

# Outcomes of Democracy

---

## Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

**1. What role do 'checks and balances' play in a democratic country? (2024)**

Choose the most suitable option from the following.

- (a) To establish a direct form of government without representatives.
- (b) To create a separation of powers to prevent from authoritarianism.
- (c) To prevent any change to the Constitution.
- (d) To ensure absolute power for one branch of government.

**Answer.** (b) To create a separation of powers to prevent from authoritarianism.

**2. (A) How are democratic governments better than other forms of government? Explain. (2024)**

OR

**(B) How do democracies lead to peaceful and harmonious life among citizens? Explain.**

**Answer. (A) How are democratic government better than other forms of government? Explain.**

- i. Democratic government promote equality among its citizens.
- ii. Democratic government enhances the dignity of the individual.
- iii. Democratic government improves the quality of decision – making.
- iv. Democratic government provides a method to resolve conflicts.
- v. Democratic government allows room to correct mistakes.
- vi. Democratic government is accountable to its citizens.
- vii. Democratic government accommodates the social diversity.
- viii. Democratic government respects the civil and human rights. ix. Democratic government is a transparent government. x. Any other relevant point. Any five points to be explained

OR

(B) How do democracy lead to peaceful and harmonious life among citizen? Explain.

- i. Democracies try to produce harmonious social life
- ii. Democracies can better accommodate various social divisions.
- iii. Democracies usually develop a procedure to conduct their competition. This reduces the possibility of tensions becoming explosive or violent.
- iv. Democracies are better able to evolve mechanisms to handle and negotiate the social differences, divisions and conflict.
- v. Democracy is not simply rule by majority opinion.
- vi. Majority works with minority so that governments function to represent the general view.
- vii. Democracy promotes dignity and freedom of individuals
- viii. Promotes equality among citizens;
- ix. Improves the quality of decision-making;
- x. Provides a method to resolve conflict
- xi. Any other relevant point. Any five points to be explained

### How do we Assess Democracy's Outcomes?; Accountable, Responsive and Legitimate Government

#### MCQ

1. Which one of the following is the most popular form of government in the contemporary world? (2023, AI 2014)
  - (a) Dictatorial Government
  - (b) Constitutional Monarchy
  - (c) Military Government
  - (d) Democratic Government
2. Which type of government is likely to be more acceptable to the people in the world?
  - (a) Democratic
  - (b) Military
  - (c) Dictatorship
  - (d) Theocratic (2023)
3. Which one of the following is a foundational challenge of democracy?
  - (a) Empowering women

- (b) Keeping military away from controlling government
- (c) Ensuring greater power to local governments
- (d) Empowering minority groups (Foreign 2017)

4. Which one of the following is an example of outcomes of a democracy that produces an accountable government? (Delhi 2014)

- (a) Open to public debates on major policies and legislation
- (b) Open in promoting economic development
- (c) Open in reducing economic inequalities
- (d) Open to rulers elected by the people

12. Democratic government is legitimate government support the statement with suitable arguments. (Term-II, 2021-22 C)

**OR**

Why is democratic government known as legitimate government? Explain. (Foreign 2014)

13. How is democratic government known as responsive government? Explain with examples. (Term-11, 2021-22 C, AI 2014) An

14. How do democratic governments transparency? Explain. ensure (2019 C)

15. On the basis of which values will it be a fair expectation that democracy should produce a harmonious social life? Explain. (Foreign 2017)

16. Which values make democracy better than any other form of governments? Explain. (Foreign 2017)

17. How can a democratic government be made accountable? Explain. (2016)

18. Examine the political outcome of democracy. (2016)

19. What are the expected outcomes of democracy? Explain. (2015)

20. State any three merits of democracy. (2015)

21. "The cost of time that democracy pays is perhaps worth it." Justify. (AI 2014)

**LA (5 marks)**

22. "Democracy produces an accountable, responsive and legitimate government." Support the statement with arguments. (2023)

23. "There is an overwhelming support for the idea of democracy all over the world". Support the statement with examples. (2023)

**OR**

Analyse the reasons for the overwhelming support for the idea of democracy all over the world. (Term-II, 2021-22)

24. "Democracy is a better form of government than any other alternative". Analyse the statement. (Term-II, 2021-22, 2020)

25. "Democracy is attentive to the needs and demands of the people". Justify the statement. (Term-II, 2021-22)

