

# Gender, Religion and Caste

## Fastrack Revision

- ▶ **Gender division** is a hierarchical social division seen everywhere. It is based on social expectations and stereotypes and it tends to be understood as natural and unchangeable. This division is found in public life as well as private life.
- ▶ In most families, women work inside their homes such as cooking, cleaning, washing clothes, tailoring, looking after the children, etc., and men work outside.
- ▶ The role of women in politics is minimal in most societies, even though they constitute half of the humanity.
- ▶ Earlier, only men were allowed to vote and contest for elections. Gradually, gender issue was raised in politics. Women in different parts of the world organised and agitated for equal rights and also for the extension of voting rights to women.
- ▶ Now women are working as doctors, scientists, lawyers, managers and college and university teachers which were earlier not considered suitable for women.
- ▶ Indian society is a male dominated patriarchal society. Women, even today, face disadvantage, discrimination and oppression.
- ▶ The literacy rate among women is only 54 per cent as compared with 76 per cent among men.
- ▶ The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 provides that equal wages should be paid for equal work, yet in almost all areas of work, women are paid less than men though both do exactly the same work.
- ▶ Number of women per thousand men is very less as Indian parents find ways to have the girl child aborted before she is born. Such sex-selective abortions have led to a decline in child sex ratio (number of girls per thousand boys) in the country to merely 919.

### Knowledge BOOSTER

*In India, the proportion of women in legislature has been very low. India is among the bottom group of nations in the world on the basis of women representation.*

- ▶ Issues related to women are not given adequate attention. So, there is a need to increase their political representation. One way to solve this problem is to make it legally binding to have a fair proportion of women in the elected bodies. The bill to this effect is pending before the Parliament for more than a decade and has not yet been passed.
- ▶ Social differences also exist in a country in the form of different **religions** and they affect the political scene of the country.
- ▶ Communal politics is based on the idea that religion is the principal basis of social community. 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.

- ▶ Under this form, belief of one religion are deemed to be superior to those of another and state power is used to establish domination of one religious group over the others.
- ▶ A communal mind often leads to a quest for political dominance of one's own religious community. This can manifest in the following two forms:
  - ▶ For those belonging to majority community, this takes the form of majoritarian dominance.
  - ▶ For those belonging to minority community, it takes the desire to form a separate political unit.
- ▶ Communalism, though not justified, is promoted by many political parties and is a major challenge for our country. The makers of our Constitution were aware of this challenge and therefore choose the model of secular state. In a secular state, communalism does not have any space.

### Knowledge BOOSTER

*Human rights group in our country have argued that most of the victims of communal riots in our country are people from religious minorities. So, they have demanded that the government should take special steps to protect religious minorities.*

- ▶ The Constitution provides to all individuals and communities freedom to profess, practise and propagate any religion or not to follow any.
- ▶ Social division in a society also takes place on the basis of caste and politics on the basis of caste is common in India.
- ▶ When parties choose candidates, they keep in their mind the caste composition of the electorate and nominate candidates from different castes so as to muster necessary support to win elections.
- ▶ Caste system was based on exclusion of and discrimination against the 'outcaste' groups. They were subjected to the inhuman practice of untouchability.
- ▶ The Constitution of India prohibited any caste-based discrimination and laid the foundations of policies to reverse the injustices of the caste system.
- ▶ Political leaders and social reformers like Jyotiba Phule, Gandhiji, BR Ambedkar and Periyar Ramaswami Naicker advocated and worked to establish a society in which caste inequalities are absent.





## Practice Exercise



### Multiple Choice Questions

- Q 1. When we speak of gender divisions, we usually refer to:** (NCERT)
- biological difference between men and women
  - unequal roles assigned by the society to men and women
  - unequal child sex ratio
  - absence of voting rights for women in democracies
- Q 2. Sexual division of labour signifies that:**
- Gender division emphasises division on the basis of nature of work.
  - Division between men and women.
  - Caste is the basis of gender division.
  - Work decides the division between men and women.
- (i), (iii) and (iv)
  - (i), (ii) and (iv)
  - (i) and (iii)
  - (i) and (iv)
- Q 3. What does caste hierarchy mean?**
- A shift from rural areas to urban areas.
  - Shift from one occupation to another.
  - A ladder-like formation in which all caste-groups are placed from the highest to the lowest.
  - None of the above
- Q 4. What is patriarchy?**
- A system where mother is the head of the family.
  - A system where there is no head of the family.
  - A system where father is the head of the family.
  - A system where grandparents have control over family matters.
- Q 5. What is the lowest child sex ratio in some places in India?**
- 927
  - 840
  - 820
  - 800
- Q 6. What is the per cent of total strength that the percentage of elected women members in the Lok Sabha has never reached?**
- 25%
  - 15%
  - 10%
  - 5%
- Q 7. Which great changes caste system in modern India has undergone with?**
- Fundamental
  - Socio-economic
  - Cultural
  - Professional
- Q 8. What is leading to the breakdown of caste hierarchy?**
- Large scale urbanisation
  - Growth of literacy and education
  - Occupational mobility
  - All of the above
- Q 9. In India, where are the seats reserved for women?**
- Lok Sabha
  - State Legislative Assemblies
  - Cabinets
  - Panchayati Raj Bodies
- Q 10. Which of these is true about the most ugly form of communalism?**
- Communal violence
  - Plots
  - Massacre
  - All of these
- Q 11. What is meant by 'communal politics'?**
- Participation of different communities in politics
  - When state power is used to establish domination of one religious group over the rest
  - Communist type of government
  - All of the above
- Q 12. Consider the following statements on the meaning of communal politics. Communal politics is based on the belief that:** (NCERT)
- One religion is superior to that of others.
  - People belonging to different religions can live together.
  - Followers of a particular religion constitute one community.
  - State power cannot be used to establish the domination of one religious group over others.
- Which of the statements is/are correct?**
- (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv)
  - (i), (ii) and (iv)
  - (i) and (iii)
  - (ii) and (iv)
- Q 13. Which one of the following statements is not true?** (CBSE 2023)
- The Constitution prohibits discrimination on the grounds of religion.
  - The Constitution allows us to practice, profess and propagate any religion or not to follow any.
  - The Constitution of India allows the state to intervene in the matters of religion in order to ensure equality within religious communities.
  - As per the Constitution, religion can never be separated from politics.
- Q 14. Communal politics is based on the idea that religion is the principal basis of:**
- social community
  - society
  - people
  - None of these
- Q 15. Most of the victims of communal riots in our country are:**
- people from religious minorities
  - women and children
  - illiterate people
  - All of the above

