



# Social Studies

**Class 9<sup>th</sup>**

**(Civics)**

Chapter 6: What is Democracy? Why Democracy?



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## Exercise

**Que 1:** Here is some information about four countries. Based on this information, how would you classify each of these countries. Write 'democratic', 'undemocratic' or 'not sure' against each of these.

- (a) Country A: People who do not accept the country's official religion do not have a right to vote
- (b) Country B: The same party has been winning elections for the last twenty years
- (c) Country C: Ruling party has lost in the last three elections
- (d) Country D: There is no independent election commission

Ans:

- (a) Undemocratic
- (b) Not sure
- (c) Democratic
- (d) Undemocratic

**Que 2:** Here is some information about four countries. Based on this information, how would you classify each of these countries. Write 'democratic', 'undemocratic' or 'not sure' against each of these.

- (a) Country P: The parliament cannot pass a law about the army without the consent of the Chief of Army
- (b) Country Q: The parliament cannot pass a law reducing the powers of the judiciary
- (c) Country R: The country's leaders cannot sign any treaty with another country without taking permission from its neighbouring country.
- (d) Country S: All the major economic decisions about the country are taken by officials of the central bank which the ministers cannot change.

Ans:

- (a) Undemocratic
- (b) Democratic
- (c) Undemocratic
- (d) Undemocratic

**Que 3:** Which of these is not a good argument in favour of democracy? Why?

- (a) People feel free and equal in a democracy
- (b) Democracies resolve conflict in a better way than others
- (c) Democratic government is more accountable to the people
- (d) Democracies are more prosperous than others

Ans: (d) is not a good argument. It is not necessary that one democratic state is more prosperous than the other state. The prosperity and happiness of the people of the country and abroad depends on the economic development of the country and not on the form of government.

**Que 4:** Each of these statements contains a democratic and an undemocratic element. Write out the two separately for each statement.

- (a) A minister said that some laws have to be passed by the parliament in order to conform to the regulations decided by the World Trade Organisation.

Ans:

Democratic:- some laws have to be passed by the parliament

Undemocratic:- to conform to the regulations decided by the World Trade Organisation.

**(b) The Election Commission ordered re-polling in a constituency where large scale rigging was reported.**

Ans:

Democratic:-The Election Commission ordered re-polling in a constituency

Undemocratic:-large scale rigging was reported.

**(c) Women's representation in the parliament has never reached 10 per cent. This led women's organisations to demand one-third seats for women.**

Ans:

Democratic:-This led women's organisations to demand one-third seats for women.

Undemocratic:- Women's representation in the parliament has never reached 10 per cent.

**Que 5: Which of these is not a valid reason for arguing that there is a lesser possibility of famine in a democratic country?**

**(a) Opposition parties can draw attention to hunger and starvation.**

**(b) Free press can report suffering from famine in different parts of the country.**

**(c) Government fears its defeat in the next elections.**

**(d) People are free to believe in and practise any religion.**

Ans: (d) People are free to believe in and practise any religion.

**Que 6: There are 40 villages in a district where the government has made no provision for drinking water. These villagers met and considered many methods of forcing the government to respond to their need. Which of these is not a democratic method?**

**(a) Filing a case in the courts claiming that water is part of right to life.**

**(b) Boycotting the next elections to give a message to all parties.**

**(c) Organising public meetings against government's policies.**

**(d) Paying money to government officials to get water.**

Ans: (d) Paying money to government officials to get water.

**Que 7: Write a response to the following arguments against democracy:**

**(a) Army is the most disciplined and corruption-free organisation in the country. Therefore army should rule the country.**

**(b) Rule of the majority means the rule of ignorant people. What we need is the rule of the wise, even if they are in small numbers.**

**(c) If we want religious leaders to guide us in spiritual matters, why not invite them to guide us in politics as well. The country should be ruled by religious leaders.**

Ans:

(a) There is no doubt that Army is the most disciplined and corruption free organization in the country but it will not be fair to rule the country by Army as it is not elected by the people. It is likely to be autocratic.

(b) The argument that governance should be with a few intelligent people is not correct. Due to this, some power will come in the hands of a few people due to which the rest will be victims of neglect.

(c) It is not appropriate to say that the country should be ruled by religious leaders. In a democracy, the decisions are taken by the elected representatives of the people. They protect the interests of the public. But in the rule of religious leaders, the interests of a particular religion will be taken care of.

**Que 8: Are the following statements in keeping with democracy as a value? Why?**

**(a) Father to daughter: I don't want to hear your opinion about your marriage. In our family children marry where the parents tell them to.**

**(b) Teacher to student: Don't disturb my concentration by asking me questions in the classroom.**

**(c) Employee to the officer: Our working hours must be reduced according to the law.**

Ans:

- (a) This statement is not democratic as a daughter cannot be forced to marry against her will. The daughter should have the right to marry the person of her choice.
- (b) This statement is not democratic as the student is asking questions to clear the doubts related to the subject. In such a situation, the teacher should definitely solve the questions of the students.
- (c) This statement is democratic as the employees can do so to protect their rights. Employees can demand reduction of working hours as per law.

**Que 9: Consider the following facts about a country and decide if you would call it a democracy. Give reasons to support your decision.**

- (a) All the citizens of the country have right to vote. Elections are held regularly.
- (b) The country took loan from international agencies. One of the conditions for giving loan was that the government would reduce its expenses on education and health.
- (c) People speak more than seven languages but education is available only in one language, the language spoken by 52 percent people of that country.
- (d) Several organisations have given a call for peaceful demonstrations and nationwide strikes in the country to oppose these policies. Government has arrested these leaders.
- (e) The government owns the radio and television in the country. All the newspapers have to get permission from the government to publish any news about government's policies and protests.

Ans:

- (a) It is a democratic country because giving voting rights to all citizens and regular elections are the main features of democracy.
- (b) This country can be undemocratic because the interests of the public are not being protected here.
- (c) It is undemocratic because citizens do not have the right to receive education in their own language.
- (d) It is an undemocratic country because in a democracy everyone has the right to protest peacefully.
- (e) It is an undemocratic country because there should be freedom of media in a democracy.