26. Describe the importance of democratic government as an accountable and legitimate government. (Delhi 2019)

27. Describe any five characteristics of democracy. (AI 2017)

## **Economic Growth and Development; Reduction of Inequality and Poverty**

### **MCQ**

28. Which one of the following types of government promotes equality among citizens? (2021 C)

- (a) Democracy
- (b) Dictatorship
- (c) Autocracy
- (d) Aristocracy

### **VSA (1 mark)**

29. What is meant by economic inequality? (2016)

### **SAI (3 marks)**

30. "Democracies are not appearing to be very successful in reducing economic inequalities." Analyse the statement. (2019, 2016)

**OR**



Evidence shows that in practice, many democracies did not fulfill the expectations of producing economic development in the country. Validate the statement with the help of relevant example. (2016)

31. Establish the relationship between democracy and development. (2016)  
Accommodation of Social Diversity; Dignity and Freedom of the Citizens

**VSA (1/2 mark)**

32. Mention the two conditions that democracy must fulfill in order to achieve a harmonious social life. (Term-II, 2021-22)

33. Explain the meaning of 'sectional interest group. (Foreign 2017)

34. Name any two sectional interest groups. (AI 2016)

35. Which system can reduce the possibility of tension and conflict among different groups of society? (2016)

**SAI (3 marks)**

36. "Democracy enhances the dignity and freedom of individuals." Support the statement. (Term-11, 2021-22 C) Ap

37. "Democracy accommodates social Support the statement with examples. diversities". (2016)

38. When is democracy considered successful? Explain. (2015)

39. What are the two conditions to accommodate social diversities in a democracy? Mention any one exception to this. (2015)

**LA (5 marks)**

40. "Democracy stands much superior to any other forms of governments in promoting dignity and freedom of the individual." Support the statement with arguments. (2023)

**OR**

"Democracy stands much superior in promoting dignity and freedom of the citizens". Justify the statement. (Term-11, 2021-22 C, 2015, 2014)

41. "Democracies accommodate social diversities and provide dignity and freedom to the citizens". Justify the statement. (Term-11, 2021-22, 2020) An

42. How does democracy produce a harmonious social life? Explain. (Term-II, 2021-22 C)

**OR**

"Democracies lead to peaceful and harmonious life among citizens." Justify this statement. (2018)

43. Describe the role of citizens in a democracy. (2016)

44. "A public expression of dissatisfaction with democracy shows the success of democratic project." Justify the statement. (2016)

45. "Some people think that democracy produces a less effective government." Analyse the statement. (Foreign 2015)

### **CBSE Sample Questions**

#### **How do we Assess Democracy Outcomes?; Accountable, Responsive and Legitimate Government**

**MCQ**

1. There are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Mark your answer as per the codes provided below:

Assertion (A): Democracy is an accountable, responsive and legitimate government.

Reason (R): Democracy have regular, free and fair elections and decision-making is based on norms and procedures.

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is true but R is false.
- (d) A is false but R is true. (2022-23)

**SAI (3 marks)**

2. Differentiate between democratic and non- democratic government. (2022-23)

**SA II (4 marks)**

3. Read the given source and answer the following questions.

In a democracy, we are most concerned with ensuring that people will have the right to choose their rulers and people will have control over the rulers. Whenever possible and necessary, citizens should be able to participate in decision-making, that affects them all. Therefore, the most basic outcome 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. Some people think that democracy produces less effective government. It is, of course, true that non-democratic rulers are very quick and efficient in decision-making and implementation, whereas, democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation. So, some delay is bound to take place. But, because it has followed procedures, its decisions may be both more acceptable to the people and more effective. Moreover, when citizens want to know if a decision was taken through the correct procedures, they can find this out. They have the right and the means to examine the process of decision making. This is known as transparency. This factor is often missing from a non-democratic government. There is another aspect in which democratic government is certainly better than its alternatives: democratic government is legitimate government. It may be slow, less efficient, not always very responsive, or clean. But a democratic government is people's own government.

Answer the following MCQs by choosing the most appropriate option.