- Q 16. Communal politics is based on the idea of:**  
 a. caste is the basis of social community  
 b. religion and caste are the basis of social community  
 c. religion is the basis of social community  
 d. None of the above

- Q 17. Which of the following divisions is unique to India?**  
 a. Gender division                      b. Caste division  
 c. Economic division                  d. Religious division

- Q 18. 'Process to shift from one occupation to another, usually it is being practised by the new generation'. It is significant to:**  
 a. social change  
 b. secular state  
 c. occupational mobility  
 d. communal representation

- Q 19. Match the column I with column II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the table:** (NCERT)

Column I	Column II
A. A person who believes in equal rights and opportunities for women and men	1. Communalist
B. A person who says that religion is the principal basis of the community	2. Feminist
C. A person who thinks that caste is the principal basis of community	3. Secularist
D. A person who does not discriminate against others on the basis of religious beliefs	4. Castiest

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| A   B   C   D    | A   B   C   D    |
| a. 2   3   1   4 | b. 2   1   4   3 |
| c. 4   3   1   2 | d. 3   1   2   4 |

- Q 20. Read the following information and choose the correct option based on it.**  
**People of one religion do not have the same interests and aspirations in every context. Everyone has several other roles, positions and identities. There are many voices inside every community. All these voices have a right to be heard. Therefore, any attempt to bring all followers of one religion together in context other than religion is bound to suppress many voices within that community.**  
 a. Women's political representation  
 b. Gender and politics  
 c. Communalism  
 d. Secular state

- Q 21. Match the following:**

Column I	Column II
A. Caste hierarchy	1. Discrimination on the grounds of caste
B. Castelism	2. Fixed image or idea about a particular person

- |               |                                                   |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| C. Patriarchy | 3. Caste groups are placed from highest to lowest |
| D. Stereotype | 4. Rule by father                                 |

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| A   B   C   D    | A   B   C   D    |
| a. 3   1   2   4 | b. 3   1   4   2 |
| c. 1   2   3   4 | d. 2   1   3   4 |

- Q 22. Participation of women in public life is relatively low in countries like:**  
 a. Norway                                      b. Sweden  
 c. Finland                                        d. Bangladesh

- Q 23. Which of these matters deal with the 'Family Laws'?**  
 a. Marriage and divorce                  b. Adoption  
 c. Inheritance                                d. All of these

- Q 24. Which of these countries has no official state religion?**  
 a. Sri Lanka                                      b. Pakistan  
 c. England                                        d. All of these

- Q 25. What did Gandhiji mean when he said that religion and politics can never be separated?**  
 a. Effect of Hinduism on politics is more  
 b. Effect of Islam on politics is more  
 c. Need moral values in politics  
 d. None of the above

- Q 26. Which statement is true for secularism/secular state?**  
 a. Recognises every religion and gives due importance to every religion.  
 b. It is based on the idea that religion is the sole basis of the social community.  
 c. Secular state has its official religion.  
 d. No official religion for the secular state.

- Q 27. In which countries women are given high profile?**  
 a. Saudi Arabia, Sweden and Norway  
 b. Sweden, Norway and Finland  
 c. France, Switzerland and Saudi Arabia  
 d. Norway, Finland and Saudi Arabia

- Q 28. Which of the following is prohibited by the Indian Constitution?**  
 a. Discrimination only on the basis of gender.  
 b. Discrimination only on the basis of caste.  
 c. Discrimination on the basis of gender, religion and caste.  
 d. Discrimination on the basis of literacy level.

- Q 29. To provide representation of women in Panchayats and Municipalities, the following step has been taken:**  
 a. reservation for election to half of the seats for women  
 b. appointment of 1/3 women members  
 c. reservation for election to 1/3 of the seats for women  
 d. None of the above

**Q 30. Which of these acts provides that equal wages should be paid for equal work to both men and women?**

- a. Same Wages Act                      b. Equal Wages Act
- c. Wages Equality Act                d. Equality Wages Act

**Q 31. Identify the incorrect statement.**

- a. There is only one-way relation between caste and politics.
- b. Politics too influence the caste system.
- c. New kinds of caste-groups have come up in the political arena.
- d. None of the above

**Q 32. Which among the following statements about India's Constitution is wrong? (NCERT)**

- a. It prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion.
- b. It gives official status to one religion.
- c. It provides to all individuals freedom to profess any religion.
- d. It ensures equality of citizens within religious communities.

**Q 33. Which leaders worked for the elimination of the caste system in India?**

- a. Jyotiba Phule, Dr. BR Ambedkar, Mahatma Gandhi and Periyar Ramaswami Naicker
- b. Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Dr. BR Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi
- c. Jyotiba Phule, Periyar Ramaswami Naicker and Mahatma Gandhi
- d. Swami Vivekananda, Jyotiba Phule and Raja Ram Mohan Roy

**Q 34. Who among the following is a feminist?**

- a. Someone who does not believe in equal rights and opportunities for men and women.
- b. Someone believes in equal rights and opportunities for men and women.
- c. Someone who believes in secularism.
- d. None of the above

**Q 35. 'Feminist movements' are aimed at:**

- a. liberty                                      b. equality
- c. participation                              d. power

**Q 36. Identify the statements which suggest that it is not politics that gets caste-ridden, it is the caste that gets politicised.**

- (i) When government are formed, political parties take care that representatives of different castes find a place in it.
- (ii) Each caste group incorporates neighbouring castes which were earlier excluded.
- (iii) Various caste groups enter into a coalition with other castes.
- (iv) Political parties and candidates in elections make appeals to caste sentiments.

- a. (i), (ii) and (iv)                      b. (ii), (iii), and (iv)
- c. (ii) and (iii)                              d. (i) and (iv)

**Q 37. Identify two reasons which state that caste alone cannot determine elections in India.**

- (i) No party wins the votes of all the voters of a caste or community.

(ii) Some political parties are known to favour some castes and are seen as their representatives.

(iii) No parliamentary constituency in the country has a clear majority of one single caste.

(iv) Mobilising and securing political support has brought new consciousness among the lower castes.

- a. (i) and (iii)
- b. (i) and (iv)
- c. (ii) and (iii)
- d. (ii) and (iv)

**Q 38. If a government provides its citizens a right and means to examine the process of decision, it is .....** (CBSE SQP 2023-24)

- a. an accountable government
- b. responsible government
- c. transparent government
- d. stable government

**Q 39. Read the following statements carefully and choose the correct option:**

**Statement (I): Stereotypical gender roles for males and females helps in avoiding conflicts.**

**Statement (II): India is a matriarchal society.**

- a. Statement (I) is correct and (II) is incorrect.
- b. Statement (I) is incorrect and (II) is correct.
- c. Both statements are incorrect.
- d. Both statements are correct.

