

# Democratic Rights

## Source Based Questions

### Source 1

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

Rights are necessary for the very sustenance of a democracy. In a democracy, every citizen has to have the right to vote and the right to be elected to government. For democratic elections to take place, it is necessary that citizens should have the right to express their opinion, form political parties and take part in political activities.

Rights also perform a very special role in a democracy. Rights protect minorities from the oppression of majority. They ensure that the majority cannot do whatever it likes. Rights are guarantees which can be used when things go wrong. Things may go wrong when some citizens may wish to take away the rights of others. This usually happens when those in majority want to dominate those in minority.

The government should protect the citizens' rights in such a situation. But sometimes, elected governments may not protect or may even attack the rights of their own citizens. That is why some rights need to be placed higher than the government, so that the government cannot violate them. In most democracies, the basic rights of the citizen are written down in the Constitution.

**Q1. What is the necessity of rights for the democratic elections?**

- a. Citizens can express their opinions.
- b. They can form political parties.
- c. They can take part in political activities.
- d. All of the above

**Ans. (d)**

**Q2. Why do some rights need to be placed higher than the government?**

- a. Otherwise democracy will become meaningless.
- b. So that the government cannot violate them.



- c. So that the things do not go wrong.
- d. So that the citizens' rights can be protected.

**Ans.** (b)

**Q3. In which of the following case some citizens may wish to take away the rights of others?**

- a. When the right harms or hurts others.
- b. When there is no respect for others' rights.
- c. When they are not recognised as rightful.
- d. When those in majority want to dominate those in minority.

**Ans.** (d)

**Q4. What are the basic rights written down in the Constitution in most democracies called?**

- a. Fundamental Rights
- b. Guarantees
- c. Right to Equality
- d. Right to Freedom

**Ans.** (a)

**Q5. Identify the incorrect statement about the special role of rights in a democracy.**

- a. Rights protect minorities from the oppression of majority.
- b. They can be used when things go wrong.
- c. They are given to every citizen in a democracy for the development of his/her personality.
- d. They can be abolished and have a fundamental position in the governance of the country.

**Ans.** (d)

**Q6. There are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R): Read them and choose the correct option:**

**Assertion (A) :** The Fundamental Rights are important because they are enforceable.

**Reason (R) :** They are given a special status in Indian Constitution.

- 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.

**Ans. (b)**

### **Source 2**

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

Once the right to liberty and equality is granted, it follows that every citizen has a right not to be exploited. Yet the Constitution makers thought it was necessary to write down certain clear provisions to prevent exploitation of the weaker sections of the society.

The Constitution mentions three specific evils and declares these illegal.

First, the Constitution prohibits traffic in human beings'. Traffic here means selling and buying of human beings, usually women, for immoral purposes.

Second, our Constitution also prohibits forced labour or begar in any form. Begar is a practice where the worker is forced to render service to the 'master' free of charge or at a nominal remuneration. When this practice takes place on a life-long basis, it is called the practice of bonded labour.

Finally, the Constitution also prohibits child labour. No one can employ a child below the age of fourteen to work in any factory or mine or in any other hazardous work, such as railways and ports. Using this as a basis, many laws have been made to prohibit children from working in industries such as beedi making, firecrackers and matches, printing and dyeing.

**Q1. Which of the following has been declared illegal by our Constitution?**

- a. Trafficking in human beings
- b. Practice of Begar
- c. Child labour
- d. All of the above

**Ans. (d)**

**Q2. Below what age the child labour has been prohibited by the Constitution?**

- a. 13 years
- b. 14 years
- c. 15 years
- d. 16 years

**Ans. (b)**

**Q3. Which Fundamental Right ensures the ban on bonded labour?**

- a. Right to work
- b. Right to adequate livelihood
- c. Right against exploitation
- d. Right to privacy

**Ans. (c)**

**Q4. In which of the following industries children are prohibited to work as labour?**

- a. Beedi making
- b. Firecrackers and matches industry
- c. Printing and dyeing
- d. All of the above

**Ans. (d)**

**Q5. Why do Constitution prohibit traffic in human beings?**

- a. It employs the children to do hazardous works.
- b. In it, the worker is forced to render free service to the master.
- c. It is selling and buying of human beings especially the weaker sections.
- d. It violates the personal liberty of an individual.

**Ans. (c)**

**Q6. Why is the Right against Exploitation specially devoted to children?**

- a. It violates the rights of children.
- b. It protects the children from exploitation.
- c. It does not allow the children to work anywhere.
- d. It provides children with adequate livelihood.

**Ans. (b)**

### **Source 3**

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

Rights are claims of a person over other fellow beings, over the society and over the government. All of us want to live happily, without fear and without being subjected to degraded treatment. For this, we expect others to behave in such a way that does not harm us or hurt us. Equally, our actions should not also harm or hurt others. So, a right is possible when you make a claim that is equally possible for others.

You cannot have a right that harms or hurts others. You cannot have a right to play a game in such a way that it breaks the neighbour's window. The Serbs in Yugoslavia could not have claimed the whole country for themselves. The claims we make should be reasonable. They should be such that can be made available to others in an equal measure. Thus, a right comes with an obligation to respect other rights.

**Q1. What are rights?**

**Ans.** Rights are reasonable claims of persons recognised in society and sanctioned by law.

**Q2. Why is it said that right comes with an obligation to respect others' rights?**

**Ans.** Right comes with an obligation to respect others' rights due to the following reasons:

- (i) All the people want to live happily without any fear and without being hurt or without being subjected to degraded treatment.
- (ii) A right is possible when we make a claim that is equally possible for others. Such claims should be reasonable and can be available to others in an equal measure.

**Q3. Why are rights reasonable claims? Give reasons.**

**Ans.** Rights are reasonable claims because of the following reasons:

- (i) Rights are made available to others and one's right becomes one's duty to respect the rights of others.
- (ii) Rights need to be recognised by the society and must be reasonable.
- (iii) Rights are the claims that we make on society and on government.
- (iv) Rights are those conditions which allow for the fullest development of individuals' personality.