- (i) People's right to choose their own rulers is called as the
- (a) Right to Initiate
  - (b) Right to Plebiscite
  - (c) Right to Vote
  - (d) Right to Referendum
- (ii) Which of the following options helps in promoting transparency in the governance?
- (a) Right to education
  - (b) Right to information
  - (c) Right against exploitation
  - (d) Right to speech and expression
- (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ make/s the government legitimate.
- (a) Credibility of politicians
  - (b) People's movements

- (c) Free and fair elections
- (d) Holding of powers
- (iv) Decisions in a democracy are more acceptable to the people because they are
  - (a) Taken swiftly and implemented quickly
  - (b) Taken by giving privileges to the people
  - (c) Taken through elites' votes
  - (d) Taken after following due processes (2020-21)

**LA (5 marks)**

4. "Democracy's ability to generate its own support is itself an outcome that cannot be ignored." Support the statement with examples. (Term-II, 2021-22)

## ANSWERS

### Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

1. (d): Democratic government
2. (a): Democratic
3. (b): Keeping military away from controlling government.
4. (d): Open to rulers elected by the government
5. The word democracy literally mean people's rule. In a democracy, every citizen vote has the same value irrespective of gender, caste, religion, or race. This ensures political equality among its citizens. It is a form of government in which people either directly or indirectly participate in decision making that affect them, though the system of representation.
6. Democracy is a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives.
7. Economic development
8. Democratic form of government is better.
9. To examine the process of decision-making in a democracy is known as transparency.





10. (i) It promotes equality among citizens.  
(ii) It enhances the dignity of the individual.

11.

Democracy's ability to generate its own support is itself an outcome of that cannot be ignored.

1. DEMANDS AND WISHES: As people's expectations are fulfilled, they come up with even more expectations for democracy.

2. TESTIMONY: This shows that the evaluation of democracy is never over. People's complaints themselves act as a testimony to the success of democracy. It elucidates that people have understood the main philosophy of democracy. They have become aware of their power to support or restrain the government.

3. STATUS: Democracy has transformed people from the status of objects to subjects.  
∴ People wish to be ruled by the representatives elected by them and want to participate in democracy.

[Topper's Answer, 2022]

12. A democratic government is called legitimate government because it is people's own government.

- (i) It may be slow, less efficient and may have other flaws but it is people's government.
- (ii) There is an overwhelming support for the idea of democracy all over the world. People of South Asia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan and Nepal have no doubt about the suitability of democracy for their country.
- (iii) People wish to be ruled by representatives elected by them. Democracy's ability to generate its own support makes it more legitimate.

13. A democratic government has to be responsive to the needs of its citizens.

- (i) Through discussions and public opinions the democratic government can check the popularity of its decisions and mechanism of administering justice.
- (ii) A government which is able to respond to grievances faster is able to avoid



confrontation and provide good governance. Such governments are said to be responsive.

14. Following are the ways by which democratic government ensures transparency:

- (i) Democratic government ensures that the decision making process is based on proper norms and procedures.
- (ii) Citizens have the right to examine the process of decision making.
- (iii) A democratic government develops mechanism for the citizens to hold the government accountable and mechanism for citizens to take part in decision making whenever they think fit.

15. A democratic government must safeguard the fundamental rights of every citizen. This is the basis of a harmonious social life. The values that must be followed are:

- (i) The rulers elected by the people must take all the major decisions and be responsible to them.
- (ii) Elections must offer a choice and fair opportunity to the people to change the current government.
- (iii) This choice and opportunity should be available to all the people equally.
- (iv) The government must be limited by basic rules of the constitution and citizen's rights.

16. Democracy means rule of people. That is of the people, for the people and by the people. Democracy is a form of government in which all eligible citizens participate equally-either directly or through elected representatives. Values it represents are:

- (i) Freedom of expression is granted in a democratic nation. For example, the role of media. It allows people to form groups, and indulge in peaceful protests to vent their grievances.
- (ii) Democracy represents the views and opinions of all the citizens of the country, whether in majority or minority.
- (iii) Solving conflicts and quarrels by discussion and negotiation.
- (iv) Dignity to the people of every section of the society.

17. A democratic government can be made accountable by:

- (i) Conducting discussions and negotiations.
- (ii) Ensuring transparency.

- (iii) Holding regular, free and fair elections.
- (iv) Having an independent media.

18. (i) Democracy provides right to the citizens to choose their leaders and keep a check on them.

(ii) If required people can participate in decision-making either directly or through representatives.

(iii) It produces accountable, responsive and legitimate government.

19. The expected outcomes of democracy are as follows:

(i) The government is accountable to the people.

(ii) The government is responsive to the needs of the people.

(iii) Economic growth and development reducing all forms of inequality and end of poverty is expected.