**Q 40. Read the following statements carefully and choose the correct option:**

**Statement (I): Sometimes a caste group becomes vote bank for a party.**

**Statement (II): Selecting the candidate from same caste helps in insuring better governance.**

- a. Statement (I) is correct and (II) is incorrect.
- b. Statement (I) is incorrect and (II) is correct.
- c. Both statements are incorrect.
- d. Both statements are correct.



### **Assertion & Reason** Type Questions

**Directions (Q.Nos. 41-49):** In the following questions given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

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

**Q 41. Assertion (A): Traditionally Indian caste system is based on the principles of inclusion and equality.**

**Reason (R): The Constitution has prohibited caste based discrimination.**

**Q 42. Assertion (A):** Men and women should be given equal rights.  
**Reason (R):** Men are superior to women physically and emotionally.

**TiP**

Men and women should be given equal rights as both are equal in every respect. Thus, the reason is false.

**Q 43. Assertion (A):** Women face discrimination and disadvantage in India in many ways.  
**Reason (R):** India is a patriarchal society.

**TiP**

India is a patriarchal society where men are considered superior to women. Hence, women face discrimination and disadvantage in India in many ways. Yet, it is not justifiable. The reason explains the assertion.

**Q 44. Assertion (A):** Stereotypical gender roles for males and females help in avoiding conflicts.  
**Reason (R):** India is a patriarchal society.

**TiP**

Stereotypical gender roles, where females are expected to do household work and males are expected to earn living, is unjustifiable. The female should also get equal rights as the male. Also, India is a patriarchal society. Men are in authority over women in different aspects of society.

**Q 45. Assertion (A):** Communal politics is based on the idea that religion is the principal basis of social community.  
**Reason (R):** A communal mind leads to a quest for political dominance of one's own religious community.

**Q 46. Assertion (A):** A castiest is a person who thinks that caste is the principal basis of community.  
**Reason (R):** All castes are equal and man-made.

**TiP**

A castiest is a person who thinks that caste is the principal basis of community. However, such a belief is faulty as everyone is equal and no caste is superior to other. Thus, both reason and assertion are true but the reason does not explain the assertion.

**Q 47. Assertion (A):** Sometimes a caste group becomes vote bank for a party.  
**Reason (R):** Selecting the candidate from same caste helps in ensuring better governance.

**TiP**

Sometimes a caste group becomes vote bank for a party as people select the candidate belonging to their own caste. This helps in representing and communicating their personal interests on a wider front. However, it is wrong to select a candidate on the basis of caste instead of personal abilities. Thus, the assertion is true but the reason is false.

**Q 48. Assertion (A):** India is a secular state.  
**Reason (R):** Constitution gives freedom to everyone to profess, practise and propagate any religion without prejudices or any discrimination.

**TiP**

India is a secular state. The Constitution gives freedom to everyone to profess, practise and propagate any religion. There is no official religion of India. The reason explains the assertion.

**Q 49. Assertion (A):** Communalism is based on the idea that religion is the principal basis of social community.  
**Reason (R):** Caste should be kept away from politics.

**TiP**

Communalism is based on the idea that religion is the principal basis of social community. It considers that people of different religion can't be equal citizen and one should dominate the other. Caste creates social conflicts and should be kept away from politics as it leads to violence. The reason, however true, does not explain the assertion.

**Answers**

- |         |         |         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (b)  | 2. (b)  | 3. (c)  | 4. (c)  | 5. (d)  |
| 6. (c)  | 7. (b)  | 8. (d)  | 9. (d)  | 10. (d) |
| 11. (b) | 12. (c) | 13. (d) | 14. (b) | 15. (a) |
| 16. (c) | 17. (b) | 18. (c) | 19. (b) | 20. (c) |
| 21. (b) | 22. (d) | 23. (d) | 24. (d) | 25. (c) |
| 26. (d) | 27. (b) | 28. (c) | 29. (c) | 30. (b) |
| 31. (a) | 32. (b) | 33. (a) | 34. (b) | 35. (b) |
| 36. (c) | 37. (a) | 38. (a) | 39. (c) | 40. (c) |
| 41. (c) | 42. (c) | 43. (a) | 44. (d) | 45. (b) |
| 46. (c) | 47. (c) | 48. (a) | 49. (b) |         |

**Source Based Questions**

**Source 1**

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

In India, the proportion of women in legislature has been very low. For example, the percentage of elected women members in Lok Sabha has touched 14.36 per cent of its total strength for the first time in 2019. Their share in the state assemblies is less than 5 per cent. In this respect, India is among the bottom group of nations in the world. India is behind the averages for

several developing countries of Africa and Latin America. In the government, cabinets are largely all-male even when a woman becomes the Chief Minister or the Prime Minister.

One way to solve this problem is to make it legally binding to have a fair proportion of women in the elected bodies. This is what the Panchayati Raj has done in India. One-third of seats in local government bodies – in Panchayats and Municipalities – are now reserved for women. Now, there are more than 10 lakh elected women representatives in rural and urban local bodies.

- Q 1. What was the share of elected women members in the State Assemblies in 2019?**
- a. 6 per cent                      b. 5 per cent  
c. 14.36 per cent                d. 15.36 per cent
- Q 2. Since the Panchayati Raj has done in India, what is the proportion of seats reserved for women in local government bodies?**
- a. One-fourth                      b. One-fifth  
c. One-third                        d. Half
- Q 3. How many elected women representatives are there in rural and urban local bodies?**
- a. Less than 10 lakh  
b. More than 10 lakh  
c. 10 lakh  
d. None of the above
- Q 4. Why was the Panchayati Raj done in India?**
- a. To remove exploitation and violence against women  
b. To have women in all areas of work  
c. To have more women as elected representatives  
d. To have a fair proportion of women in the elected bodies
- Q 5. In which Constitutional institution have seats been reserved for women?**
- a. Panchayats  
b. Municipalities  
c. Both a. and b.  
d. None of the above
- Q 6. From which of the developing countries the share of women legislators in India is behind?**
- a. Latin America  
b. Africa  
c. Both a. and b.  
d. None of the above

### Answers

1. (b)    2. (c)    3. (b)    4. (d)    5. (c)    6. (c)

## Source 2

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

The literacy rate among women is only 54 per cent as compared with 76 per cent among men. Similarly, a smaller proportion of girl students go for higher studies. Then we look at school results, girls perform equally or better than boys yet they drop out because parents prefer to spend their resources on their boys education rather than spending equally on their sons and daughter.

