

# 2

## WHAT IS DEMOCRACY ? WHY DEMOCRACY ?

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Points have to be explained if necessary)

1. "Legal frame work order of August 2002 in Pakistan was non-democratic in nature" ? Justify by giving five reasons. **(2016)**

**Ans.** General Pervez Musharraf issued a legal frame work order in August 2002. It amended the constitution of Pakistan. In this order :

- 1) The president can dismiss the national/provincial assemblies.
- 2) After passing this law, elections were held in the national and state assemblies. So, the election was held regularly and power rested with elected representatives. But still the final power rested with military offices and Musharraf himself.
- 3) Work of civilian cabinet will be supervised by the military officers.
- 4) National Security Council was dominated by the military officers.
- 5) In spite of having elected representations, final powers rest with military officers.
- 6) Final decisions will be taken by those who are not elected by the people.

2. Write the name of the leader ruling Zimbabwe since 1980. Why cannot his rule be called democratic ? Explain any two reasons. **(2016)**

**Ans.** Robert Mugabe was the leader ruling Zimbabwe since 1980.

His rule is not truly democratic because :

- a) He used unfair practices in elections.
- b) Opposition party workers were harassed.
- c) Public protest and demonstrations were made illegal.
- d) Television and radio were controlled by the government.

3. Why can't the democratic set up in China be called a true democracy ? Explain. **(2016)**

**Ans.** Democracy in China cannot be called a true democracy because :

- a) In china elections do not offer a serious choice.

- b) They have to choose the ruling party and the candidates approved by it.
- c) There is no way ruling party could be defeated, even if people were against it.

These are not fair elections and the characteristics of a true democracy.

4. Why can't Pakistan under General Musharraf be called a democracy ? Explain. **(2016)**

**Ans.** Pakistan under general Musharraf cannot be called a democracy because :

- a) The President can dismiss the national or Provisional Assemblies.
- b) People may have elected representatives to national or provincial assemblies but they cannot take final decision.
- c) The power to take final decision rests with the army officials and General who are not elected.

5. Explain any three arguments in favour of democracy. **(2016,2012)**

**Ans.** Arguments in favour of democracy :

- a. Democratic form of government is accountable.
- b. It improves the quality of decision making.
- c. It provides a method to deal with differences and conflicts.
- d. It enhances the dignity of citizen.
- e. It allows us to correct our mistakes.

6. Explain any three main features of democracy. **(2016)**

- Ans.**
- 1. In a democracy the final decision making power rests with the people.
  - 2. It is based on free and fair elections.
  - 3. Each citizen has one vote and each vote must have one value.
  - 4. It is a rule within limits set by constitutional laws and citizens rights.

7. "Democracy improves the quality of decision making". Justify the statement with three suitable arguments. **(2016,2014)**

- Ans.**
- 1. Democracy leads to better decisions because it is based on consultation and discussion.
  - 2. Decision always involves many persons. They are able to point out possible mistakes.
  - 3. This process reduces chances of rash or irresponsible decisions.

8. State any three arguments against democracy. **(2016,2015,2012)**

- Ans.** a) Change of leaders lead to instability.  
b) Only political competition, no scope for morality.  
c) Consulting more people leads to delays.  
d) Leads to corruption.  
e) Ordinary people don't know what is good for them.

9. Which three rights should every citizen of a democratic country get ? **(2016)**

- Ans.** a) Free to think, have opinions and express it.  
b) Freedom to form associations.  
c) Freedom to protest and take other political actions.  
d) Equality to vote freely.

10. What weaknesses of democracy do you observe in India ? State any three. **(2016)**

- Ans.** 1) Leaders keep changing hence instability.  
2) No scope of morality.  
3) Decision are delayed.  
4) Elected leaders do not know the best interest of the people.

11. Explain one way by which the following can be considered democratic : **(2016)**

- a) Family.      b) Classroom.      c) School.      d) Society.      e) Office.

- Ans.** a) **Family** : All members sit together and take a decision. Everyone's opinion matters.  
b) **Classroom** : Teacher should allow students to ask questions freely.  
c) **School** : The school students cabinet to take decisions on some activities for the betterment of school and students.  
d) **Society** : Citizens actively participate in political/social activities for the welfare of people and have a say in decision making.  
e) **Office** : The boss should allow his employees to express their views freely and help him take correct decisions for the betterment of his company.

12. 'Despite being a better form of government, democracy does not prove a magical solution for all problems'. Do you agree ? Explain with any three arguments. **(2016,2014)**

- Ans.** a. Poverty not yet eradicated.

- b. No guarantee of a good decision.
- c. Frequent changes in leadership affect the government's efficiency.

