

# Democracy and Diversity

## Very Short Answer Type Questions \_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark each)

**Q. 1. Explain the meaning of democracy.**  
[CBSE OD, Term 2, Set 1, 2017]

**Ans.** Democracy is a form of government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and the representatives of the people are elected by the voters on the basis of adult franchise.

**Q. 2. Name the two athletes who raised the issue of Civil Rights in the Mexico Olympics (1968).**

[CBSE, Term 1, 2015]

**Ans.** The two athletes who raised the issue of Civil Rights in the Mexico Olympics were Tommie Smith and John Carlos.

## Short Answer Type Questions-II \_\_\_\_\_ (3 marks each)

**Q. 1. "Every social difference does not lead to social division." Justify the statement.**  
[CBSE OD, Set 1, 2019]

**Ans.** Social differences do not always lead to social division. They sometimes unite very different people and bring them closer by penetrating through their boundaries.

In this connection, we may take the example of the athletes Tommie Smith, Peter Norman and John Carlos who had participated in the 1968 Olympics held at Mexico. Both Smith and Carlos were African-American athletes who tried to gain international attention in the medal ceremony by wearing black gloves and raising clenched fists against racial discrimination. They attended the ceremony bare feet with black socks to represent black poverty. Their demonstration was to symbolise black power. Peter Norman was an Australian but still he supported his co-athletes and wore a human rights badge during the ceremony. This shows that social difference does not always lead to social divisions.

**Q. 2. "Women in India still face discrimination in various ways." Explain with examples.**  
[CBSE OD, Set 3, 2019]

**Ans.** Women face disadvantages, discrimination and oppression in various ways:

- (i) The literacy rate among women is only 54 per cent as compared to 76 per cent among men. This is because women are deprived of an equal access to education as men in the society. A very small percentage of girls

go for higher education and the drop-out rate is also higher among girls.

- (ii) Proportion of women in highly paid jobs is very small. On an average, an Indian woman works a considerable number of hours more than an Indian man. Yet, her wages are less when compared to men.

- (iii) The preference to have a male child over a female child has led to sex selective abortion. This has lowered sex ratio in India. This is also one of the main evidence of discrimination between the sexes.

- (iv) Women are exploited and harassed at the workplace and at home. There are cases of harassment, exploitation in the urban areas as well. They are even subjected to domestic violence at homes.

**Q. 3. "The assertion of social diversities in a democratic country is very normal and can be healthy." Justify the statement with arguments.**

OR

**"Social divisions affect politics." Examine the statement.**

[CBSE Delhi, Set 1, 2019]

**Ans.** The assertion of social diversities in a democratic country is very normal and can be healthy because:

- (i) This 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 which also leads to strengthening of democracy.

OR

Yes, social division affect politics in the following ways:

- (i) It strengthens the idea of communal politics.
- (ii) Government mainly supports the

majority community, by denying the rights of minority community.

- (iii) Politics of social division is very normal and can be healthy, it allows people to express their grievances.
- (iv) Its outcome depends on how people perceive their identity, or how political leaders raise their demands, and it depends on how the government react to demands of different groups.

Q. 4. Explain the three factors that are crucial in deciding the outcome of politics of social divisions. [CBSE, 2018]



Topper's Answers

Question - 13:

Introduction : The outcome of politics of social divisions is decided by 3 factors :-

(a) It depends on how the people perceive their identities. If they perceive their identities in singular and exclusive terms: (like in Srilanka), it becomes difficult to accomodate. If they perceive their identities in multiple & complementary with nation (eg:- Belgium), it is easier to accomodate.

(b) It depends on how the political parties raise the issues. If they raise the issues that are within the constitutional framework and not at the cost of other communities, it leads to peace in the country. eg:- The various leaders of different ethnic groups raised the issues in such a way that they couldn't be accomodated within a single country, and lead to division of country into 6 independent units.

(c) It depends on how the govt reacts to the reasonable demands of minority. If they suppress the reasonable demands in name of national unity, it turns into cor eg:- Srilanka.

**Conclusion :** Thus, it depends on these factors, the outcome of politics of social division.

**Ans.** Three factors which determine the outcome of politics of social division are:

- (i) **People's perception of their identities:** When this is singular, the accommodation of other identities becomes difficult.
- (ii) **Representation of a community by political leaders:** While representing a community if politicians raise demands that are constitutional then it is easier to accommodate those demands.
- (iii) **The government's reaction:** If the reasonable demands of a community are suppressed by the government, then it leads to social division, which in turn threaten the integrity of the country.

**Q. 4. How is social diversity accommodated in democracy? Explain with examples.**

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

**Ans.** It is a fair expectation that democracy should produce a harmonious social life. Democracy must fulfill two conditions in order to achieve social harmony even though there is social diversity.

- (i) It is necessary to understand that democracy is not simply ruled by majority opinion. The majority always needs to work with the minority so that, the possibility of tensions, becoming explosive or violent reduces. Majority and minority opinions are not permanent.
- (ii) It is also necessary that rule of the majority does not become the rule of the majority community in terms of religion or race or linguistic group. Rule of the majority means that in case of every decision or every election, different persons and groups may and should form a majority.

**Q. 5. Why do social differences emerge in a society? Does every social difference lead to social division? Explain your answer with the help of an example.**

[CBSE, Term 1, 2016]

**Ans.** Social differences emerge in a society when people belonging to different social groups share differences and similarities cutting across the boundaries of their groups.

Every social difference does not lead to social division. Social differences may divide similar people but can also unite very different people such as Carlos and Smith who came together to fight social evils practiced in the society.

**Q. 6. "In a democracy, political expression of social division is very normal and can be healthy". Justify this statement with suitable arguments. [CBSE, Term 1, 2015]**

**Ans.** In a democracy, political expression of social division is very normal and can be healthy. Power sharing is a healthy practice at the national level. We have two different examples,—example of Belgium and Sri Lanka: Both of these countries are based on the linguistic manner. In true democracy, rights and opportunities should be same for all.

If we share power with minority community, the social division will be less threatening as that of Belgium. A majority of Belgians now feel that they are as much Belgian as they are Dutch or French. This is helpful to build a healthy democracy and helpful to stay together.

**Q. 7. "Democracy is more effective than its other alternatives." Justify the statement.**

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

**Ans.** Democracy promotes equality among citizens:

- (i) It improves the quality of decision-making for the country.
- (ii) Democratic government is a legitimate government.
- (iii) Democracy's ability to generate its own support is itself an outcome that cannot be ignored.