to a mutli-national company (MNC). After the struggle of Bolivians, the contract with the MNC was cancelled and water supply was restored to the municipality at old rates.

In both the cases the struggles involved mass mobilization. Public demonstration of mass support clinched the dispute. It is possible that some significant decisions may take place through consensus and may not involve any conflict. Democratic conflict is resolved through mass mobilization.



Q. 4. How do pressure groups and movements exert influence on politics? Explain with examples.

[CBSE Delhi, Term 2, Set 1, 3, 2015]

Ans. Pressure groups and movements create pressure on the political parties in the following ways:

(i) Raising Public issues: They try to gain support and sympathy for their goals, and their activities by carrying out information campaigns, organizing meetings, file petition, etc. Most of these groups try to influence the mass media into giving more attention to these issues.

(ii) Participation in the working of government: They often organize protest activities like strikes, disrupting government programmes. Workers organizations from pressure groups or movement groups may participate in official bodies and committees that offer advice to the government.

(iii) Impact on political parties: Most of the political parties take agenda from these organisations. Most of the movement groups take political stance without being a party.

(iv) New parties: These movements give birth to a new political party. DMK, AIADMK etc.