13. Explain any three factors that make democracy a weak form of government. **(2016)**

**Ans.** Factors

- a. Frequent change in leaders.
- b. Delay in decisions.
- c. Corruption.
- d. No scope for morality.

14. Explain the meaning of representative democracy. How is it significant in contemporary world ? **(2015,2013)**

- Ans.**
- Representative democracy means where majority is allowed to take decisions on behalf of all the people.
  - Significance :
    - i) Modern democracies involve such a large number of people that it is physically impossible for them to sit together and have a collective decision.
    - ii) Citizen does not have the time, the desire or the skills to take part in all the decisions.

15. Election in China does not offer people a real choice. Explain. **(2015)**

- Ans.**
- a) In China elections are held after every five years.
  - b) The National People's Congress has the power to appoint the President of the country.
  - c) Only those who are members of Chinese Communist Party or its allies were allowed to contest elections.
  - d) Elections do not offer the people any serious choice.
  - e) They have to choose the ruling party and the candidates approved by it.

16. "A Democratic government is a better form of government because it allows us to correct our own mistakes". Explain the statement. **(2015,2014)**

**Ans.** \* There is no guarantee that mistakes cannot be made in democracy.

\* No form of government can guarantee that :

The advantage in democracy is that such mistakes cannot be hidden for long. There is a space for

public discussion on these mistakes and there is a room for correction. Either the rulers have to change their decision or the rulers can be changed. This cannot happen in a non-democratic government.

17. In what three ways does democracy in a country enhance the dignity of an individual ? **(2015)**

**Ans.** Democracy as enhancing the dignity of an individual

- a) Democracy is based on the principle of political equality.
- b) Democracy recognizes that the poorest and the least educated has the same status as the rich and the educated.
- c) People are not subjects of a ruler, they are the rulers themselves.
- d) Even when they make mistakes, they are responsible for their conduct.

18. How does a democratic government rules within limits set by Constitutional laws ? Explain.

**(2015,2013,2012)**

**Ans.** A democratic government cannot do whatever it likes. It has to respect some basic rules. Every major decision has to go through a series of consultations. Every office bearer has certain rights and responsibilities assigned by the Constitution and the Law. Each of this is accountable not only to the people but also to the other independent officials.

19. Why are China, Estonia and Saudi Arabia not truly democratic countries ? State one reason for each one of them. **(2015)**

- Ans.**
- 1) In China, political parties are not free to contest elections. Only those who are members of the Chinese Communist Party or eight smaller parties allied to it were allowed to contest in elections.
  - 2) In Estonia, people belonging to Russian minority find it difficult to get the right to vote.
  - 3) In Saudi Arabia, women do not have the right to vote.

20. How does democracy provide a method to deal with differences and conflicts ? Explain. **(2015)**

**Ans.** In democracy, no one is a permanent loser and no one is a permanent winner. Government keeps on changing giving power to all. So, people with differences can live together peacefully.

21. Differentiate between democratic and non-democratic government. **(2015,2012)**

**Ans. Democratic :**

- a) Rulers are elected by people.
- b) Enhances the dignity of citizens.
- c) Deals with differences.
- d) Rule of law.
- e) Consultation and discussion before arriving at a decision.

- f) Freedom of media.
- g) Free and fair elections.

**Non Democratic :**

- a) Dictatorship of one man / one party.
- b) Rules over citizens.
- c) Suppresses differences.
- d) Automatic implementations of orders.
- e) Media under the control of government.
- f) Elections are controlled by the government/party/individual.

22. a) Mention the importance of representatives in Modern Democracy. **(2014)**  
b) Present any two arguments against democracy.

- Ans.** a) Modern democracies involve such a large number of people that it is impossible for them to sit together and take collective decision. Even if they could, the citizen does not have the time, the desire or the skills to take part in all the decisions.
- b) i) Leaders keep changing a democracy. This leads to instability  
ii) So many people have to be consulted in a democracy that it leads to delays.

23. Define democracy. How do elections help us to assess democracy ? Explain. **(2014)**

**Ans.** Democracy is the form of government in which rulers are elected by the People.

- 1) If we wish to access a democracy it is important to look at the election but it is equally important to look before and after the elections.
- 2) There should be sufficient room for normal political activities including political opposition before elections.
- 3) This requires that the state should respect some basic rights of the citizens.
- 4) Similarly, there are some conditions that apply to the way government is run after the elections.

24. Highlight any five unfair practices used by the President of Zimbabwe to win the elections. **(2014,2013)**

**Ans.** Unfair practices used by the President :

- a) His government has changed the constitution several times to increase his power.
- b) Opposition party workers are harassed and their meeting disrupted.
- c) Public protests and demonstrations against the government are declared illegal.
- d) Laws that limits the right to criticize the president were passed.