(iv) Accommodating all social diversities happen.

(v) It ensures dignity and freedom of the individuals.

20. Merits of democracy are:

(i) Democracy assures equality in every sphere of life like political, social and economic.

(ii) It upholds basic individual liberties like freedom of speech, etc.

(iii) In a democracy transparency in governance is achieved.

21. (i) Imagine a government that may take decisions very fast. But it may take decisions that are not accepted by the people and may, therefore, face problems.

(ii) In contrast, the democratic governments take more time to follow procedure before arriving at a decision.

(iii) However, because it has followed procedure, its decisions may be more acceptable to the people and more effective. So, the cost of time that democracy pays is worth it.

22. Democracy produces an accountable, responsive and legitimate Government. This statement can be explained on the following grounds:

(i) The government can be responsible when people start taking actions when the government becomes insensitive about their aspirations. People can hold protests, carry out campaigns and organise rallies and force the government to respond to them.

(ii) A democratic government is a legitimate government, as it is elected by

citizens and enjoys the confidence and trust of the citizens.

(iii) People have the right to choose their rulers and they have control over their rulers. Citizens can participate in decision making.

(iv) Democracy makes the point that decision making is based on norms and procedures. So, a citizen who wants to know if a decision was taken through the correct procedures, can find out this information.

(v) A democratic government is the people's own government and it is run by the people. People are ruled by representatives elected by them.

23. Despite any shortcomings that we might witness in a democratic model of governance, it is still the most preferred form of government all over the world including in South Asia. Some reasons for this are given below:

(i) People have the right to choose who governs them through regular elections.

(ii) The elected government is answerable to the people and to ensure its stability, and has to deliver its promises.

(iii) Democracy ensures transparency.

(iv) It accommodates diversity and promotes inclusion and equality.

(v) It gives an equal chance of participation to all the citizens.

(vi) An important pillar of democracy is ensuring the dignity and freedom of people.

(vii) The true power lies with people.

(viii) Lastly, democracy has proven to be a better model than dictatorship, aristocracy, or any other form of governance.

24. Democratic system is better than any other form of governments due to following reasons:

(i) Democratic government is accountable to the people. It gives responses to the people related to any issues.

(ii) Democratic government gives political and economic rights to the citizens.

(iii) All citizens are considered equal before the law.

(iv) People can participate in the decision-making process.

(v) If government is not functioning in a proper way, people can change the government in the next elections.

(vi) Power is shared among different organs and levels of the government.

25. (i) Democracy ensures that decision making will be based on norms and procedure.

- (ii) Every citizen has the right and means to examine the process of decision making.
- (iii) Democratic governments are accountable, legitimate and transparent governments.
- (iv) People have the right to choose their rulers.
- (v) Democracy gives its citizens the right to information about the government.
- (vi) A democratic government is the people's own government and it is run by the people.
- (vii) Democracy provides dignity and freedom to its citizens.
- (viii) Democracy accommodates social diversity.

26. Democratic government can be said to be accountable and legitimate government. The following reasons can be scribed to it: Accountable government:

- (i) When people choose their representatives, they are expected to be accountable, this is the basic outcome of democracy.
- (ii) The citizens have the right and also the means to examine the process of decision making, that is high level of accountability is expected.
- (iii) The government is expected to practice regular, free and fair elections and open discussions on important issues.
- (iv) Democratic government can apparently be less efficient than a non-democratic government. This happens because a non-democratic government does not need to arrive at consensus among a diverse set of people.

Democracy functions on the basis of deliberation and negotiation and hence decisions are often delayed. But this does not mean that a democratic government is less efficient. Legitimate government:

- (i) A democratic government is people's own government. That is why there is an overwhelming support for the idea of democracy all over the world and there is the element of legitimacy attached to it.
- (ii) People wish to be ruled by representatives elected by them. They also believe that democracy is suitable for their country. Democracy's ability to generate support for itself is an outcome that cannot be ignored.
- (iii) Though there are many reports of democracies ignoring the demands of people and there are routine tales of corruption but yet chances of governments improving only exists in democratic set-up.

27. The characteristics of democracy are:

- (i) Elected representatives rule the country.
- (ii) Elections that are free and fair are held at regular periodicity.
- (iii) Rights of the individual citizen are protected and rule of law prevails that is equal for everyone.
- (iv) Independent judiciary functions without the intervention of the rulers.
- (v) Opposition parties question the actions of the rulers and thus ensure good governance.
- (vi) Freedom of religion and culture is ensured.