- Q 1. In India why do girls drop out from their studies?**
- a. In spite of doing well in their studies, Indian girls drop out from their studies because parents prefer to spend their resources only on their sons.  
b. In spite of doing well in their studies, Indian girls drop out from their studies because parents ask them to do jobs.  
c. In spite of doing well in their studies, Indian girls drop out from their studies because parents kill them.  
d. In spite of doing well in their studies, Indian girls drop out from their studies because parents start their home tuitions.
- Q 2. How much is the literacy rate of women in India?**
- a. The literacy rate of women in India is 24%  
b. The literacy rate of women in India is 64%  
c. The literacy rate of women in India is 54%  
d. The literacy rate of women in India is 94%.
- Q 3. How much is the literacy rate of men in India?**
- a. The literacy rate of men in India is 24%  
b. The literacy rate of men in India is 76%  
c. The literacy rate of men in India is 44%  
d. The literacy rate of men in India is 14%.
- Q 4. Who influence most to the women drop out from school early?**
- a. Parents influence most to the women to drop out from school early.  
b. Environment influence most to the women to drop out from school early  
c. School influence most to the women to drop out from school early.  
d. Men influence most to the women to drop out from school early.
- Q 5. Why the literacy rate among women in India is low in comparison to their counterparts?**
- a. Parents prefer to spend their resources for their sons' education.  
b. Parents force their daughters to do household works.  
c. More number of girl students go for higher studies.  
d. Parents prefer to have sons in many parts of India.

**Q 6. What are the ways in which women face disadvantages, discriminations and oppression?**

- Literacy rate among women is still less than men.
- Lesser number of girl students go for higher studies.
- There is less representation of women in elected bodies.
- All of the above

### Answers

1. (a) 2. (c) 3. (b) 4. (a) 5. (a) 6. (d)

### Source 3

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow:

Partly due to their efforts and partly due to other socio-economic changes, castes and caste system in modern India have undergone great changes. With economic development, large scale urbanisation, growth of literacy and education, occupational mobility and the weakening of the position of landlords in the villages, the old notions of caste hierarchy are breaking down. Now, most of the times, in urban areas it does not matter much who is walking along next to us on a street or eating at the next table in a restaurant. The Constitution of India prohibited any caste-based discrimination and laid the foundations of policies to reverse the injustices of the caste system. If a person who lived a century ago were to return to India, she would be greatly surprised at the change that has come about in the country. Yet caste has not disappeared from contemporary India. Some of the older aspects of caste have persisted. Even now most people marry within their own caste or tribe. Untouchability has not ended completely, despite constitutional prohibition. Effects of centuries of advantages and disadvantages continue to be felt today. The caste groups that had access to education under the old system have done very well in acquiring modern education as well. Those groups that did not have access to education or were prohibited from acquiring it have naturally lagged behind. That is why there is a disproportionately large presence of 'upper caste' among the urban middle classes in our country. Caste continues to be closely linked to economic status.

**Q 1. What are the reasons behind breaking down of old notions of caste hierarchy?**

**Ans.** The reasons are economic development, large scale urbanisation, growth of literacy and education, occupational mobility and weakening of the position of landlord in the villages.

**Q 2. Mention the changes undergone in castes and caste system in modern India.**

**Ans.** The changes that have been undergone in castes and caste system in modern India are:

- Caste hierarchy has been removed with economic development, large scale urbanisation, growth of literacy and education, etc.
- The Constitution of India prohibited any caste based discrimination and laid the foundations of policies to reverse the injustices of the caste system.

**Q 3. What are the older aspects of caste still persisting in India?**

**Ans.** The following older aspects of caste are still persisting in India:

- Even now most people marry within their own caste or tribe.
- Untouchability has not ended completely despite of the constitutional prohibition.
- There is a disproportionately large presence of 'upper caste' among the urban middle classes.
- Caste continues to be closely linked to economic status.

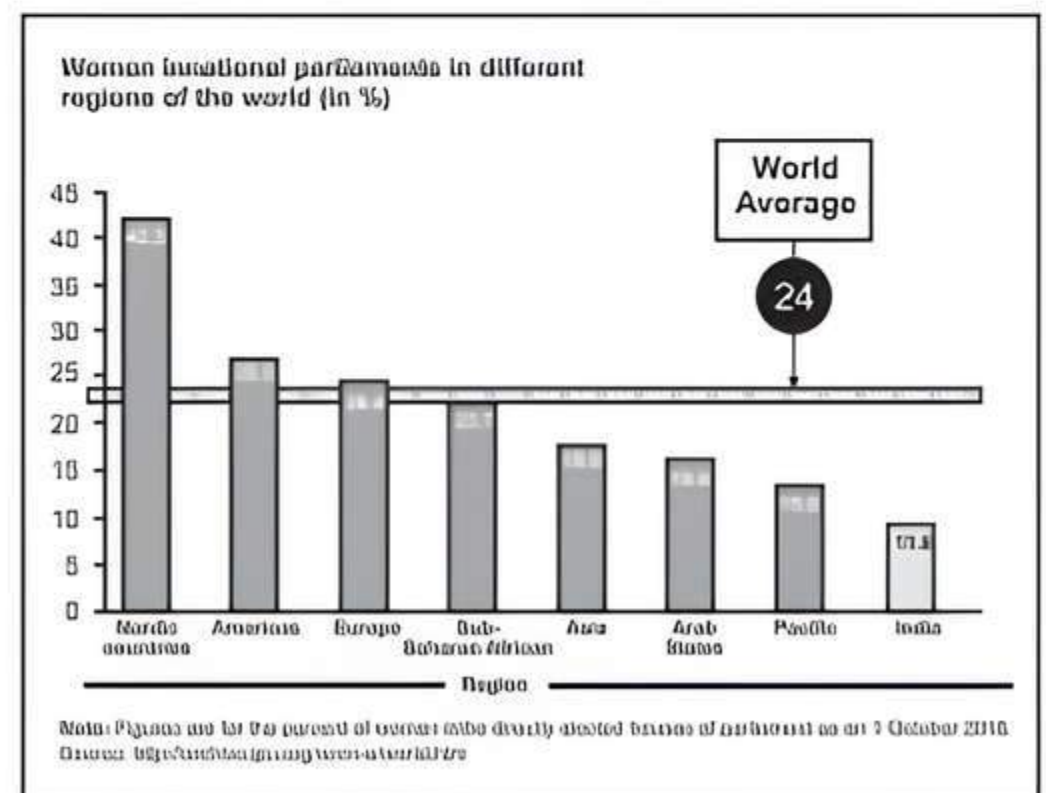


### Very Short Answer Type Questions

**Q 1. What is meant by sexual division of labour?**

**Ans.** Sexual division of labour is a system in which all work inside the home is either done by the women in the family or organised by them through the domestic helpers.