- e) Television and Radio are controlled by the government.
- f) Government has ignored some court Judgments and went against it.
- g) Government harasses those Journalists who go against it.

25. Explain the meaning of democracy and state any four features of it. **(2014)**

- Ans.** \* Democracy is a form of government in which the rulers are elected by the people.
- \* Four features are :
- a. Rulers elected by people take all major decisions.
  - b. Elections offer a choice and fair opportunity to the people.
  - c. Choice and opportunity is for all the people on an equal basis.
  - d. This leads to a government limited by basic rules of constitution and citizen's rights.

26. What was PRI ? Highlight four dirty tricks played by it to win elections in Mexico ? **(2014)**

**Ans.** PRI was a party called institutional Revolutionary Party of Mexico.

**Dirty Tricks :**

- 1. All government employees had to attend party meetings.
- 2. Teachers of government schools forced parents to vote for PRI.
- 3. Media ignored opposition party.
- 4. PRI spent a large sum of money in campaigning.

27. Why is democracy called a "Government by discussion" ? Give any five reasons. **(2014)**

- Ans.**
- a. Because policy matters are decided after thorough discussion.
  - b. In absence of consensus, the majority view is respected.
  - c. Minority view is also respected.
  - d. The opposition is encouraged to participate in debates about government policies and programmes.
  - e. At times the government itself may see merit in the views and accept it.

28. State any five positive features of democracy working in India ? **(2013)**

- Ans.** 1. Regular elections .

2. Rulers are elected by the people.
3. Freedom and equality is visible in all the fields.
4. Government rules within limits set by constitutional law.
5. Rights of the citizen are protected.
6. Government is working for the welfare of the people.

29. Explain some common features of the non- democratic government with the help of examples. **(2013)**

**Ans.** Common Features

- a) People are not allowed to criticize.
- b) No opposition is tolerated.
- c) Workers are not allowed to form their Independent trade union.
- d) People are at the mercy of dictator.
- e) Question of election does not rise.

30. Assess any three conditions that apply to the way a democratic government is run after the elections. **(2013)**

- Ans.**
- a. People should have the freedom to express their views, freedom to organize and freedom to protest.
  - b. Country should be seen by rule of law.
  - c. Rights of the people should be respected.

31. How does a democratic government rule within limit set by Constitutional law ? Explain. **(2012)**

**Ans.** A democratic government cannot do whatever it likes. It has to respect some basic rules. Every major decision has to go through a series of consultations. Every office bearer has certain rights and responsibilities assigned by the Constitution and the Law. Each of them is accountable not only to the people but also to the other independent officials.

32. Explain any three basic principles of democracy. **(2012)**

- Ans.**
1. Rule of the people.
  2. Sovereignty of the people.
  3. Ruler are elected.
  4. Free and Fair election.



5. Equality Rights.

**1 MARK**

1. What is the name given to the Parliament in China ? **(2016)**

**Ans.** The National People's Congress.

2. Which organ of the UNO is the most powerful for International peace ? **(2016)**

**Ans.** Security Council.

3. Which UN Secretary General, said that the "U.S war on Iraq was not legal" ? **(2016)**

**Ans.** Kofi Annan.

4. Which was the first country to grant Universal Adult Franchise to its citizens ? **(2016)**

**Ans.** New Zealand.

5. Who was the leader of 'Solidarity Movement' in Poland ? **(2016)**

**Ans.** Lech Walesa.

6. In which country of Africa, democracy was replaced by military regime in 1966 ? **(2016,2013)**

**Ans.** Ghana.

7. In which year did Soviet Union get disintegrated ? **(2015,2012)**

**Ans.** 1991.

8. Who was ruling Poland in 1980 ? **(2015)**

**Ans.** Polish united workers Party.

**PRACTICE CORNER**

1. Why democracy is preferred ? Give any three reasons. **(2016)**

2. "Democracy is all about political competition and power play. There is no scope for morality". Justify the statement by giving arguments against democracy. **(2016)**

3. What shortcomings do you see in the democratic system of India. List any five. **(2016)**

4. Why is democracy better than any other form of government ? Write five arguments to support your answer. **(2016)**
5. "Democracy is the most popular form of government emerging in the modern times; still the shortcomings cannot be ruled out". Justify the statement by assessing any five short comings of democracy. **(2016)**
6. Highlight some common features of the non-democratic countries. **(2016)**
7. "Popular leaders can be autocratic". Explain the statement with the example of Zimbabwe. **(2016)**
8. Is India a democratic country ? Write any three arguments in favour of your answer.
9. Based on the governments in China under Communist Party and Mexico under PRI (Institutional Revolutionary party), write down any five features of non-democratic governments. **(2016)**

o o o o o o

OSBINCBSSE.COM