28. (a): Democracy

29. It refers to disparities in the distribution of economic assets and income.

30. Democracies fail to fulfill the expectations of economic development:

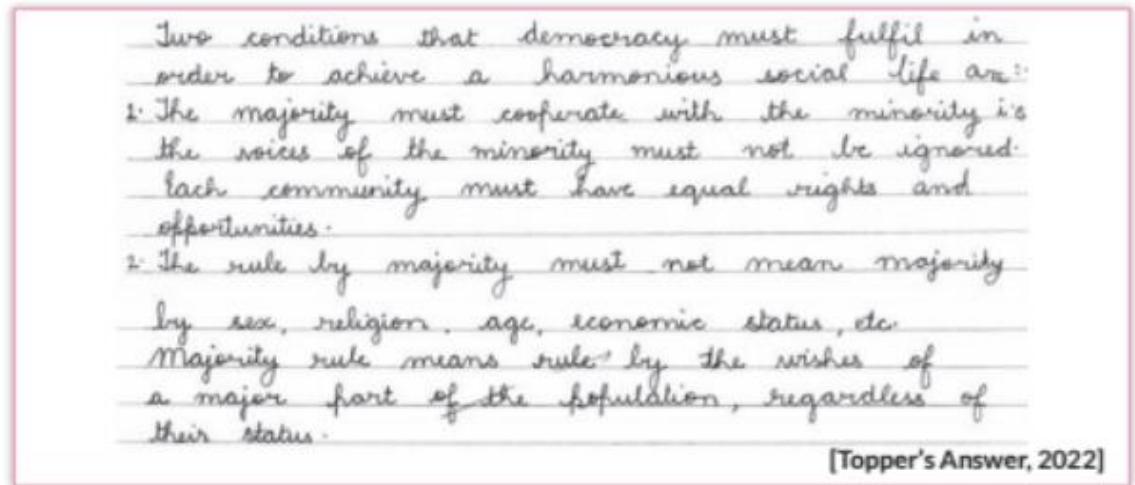
- (i) Slow economic development and economic growth can be due to large population.
- (ii) Basic needs of life, such as food, clothing, shelter are difficult to achieve in certain democracies.
- (iii) Prevalence of economic inequalities are often seen.
- (iv) Poverty is still a big issue.
- (v) Allocation of resources in few hands.
- (vi) Unjust distribution of goods and opportunities. However despite mediocre economic outcomes democracy is preferred for the dignity it provides to every citizen.

31. In general, there is a healthy relationship between democracy and development. However,

- (i) Experience from poor countries shows that economic growth under dictatorship regime has been slightly faster. However such societies lack positive social aspects of personal dignity and freedom.
- (ii) It can be said that in democracies, opportunities for economic growth are available to a large section of the population. This indicates that the chances of economic inequality is reduced.
- (iii) A democratic government is more likely to spend resources on public projects such as education, health, public transport, etc., which has a positive effect on the population. Thus holistically democracy scores much more than dictatorship.
- (iv) Democracy provides better conflict resolution by discussion and negotiation;

rather than through violent means which destroys public resources, property and morale of the people.

32.



33. Sectional interest groups seek to represent the common interests of a particular section of society. As a result, members of sectional pressure groups are directly and personally concerned with the outcome of the campaign fought by the group because they usually stand to gain from it.

34. Labours' Union and Farmer Associations are two sectional interest groups.

35. Democracies have an advantage in resolving social differences, diversion and conflicts because they have evolved a mechanism to negotiate the differences.

36. Democracy enhances the dignity and freedom of individual. This statement is supported on the basis of

- (i) The societies which have been built on the basis of subordination and domination, democracy recognise that all individuals are equal.
- (ii) For women, most societies are male dominated. But democracy recognise the equality of women as well.
- (iii) Same in the case of caste inequalities. Democracy give equal status and opportunities to all sections of society.

37. "Democracy accommodates social diversities":

- (i) Democracies develop a procedure to deal with conflicts. This reduces the possibility of the tensions becoming explosive or violent.



(ii) No society can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups. But we can certainly learn to

38. Democracy is considered to be successful if:

(i) The government elected by the people must take all major decisions and not be influenced by the rich and powerful people.