**Q 2. Study the graph and answer the questions that follows:**



The world average of women in national parliaments in different regions of the world is 23.5%. Do you think it is adequate?

**Ans.** No, I don't think it is adequate. Women comprise of half of the population. So, their participation should be around 50%.



**Q 3. What is the percentage of women participation in India? Why is it low?**

**Ans.** The percentage of women participation in India is 11.8%. It is low because India has a male dominated society, where women are accorded secondary status.

**Q 4. What is the literacy rate among men and women, according to the census, 2011? What does it indicate?**

**Ans.** The literacy rate for men is 82.14% and for women it is 65.46%. This indicates discrimination against women.

**Q 5. Suggest any one way to protect women from domestic oppression.** (CBSE 2020)

**Ans.** The ways to protect women from domestic oppression are given below:

- (i) Empowering them by providing education.
  - (ii) Educate women about laws to protect them from domestic violence and other types of exploitation.
- (Any one)



## TIP

Mention any one way that support the question properly.

**Q 6. Suggest any one way to pay equal wages to women in all areas of work as equal to men.** (CBSE 2020)

**Ans.** Indian Parliament has enacted the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 that provides for the payment of equal remuneration to men and women workers for the same work or work of a similar nature and for the prevention of discrimination against recruitment of women.

**Q 7. Do you think that women could have made the gains if their unequal treatment was not raised in the political domain?**

**Ans.** Yes, because some form of gender division or sexual division needs to be expressed in politics.

**Q 8. What is the role of women in public division of labour?**

**Ans.** Although women constitute half of the humanity, their role in public life, especially politics is minimal in most societies.

**Q 9. Why the literacy rate among women in India is low in comparison to their counter parts?**

**Ans.** The literacy rate among women in India is lower than men as parents prefer to spend their resources for their son's education rather than spending equally on their sons and daughters.

**Q 10. Suggest any one way to create communal harmony among various communities of India.** (CBSE 2020)

**Ans.** The ways to create communal harmony among various communities of India are given below:

- (i) By showing respect to the religion of others.

- (ii) By explaining others about the need for paying respect to the religion and social practices of people belonging to different faiths. (Any one)

**Q 11. Why does Kerala have a lowest Infant Mortality Rate?**

**Ans.** The success of different programmes like Neonatal Resuscitation Programme which is a training programme given to nurses and doctors on taking care of new borns has helped Kerala to record the lowest Infant Mortality Rate.

**Q 12. What does secularism mean?**

**Ans.** Secularism means that there is no official religion for the Indian state and our Constitution does not give a special status to any religion. All religions are treated equally by the law.

**Q 13. What is occupational mobility?**

**Ans.** Occupational mobility can be defined as the shift from one occupation to another, usually when a new generation takes up occupations other than those practised by their ancestors.

**Q 14. Why is India considered to be a secular state?**

**Ans.** India is considered to be a secular state because there is no official religion in the country.

**Q 15. Explain the term 'Feminist Movement'.**

**Ans.** A Feminist Movement is a movement aimed at equality in personal and family life for men and women.

**Q 16. What does 'vote bank of a caste' mean?**

**Ans.** 'Vote Bank of a caste' usually means that a large proportion of the voters from a caste tend to vote for a particular party.

**Q 17. In India, women's political representation is very low. Identify the steps taken by our government to solve this problem.**

**Ans.** Our government has declared that in local self government institutions, at least one-third of all positions are reserved for women. The step has been taken to solve the problem of low political representation of women in India.

**Q 18. Read the following information and write a single term for it:**

**The Constitution of India provides freedom to profess and practice any religion to all its citizens. The Constitution of India prohibits discrimination on religious grounds.** (CBSE 2020)

**Ans.** Secularism

**Q 19. Suggest any one way to change 'family laws' of all religions.**

**Ans.** 'Family laws' of all religions can be changed by the strict enforcement of dowry prohibition act so that these laws can be made more equitable.



## Knowledge BOOSTER

Family laws are the laws that deal with family related matters such as marriage, divorce, adoption, inheritance, etc. In our country, different family laws apply to followers of different religion.

**Q 20. Name two political leaders who worked to establish a society in which caste inequalities are absent.**

**Ans.** Jyotiba Phule, Gandhiji, Dr. B R Ambedkar, Periyar Ramaswami were the leaders who worked to establish a society in which caste inequalities are absent. (Any two)

**Q 21. "Women face discrimination in various ways in our society". Explain any two ways. (CBSE 2023)**

**Ans.** Two ways of women discrimination in our society are:

- (i) Economic discrimination
- (ii) Gender-based violence.

**Q 22. "Communalism is harmful for the nation". Explain**

(CBSE 2023)

**Ans.** Communalism is harmful to a nation because:

- (i) It splits the society on the basis of religion.
- (ii) It creates threat in the society.

## Short Answer Type Questions

**Q 1. What was the Feminist Movement? Explain the political demands of the Feminist Movement in India. (CBSE 2015, 17)**

**Ans. Feminist Movement:** The movement which aimed at equality of men and women in all spheres of life was called the Feminist Movement.

The major demands of this movement were:

- (i) Equal rights in all spheres of life.
- (ii) Extension of voting rights to women.
- (iii) Enhancement in political and legal status of women.
- (iv) Improvement in their educational and career opportunities.

**Q 2. Give three arguments in favour of women suffrage.**

**Ans.** The arguments in favour of women suffrage are:

- (i) The laws of the state have as much effect upon women as on men. Hence, women should also be given the right to participate in the making of laws.
- (ii) To deprive women from voting only because they are physically different from men is undemocratic since, it violates the principle of equality.
- (iii) If the acquisition of political rights for the development of personality is essential for men, there is no reason why this should not be recognised for women.

**Q 3. How had the position of women improved in our country since independence? Explain with examples. (CBSE 2019)**

**Ans.** The position of women had improved in our country since independence in the following ways:

- (i) More radical women's movements aimed at equality in both personal and family life. These movements are called Feminist Movements.
- (ii) The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 provides that equal wages should be paid for equal work.
- (iii) There is a system of Panchayati Raj in India. One-third of seats in local government bodies i.e., in Panchayats and Municipalities are now reserved for women.
- (iv) The literacy rate among women has increased to 54 per cent since independence.

