

**VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS :**

**1** mark each

223

- Q.1. Democracy offers \_\_\_\_\_**  
Ans. Dignity of citizens and principle of political equality
- Q.2. Democracy cannot provide solution to all the problems, it is also a difficult form of government to implement. It is \_\_\_\_\_**  
Ans. One of the weaknesses of democracy
- Q.3. The major challenges to democracy are \_\_\_\_\_**  
Ans. Economic equality among people and abolition of casteism from society.
- Q.4. It is a system in which only those who are in power and their supporters are benefited, and excludes minorities and weaker sections.**  
Ans. Dictatorship
- Q.5. It is a system under which military chief enjoys all the powers and suppress all the protests against him by the people.**  
Ans. Military
- Q.6. The strength of democracy is its ability to uphold the values for which it stands for. These values are \_\_\_\_\_**  
Ans. Freedom, Equality and Justice
- Q.7. Who led a military coup in Pakistan in 1999 ?**  
Ans. Pervez Musharraf
- Q.8. When did Zimbabwe attain independence and from whom ?**  
Ans. In 1980 from white minority rule
- Q.9. In which period did China face one of the worst famines that have occurred in the world ?**  
Ans. China's famine of 1958-1961 was the worst recorded famine in the world history.
- Q.10. Democracy improves the quality of decision-making because \_\_\_\_\_**  
Ans. Decisions are taken by consultation and discussion.
- Q.11. What is the most common form of democracy in modern world ?**  
Ans. Representative Democracy
- Q.12. Which body in the Indian political system is an example of direct democracy ?**  
Ans. Gram Sabha
- Q.13. What is ZANU-PF ?**  
Ans. Political party of Zimbabwe

**Q.1. "Democracy provides a method to deal with differences and conflicts". Discuss.**

**Ans.** Democracy provides a method to deal with differences and conflicts. In any society, people are bound to have differences of opinions and interests. These differences are particularly sharp in a country like ours which has an amazing social diversity. People belong to different regions, speak different languages, practise different religions and have different castes. They look at the world very differently and have different preferences. The preferences of one group can clash with those of other groups. Democracy provides the only peaceful solution to this problem. In democracy, no one is a permanent winner. No one is a permanent loser. Different groups can live with one another peacefully. In a diverse country like India, democracy keeps our country together.

**Q.2. What are the various aspects of democracy ?**  (Analysing & Evaluating)

**Ans.** We may refer to three aspects of democracy—political, social and economic.

(i) **Political Aspect** : Political democracy requires "government by consent and political equality." Democracy, as a form of government, implies that elections must be held with reasonable frequency. Moreover, there should be more than one political party competing for political power.

(ii) **Social Aspect** : A democratic society is one in which an atmosphere of equality prevails. There should be no discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste or



sex. Every one should have equal access to shops, restaurants, hotels and places of public entertainment. Our Constitution guarantees equality to every person before law.

- (iii) **Economic Aspect** : Political democracy will be a reality only when it is supported by economic democracy. The most stable democracies of the world are those which have extensive welfare schemes for the poor people.

### Q.3. What are the merits of a democratic government ?

**Ans.** The merits of a democratic government are :

**HOTS** (Analysing & Evaluating)

- (i) A democratic government is a better government because it is a more accountable form of government.
- (ii) Democracy improves the quality of decision-making.
- (iii) Democracy provides a method to deal with differences and conflicts.
- (iv) Democracy enhances the dignity of citizens.
- (v) It is better than other forms of government because it allows us to correct its own mistakes.

### Q.4. Why has India not experienced a famine as severe as that of China in 1958-61 ?

**Ans.** China's famine of 1958-1961 was the worst recorded famine in the world history. Nearly three crore people died in this famine. During those days, India's economic condition was not much better than China. Yet India did not have a famine of the kind China had. Economists think that this was a result of different government policies in the two countries.

The existence of democracy in India made the Indian government respond to food scarcity in a way that the Chinese government did not. They point out that no large-scale famine has ever taken place in an independent and democratic country. If China too had multiparty elections, an opposition party and a press free to criticise the government, then so many people may not have died in the famine.

### Q.5. What are the drawbacks of a democracy.

**Ans.** The following are the draw backs of a democracy :

- (i) Leaders keep changing in a democracy. This leads to instability.
- (ii) Democracy is all about political competition and power play. There is no scope for morality.
- (iii) So many people have to be consulted in a democracy that it leads to delays.
- (iv) Elected leaders do not know the best interest of the people. It leads to bad decisions.
- (v) Democracy leads to corruption for it is based on electoral competition.
- (vi) Ordinary people don't know what is good for them; they should not decide anything.

### Q.6. How far is it correct that no country has a perfect democracy ?

**HOTS** (Analysing & Evaluating)



**Ans.** No country has a perfect democracy because :

- (i) Every democracy has to try to realise the ideals of a democratic decision-making. This cannot be achieved once and for all. This requires a constant effort to save and strengthen democratic forms of decision-making. What we do as citizens can make a difference to making our country more or less democratic. This is the strength and the weakness of democracy : the fate of the country depends not just on what the rulers do, but mainly on what we, as citizens, do.
- (ii) This is what distinguished democracy from other governments. Other forms of government like monarchy, dictatorship or one party rule do not require all citizens to take part in politics.
- (iii) In fact, most non-democratic governments would like citizens not to take part in politics. But democracy depends on active political participation by all the citizens. That is why, a study of democracy must focus on democratic politics.

**Q.7. Why did the Institutional Revolutionary Party in Mexico never lose any election till 2000 ?**

**Ans.** The Institutional Revolutionary Party in Mexico was very strong till 2000. There are many reasons behind it :

- (i) Until 2000, every election was won by Institutional Revolutionary Party in Mexico. Opposition parties did contest elections, but never managed to win.
- (ii) All those who were employed in government offices had to attend its party meetings. Teachers of government schools used to force parents to vote for the PRI.
- (iii) Media largely ignored the activities of opposition political parties except to criticise them.
- (iv) Sometimes, the polling booths were shifted from one place to another in the last minute, which made it difficult for people to cast their votes.
- (v) The PRI spent a large sum of money in the campaign for its candidates.

**Q.8. What were the steps taken by Musharraf in Pakistan to empower himself ?**

**Ans.** The following steps were taken by Musharraf in Pakistan to empower himself :

- (i) In Pakistan, General Pervez Musharraf led a military coup in October 1999. He overthrew a democratically elected government and declared himself the 'Chief Executive' of the country.
- (ii) Later, he changed his designation to President and in 2002, held a referendum in the country that granted him a five-year extension.
- (iii) In 2002, he issued a 'Legal Framework Order' that amended the Constitution of Pakistan. According to this Order, the President can dismiss the national or provincial assemblies.
- (iv) The power to take final decision rested with army officials and with General Musharraf.
- (v) The work of the civilian cabinet was supervised by a National Security Council which was dominated by military officers.