(ii) The election must offer a free choice and opportunity to the people to select its leaders.

(iii) The choice should be available to all the people based on political equality and without any coercion.

39. (i) It is necessary to understand that democracy is not simply rule by majority. The majority always needs to work with the minority so that governments function to represent the general view.

(ii) It is also necessary that rule by majority does not become rule by majority community in terms of religion or race or linguistic group. The exception is in the government of Sri Lanka where majoritarianism is followed leading to many problems.

40. "Democracy stands much superior in promoting dignity and freedom of the citizens":

(i) Every individual wants to receive respect from fellow beings. Democracy provides fundamental rights to every citizen.

(ii) Freedom from coercion is basis of any democracy, where everyone can have faith of choice.

(iii) In a democracy people have equal opportunities so they can come up in life. They are not discriminated on the basis of caste or gender.

(iv) Long struggles by women have got them respect and equal treatment. In many democracies, women were deprived of their right to vote for a long time which they have achieved now. In India 1/3rd of seats have been reserved for women in local bodies.

(v) Democracy has strengthened the claims of the disadvantaged and discriminated castes for equal status and equal opportunity.

41. Democracy promotes dignity and freedom of the people:

(i) Democracy stands much superior to any other form of government in promoting dignity and freedom of the people.

(ii) It promotes equality among citizen and hence increases respect for each





other among citizen.

- (iii) Respect and freedom have been recognised as the basis of democracy.
- (iv) Freedom and equality to women
- (v) Strengthened the claims of the disadvantaged and discriminated castes for equal status and equal opportunity.
- (vi) Majority-minority coordination.

42. Democracies lead to peaceful and harmonious life among citizens:

Democracy provides the opportunity to negotiate the differences and decide on what is better for everyone. Non-democratic regimes usually just ignore the internal problems or suppress it. Democracy ensures inclusion of every group including minorities and its interests in the decision-making.

Democracy is considered better because:

- (i) It promotes equality among citizens.
- (ii) It recognises and enhances the dignity of the individual.
- (iii) It improves the quality of decision-making.
- (iv) It provides a method to resolve conflicts.
- (v) It allows room to correct mistakes.

43. The role of citizens in a democracy are as follows:

- (i) Citizens must exercise their rights and freedom to get benefited from democratic set-up.
- (ii) They must be aware of their rights and duties.
- (iii) They should be aware of the local issues and greater problems the country is facing.
- (iv) They must cooperate in maintaining law and order.
- (v) People must be sensitive to the needs and interest of others.

44. A public expression of dissatisfaction with democracy shows the success of democratic project.

- (i) It shows that people have developed awareness and the courage to ask questions.
- (ii) When people look critically at the government, democracy becomes better.
- (iii) When people complain, government begins to perform better.
- (iv) They value their democratic rights and make use of it.

45. It is true that some people think that democracy produces a less effective government because:

- (i) Non-democratic rulers do not have to bother about deliberation in assemblies or worry about public opinion.
- (ii) They can be very quick and efficient in decision making and implementation.
- (iii) But democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation. So some delay is bound to take place.
- (iv) Some democracies fall short in providing a fair chance to everyone in selecting their leaders.
- (v) Democratic governments do not have a very good record when it comes to sharing information with citizens.
- (vi) Democracies often frustrate the needs of the people and often ignore the demands of a section of its population.

### **CBSE Sample Questions**

1. (a): Both A and R true and R is the correct explanation of A.

(1)

2. (i) Democratic governments are transparent, legitimate and accountable whereas non-democratic governments are selected and formed at their own discretion.

(ii) Democratic government is accountable to the people. It gives response to the people related to any issues.

(iii) Democratic government gives political and economic rights to the citizens.

(iv) All citizens are considered equal without any discrimination.

(v) Power is shared among different organs and levels of the government.

3. (i) (c): Right to Vote (1) (3x1)

(ii) (b): Right to information (1)

(iii) (c): Free and fair elections (1)

(iv) (d): Taken after following due processes (1)

4. (i) Democracy ensures that decision-making will be based on norms and procedure.

(ii) Every citizen has the right and means to examine the process of decision-making.

(iii) Democratic governments are accountable, legitimate and transparent governments.

(iv) People have the right to choose their rulers.

(v) Democracy gives its citizens the right to information about the government and its functioning.

(vi) A democratic government is the people's own government and it is run by the people.

(Any five points to be explained.) (5 x 1)