**Q 4. "Women still lag much behind men in India despite some improvements since independence". Analyse the statement. (CBSE 2019)**

**Ans.** Women still lag behind men in India despite some improvements since independence. This can be understood through the following scenarios:

- (i) The literacy rate among women is only 54 per cent as compared to 76 per cent among men.
- (ii) A smaller proportion of girl students go for higher studies. Though girls perform as good 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.
- (iii) The proportion of women among the highly paid and valued jobs is still very small. On an average, an Indian woman works one hour more than an average man every day.
- (iv) The Equal Wages Act provides that equal wages should be paid for 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.
- (v) In many parts of India, parents prefer to have sons and find ways to have the girl child aborted before birth. Such sex selective abortion has led to a decline in child sex ratio.

## COMMON ERROR

Students don't give different scenarios to support the statement and lose marks.

**Q 5. Explain the status of women's representation in India's legislative bodies. (NCERT, CBSE 2015)**

**Ans.** The status of women's representation in India's legislative bodies is as follows:

- (i) In India, women's participation in the political area is very low. Women's strength in the Lok Sabha is not even 10%. Their share in State Assemblies is as low as 5%.
- (ii) The share of women legislators in India is behind those of several developing countries of Latin America and Africa.

- (iii) In the Panchayats and Municipalities, it is legally binding to fill one-third of the seats by women candidates. This has resulted in ten lakh elected women representatives in the local government bodies.

**Q 6. Describe the problems of low representation of women in Indian legislature.** (CBSE 2020)

**Ans.** Low representation of women in Indian legislature leads to the following problems:

- (i) When women are not recognised as an individual, there is increase in child marriages, females won't get proper education.
- (ii) There are less job opportunities for them and there is an increase in abductions of women as they are treated as of lower status.
- (iii) There is lack of gender equality and diversity as well as there is increase in lack of artistic variations.

**Q 7. "Communalism can take various forms in politics". Explain.** (CBSE 2020)

OR

**How does religion influence the political set up in our country? Explain.** (CBSE 2016)

**Ans.** Communalism can take the following forms in politics or influence the political set up in the following ways:

- (i) **Communalism in Daily Beliefs:** The most common expression of communalism is in every day beliefs. These routinely involve religious prejudices, the stereotype of religious communities and belief in the superiority of one's religion over other religions. This is so common that we often fail to notice it, even when we believe in it.
- (ii) **Communalism as Majoritarian Dominance and Political Dominance:** A communal mind often leads to a quest for political dominance of one's own religious community. For those belonging to majority community, this takes the form of 'majoritarian dominance' and can manifest in their desire to form a separate political unit.
- (iii) **Communalism as Political Mobilisation:** Political mobilisation on religious lines is another frequent form of communalism. This involves the use of sacred symbols, religious leaders, emotional appeal and plain fear in order to bring the followers of one religion together in the political arena.
- (iv) **Communalism in the Form of Violence:** Sometimes, communalism takes its most ugly form i.e., violence, riots and massacre.

**COMMON ERROR**

Students mention the problems of communalism instead of its different forms in politics.

**Q 8. Describe any three problems of communalism in Indian politics.** (CBSE 2020)

**Ans.** The problems of communalism in Indian politics are:

- (i) In India, many political parties have been organised on communal basis. The Muslim League, the Hindu Maha Sabha, the DMK and the Akali Dal are organised on religious basis. Political leaders encourage communalism to get votes at the time of elections.
- (ii) While selecting candidates for the election, political parties give great importance to communalism. A candidate belonging to the majority community in that constituency is given ticket to the party.
- (iii) Voters generally vote on communal lines. Communal riots often break out in many parts of the country. After getting elected, the representatives try to safeguard the interests of their community and ignore the national interests that hinders the progress of democracy in the country.

**Q 9. "It is inevitable to ignore the relationship between politics and religion." In what way does this relationship impact modern day politics? Explain.** (CBSE 2015)

**Ans.** The relationship between politics and religion impact modern day politics in both beneficial and problematic ways:

**Beneficial ways**

- (i) Influence of religion can make politics value based.
- (ii) Religious communities can politically express their needs and interests.
- (iii) Political authorities can monitor and control religious discrimination and oppression.

**Problematic Ways**

- (i) Religion can become the base for the development of nationalist sentiments which can lead to conflicts.
- (ii) Political parties will try to make political gains by putting one group against the other.
- (iii) State power may be used to establish the domination of one religion group over another.

**Q 10. What was Gandhiji's view on religion and politics?**

**Ans.** Gandhiji had the following views on religion and politics:

- (i) Gandhiji believed that religion can never be separated from politics.
- (ii) He meant that moral values of all religions such as Hinduism or Islam or Christianity affect politics.
- (iii) He believed that politics must be guided by ethics drawn from religion but not on religion.

**Q 11. Besides caste, which other factors matter in electoral politics? Explain.**

**Ans.** Besides caste, the following other factors matter in electoral politics:

- (i) Political leaders persuade the voters to cast their votes on the basis of communal lines.
- (ii) Alongwith caste and community, people also check the performance of the political party or the agenda of the party.
- (iii) Political mobilisation on religious lines is another frequent form of communalism. This involves use of sacred symbols, religious leaders, emotional appeal and plain fear in order to bring the followers of one religion together in the political arena.

**Q 12. Mention any three features of 'secularism' described in the Indian Constitution. (CBSE 2020)**

**OR**

**Describe the features of secularism in India.**

(CBSE 2019)

**Ans.** In India, communalism has always been a major threat and challenge to the spirit of democracy. Therefore, the model of secular state was chosen by the makers of our constitution as they were aware of this challenge. Constitutional provisions that make India a secular state are:

- (i) There is no official religion for the Indian state.
- (ii) Our Constitution does not give a special status to any religion.
- (iii) The Constitution allows the state to intervene in the matter of religion in order to ensure equality within religious communities. To ensure equality, untouchability has been banned.
- (iv) Under the Right To Freedom of Religion, our Constitution provides to all citizens freedom to profess, practise and propagate any religion or not to follow any.

**Q 13. 'Secularism is not an ideology of some political parties or persons, but it is one of the foundations of our country.' Examine the statement. (CBSE 2018)**

**Ans.** Secularism is not an ideology of some political parties or persons but it is one of the foundations of our country because of the following reasons:

- (i) There is no official religion of the Indian state. According to the Constitution, state cannot intervene in the matter of religion.
- (ii) The Constitution of India does not give special recognition to any religion and there is no state religion in India. unlike Christianity in America, Buddhism in Sri Lanka, etc.
- (iii) All individuals and communities have been given freedom to practise, profess and propagate any religion.
- (iv) The Constitution of India has put a ban on any discrimination on the grounds of religion.

**Q 14. 'Caste inequalities are still prevalent in India.' Examine the statement. (CBSE 2019)**

**Ans.** Organisation of people into social groups for the purpose of marriage, work and diet is known as the caste system. In India, caste inequalities are still prevalent. This can be understood from the following points:

- (i) The social structure of India is based upon the caste system. All societies have some kind of social inequality and some form of division of labour, but the Indian caste system is an extreme form of division of labour based on birth.
- (ii) Although in most societies, occupations are passed on from one generation to another, but in India, it is different from other societies as in this system, hereditary occupational division was sanctioned by rituals.
- (iii) The Indian caste system was very rigid. Members of the same caste group were supposed to form a social community that practised the same or similar occupation, married within the caste group and did not eat with members from other caste groups.
- (iv) Indian caste system continues to be closely linked to economic status.

**Q 15. Mention the problem of casteism in Indian politics. (CBSE 2020)**

**Ans.** 'Casteism' results in the following problems in Indian politics:

- (i) When parties choose candidates in elections, they keep in mind the caste composition of the electorate and nominate candidates from different castes so as to get necessary support to win elections.
- (ii) Universal Adult Franchise and the principle of one vote compel political leaders to gear up to the task of mobilising and securing political support.
- (iii) Political parties and candidates in elections make appeal to caste sentiment to muster support. Some political parties are known to favour some of the castes and are seen as their representatives.

**Q 16. 'Every social difference does not lead to social division.' Justify the statement. (CBSE 2019)**

**Ans.** Every social difference does not lead to social division due to the following reasons:

- (i) Social differences may divide similar people from one another but they also unite very different people. For example, Carlos and Smith were similar to each other as they were Afro-American but they were different from Norman who was white.
- (ii) It is easier to accommodate cross-cutting differences. For example, the Catholics and Protestants had some social differences but later they were able to patch up their differences.

This did not result into social divisions.

- (iii) It is also possible for people from different religions to have the same caste and feel close to each other.

## TIP

Mention the supportive statements along with examples to explain the reasons properly.

**Q 17. "The assertion of social diversities in a democratic country is very normal and can be healthy". Justify the statement with arguments. (CBSE 2019)**

**Ans.** The given statement can be justified with the following arguments:

- (i) It allows various disadvantaged and marginal social groups to express their grievances and get the government to attend to them.
- (ii) Expression of various social diversity results in their cancelling one another out and thus reducing their intensity.
- (iii) They also help to uplift the marginalised or deprived section of society that leads to strengthening of democracy.

**Q 18. 'Social divisions affect politics.' Examine the statement. (CBSE 2019)**

**Ans.** Social divisions affect politics both positively and negatively in the following ways:

- (i) **Negative Aspect:** A democracy involves competition among various political parties. As their competition tends to divide society if they start competing in terms of some existing social divisions, it can convert those social divisions into political divisions which can lead to conflict, violence and even disintegration of the country. For e.g. Disintegration of Yugoslavia into six independent countries.
- (ii) **Positive Aspect:** The political expression of social divisions allows marginalised and disadvantaged social groups to express their grievances and ask the government to rectify them. The system of reservation of seats in Indian legislatures for the socially disadvantaged has allowed such social groups to have adequate representation in the decision-making process.

## Long Answer Type Questions

**Q 1. Mention different aspects of life in which women are discriminated or disadvantaged in India. (NCERT)**  
**OR**

**Describe the different ways through which women face discrimination and oppression in India.**

(CBSE 2019)

**Ans.** In India, women still lag behind men. Ours is still a male-dominated or patriarchal society where women

face problems, discrimination and oppression in the following ways:

- (i) The literacy rate among women is only 54 per cent compared with 76 per cent among men, as per 2011 census. Similarly, a smaller proportion of girl students go for higher studies. When we look at school results, girls perform as well as boys, if not better, in some places. But they drop out because parents prefer to spend their resources for their boys' education rather than spending equally on their sons and daughters.
- (ii) The proportion of women among highly paid and valued jobs is still very small. On an average, an Indian woman works one hour more than an average man everyday. Yet much of her work is not paid and therefore often not valued.
- (iii) The Equal Wages Act provides that equal wages should be paid for equal work. However, in almost all areas of work, from sports and cinema, to factories and fields, women are paid less than men.
- (iv) In many parts of India, parents prefer to have sons and find ways to have the girl child aborted. Such sex selective abortion led to decline in sex ratio in the country to merely 919 (Census 2011).
- (v) There are reports of various kinds of harassment, exploitation and violence against women. They are not safe even within their own home from beating, harassment and other forms of domestic violence.

## Knowledge BOOSTER

*Patriarchy literally means 'rule by father'. It refers to a system that values men more and gives them power over women.*

**Q 2. How do democracies accommodate various social divisions? Explain with examples.**

**Ans.** No society can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups. But we can certainly learn to respect these differences and evolve a mechanism to negotiate the differences.

Belgium is an example of how successfully differences were negotiated among ethnic groups. Therefore, democracy is best suited to accommodate various social divisions as it usually develops a procedure to conduct their competition.

But the example of Sri Lanka shows how distrust between two communities turned into widespread conflict and thus a democracy must fulfill the following conditions so as to achieve a harmonious social life:

- (i) Majority and minority opinions are not permanent. Democracy is not simply rule by

majority opinion. The majority needs to work with the minority so that government may function to represent the general view.

- (ii) Rule by majority does not become rule by majority community in terms of religion or race or linguistic groups, etc.
- (iii) Democracy remains democracy so long as every citizen has a chance of being in majority at some point of time. No individual should be debarred from participating in a democracy based on religion, caste, community, creed and other such factors.

**Q 3. 'All over the world, people express their dissatisfaction with the failure of political parties to perform their functions well'. Analyse the statement with arguments. (CBSE 2016)**

**Ans.** The given statement is analysed with the help of the following arguments:

- (i) No party wins the votes of all the voters of a caste or community because even within the community, people vote on the basis of performance and not on the basis of caste.
- (ii) Most of the political parties may put up candidates from the majority caste. But even this does not ensure their victory. The candidates belonging to the majority caste can lose if their performance is not up to the mark.
- (iii) According to the history of Indian elections, the ruling party and the sitting Member of the Parliament (MP) or Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) frequently loses elections in our country. This proves that votes are given on the basis of performance.
- (iv) All over the world similar trends are observed. Only that political party comes to power which performs for the welfare of the people.
- (v) In many parties, top positions are always held by members of one family. Most political parties do not practise transparent and open procedures for their functioning.

**Q 4. How is gender division understood in Indian society? To what extent does political mobilisation on gender basis help to improve women's role in public life?**

**Ans.** In Indian society, gender division is taken as a socially constructed basis to differentiate between the roles played by men and women. Sexual division of work has become the mindset of the society. Because of this, women face discrimination and have become the victim of the patriarchal system.

It is necessary that political mobilisation helps to improve women's role in public life. This can be done in the following ways:

- (i) Political parties should come together to frame policies for equal representation of women in the national and local politics. This will widen the horizon for women.
- (ii) Taking part in the decision-making will encourage them in their day-to-day affairs. They will develop a sense of maturity and responsibility.

### COMMON ERROR

Students forget to answer the 2nd part of the question.

**Q 5. How can caste take several forms in politics? Explain with examples. (CBSE 2019)**

**OR**

**Describe any five features of 'caste in politics' in India. (CBSE 2019)**

**Ans.** Various forms of caste in politics are as follows:

- (i) When governments are formed, political parties usually take care that representatives of different castes and tribes find a place in it.
- (ii) When parties choose candidates, they keep in mind the composition of the electorate and accordingly choose candidates from different castes so as to muster necessary support to win elections.
- (iii) Political parties make appeals to caste sentiments to gain support. Some political parties are known to favour some castes.
- (iv) Universal Adult Franchise and the principle of one person one vote compelled political leaders to mobilise political support.
- (v) It also brought new consciousness among people belonging to those castes which were treated as inferiors.

**Q 6. Examine the impact of caste system on Indian Democratic System. List out any two measures to eradicate effects of casteism.**

**Ans.** Casteism is the exploitation of caste consciousness for narrow political and electoral gains. It has various implications on society as well as on political community like as given:

- (i) Casteism fragments society and weakens national unity. It leads to caste violence and caste interest is given predominance over national interest.
- (ii) It violates and goes against the democratic principles of our Constitution, that of justice, equality and fraternity.
- (iii) Casteism leads to an atmosphere of destruction, fear and suspicion in the society. All this in turn leads to violence and polarisation on caste lines.

Two measures to eradicate effects of casteism are as follows:

- (i) Constitution of India has prohibited caste based discrimination.
- (ii) Awareness can be spread related to ill effects of caste based politics.

### Knowledge BOOSTER



With economic development, large scale urbanisation, growth of literacy and education, the old notions of caste hierarchy are breaking down.

**Q 7. Explain the factors that have led to the weakening of the caste system in India. (CBSE 2015)**

OR

**“Caste system in modern India has undergone great changes.” Explain. (CBSE 2016)**

**Ans.** The following factors are responsible for weakening of the caste system:

- (i) The Constitution of India prohibited any caste-based discrimination and laid the foundations of policies to reverse the injustices of the caste system and to prevent discrimination legally.

- (ii) Caste system also got weakened due to the efforts of our political leaders and social reformers like Jyotiba Phule, Gandhiji, BR Ambedkar and Periyar Ramaswami Nalcker. They advocated and worked to establish a society in which caste inequalities are absent.
- (iii) Spread of education has brought awareness among people. It has broadened their outlook and helped to decrease the belief in caste.
- (iv) Large scale urbanisation has diminished the awareness of caste as people sub shoulders in buses, trains and offices.
- (v) Occupational mobility has become possible now and the children are not compelled to continue the profession of the family or father.
- (vi) The position of landlords in the villages has weakened that has led to decline of the rigid caste barriers in villages.
- (vii) The policy of reservation of seats in local self government bodies and legislatures as well as in educational institutions has helped in uplifting the political, social and the economic position of lower castes.



## Chapter Test

### Multiple Choice Questions

**Q 1. Which of the following is prohibited by the Indian Constitution?**

- a. Discrimination only on the basis of gender.
- b. Discrimination only on the basis of caste.
- c. Discrimination on the basis of gender, religion and caste.
- d. Discrimination on the basis of literacy level.

**Q 2. Which one of the following is not a cause of communalism?**

- a. Religion is taken as the basis of the nation.
- b. When one religion is discriminated against other.
- c. State has no official religion.
- d. Demands of one religious group are formed in opposition to another.

**Q 3. Who is a feminist?**

- a. A person who demands equal rights for all human beings.
- b. A person who demands more rights for men.
- c. A person who demands equal rights for women of high.
- d. A person who demands equal rights for women.

**Q 4. Identify the incorrect statement about India as a secular state.**

- a. It allows freedom to practice any religion.
- b. There is no official religion.
- c. It prohibits discrimination on religious grounds.
- d. It reserves seats for religious minorities.

**Q 5. What did Gandhiji mean when he said that religion and politics can never be separated?**

- a. Effect of Hinduism on politics is more.
- b. Effect of Islam on politics is more.
- c. There is a need of moral values in politics.
- d. None of the above

### Assertion and Reason Type Questions

**Directions (Q. Nos. 6-7):** In the following questions given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

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

**Q 6. Assertion (A): There is only one way relation between caste and politics.**

**Reason (R): New kinds of caste groups have come up in the political arena.**

**Q 7. Assertion (A): The representation of women in Indian Parliament is still low as compared to European countries.**

**Reason (R): There is lack of legally imposed quotas or reservation policy at the central level.**

### Source Based Question

**Q 8.** Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow:

Unlike gender and religion, caste division is special to India. All societies have some kind of social inequality and some form of division of labour. In most societies, occupations are passed on from one generation to another. Caste system is an extreme form of this. What makes it different from other societies is that in this system, hereditary occupational division was sanctioned by rituals.

Members of the same caste group were supposed to form a social community that practiced the same or similar occupation, married within the caste group and did not eat with members from other caste groups.

- (i) Discuss any two features of the caste system in India.
- (ii) Suggest a factor responsible for breaking down of caste system in India.
- (iii) What are the advantages of the political expression of caste differences?

### Very Short Answer Type Questions

- Q 9. State the significance of the 'Equal Wages Act'.
- Q 10. Suggest a measure to integrate the people belonging to different ethnic groups in a society.
- Q 11. How is the caste of a person determined in India?
- Q 12. Suggest any two ways to break caste hierarchy.

### Short Answer Type Questions

- Q 13. "Our society is still a male dominated society." Explain the statement with the help of examples.
- Q 14. How does religion influence the political set up in our country? Explain.
- Q 15. Describe the problems of low representation of women in Indian legislature.
- Q 16. Why are caste barriers breaking down in India? Explain with three reasons.

### Long Answer Type Questions

- Q 17. What is the meaning of secularism? How does the Constitution make India a secular state? Explain.
- Q 18. Describe three advantages and two disadvantages of the political expression of caste differences.