

GENDER, RELIGION AND CASTE



SYNOPSIS

- Social difference based on Gender, Religion and caste take the form of social divisions and inequalities.
- The gender division is natural and unchangeable.
- Women's role in politics is minimal in most societies.
- Women's role in public life was improved by political expression of gender division and political mobilization.
- Women played a dual role in politics—as voters and political representatives.
- Women are approached for short term goals like winning elections.

- Women are not involved in long term goals of bringing about social changes and gender equality in power sharing.
- The term COMMUNALISM is widely used across South Asia to describe the systematic misuse of religion for political purposes.
- Political mobilization on religious lines is another frequent form of communalism.
- Sometimes communalism takes its most ugly form of communal violence.
- There is no official religion in India.
- The Indian constitution prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion.
- Secularism is the very foundation of our nation.
- The Hindu caste system reflects Indian occupational and socially defined hierarchies.
- In Casteism, caste is taken as the sole basis of social community.
- Political parties and candidates make appeals to caste sentiments.
- Politics too influences the caste system. Thus, it is not politics that gets caste ridden it is the caste that gets politicized.

IMPORTANT TERMS AND CONCEPTS

Sexual division of Labour	Patriarchal society	Family laws
Occupational mobility	Feminist movement	Equal wages act
Communalism	Urbanization	Caste hierarchy

CASE BASED QUESTIONS

	Read the passage below and answer the questions that follows:
1	<p>Caste plays different kinds of roles in politics. In some situations, expression of caste differences in politics given many disadvantaged communities the space to demand their share of power. In this sense-caste politics has helped people from Dalits and OBC castes to gain better access to decision making. Several political and non-political organisations have been demanding and agitating for an end to discrimination against particular castes, for more dignity and more access to land, resources and opportunities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State any one form in which politics influence caste system. 2. How does caste affect politics? Give one example. (2) 3. Name some social reformers who advocated to establish a society in which caste inequalities are absent
2	<p>Women in different parts of the world organised and agitated for equal rights. There were agitations in different countries for the extension of voting rights to women. These agitations demanded enhancing the political and legal status of women and improving their educational and career opportunities. More radical women's movements aimed at equality in personal and family life as well. These movements are called FEMINIST movements.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who is a Feminist? 2. What is the position of women in Indian politics? 3. What are the main demands in the world?
3	<p>Secularism is not just an ideology of some parties of persons. This idea constitutes one of the foundations of our country. Communalism should not be seen as a threat to some people in India. It threatens the very idea of India. That is why communalism needs to be combated. A secular Constitution like ours is necessary but not sufficient to combat communalism. Communal prejudices and propaganda need to be countered in everyday life and religion-based mobilisation needs to be countered in the arena of politics.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is secularism? 2. What constitutional provisions declare India to be a secular state? (2) 3. Why do we need to combat communalism?

4	<p>Boys and girls are brought up to believe that the main responsibility of women is housework and bringing up children. This is reflected in a SEXUAL DIVISION OF LABOUR in most families: women do all work inside the home such as cooking, cleaning, washing clothes, tailoring, looking after children, etc. and men do all the work outside the home. It is not that men cannot do housework; they simply think that it is for women to attend to these things. When these jobs are paid for, men are ready to take up these works. Most tailors or cooks in hotels are men.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do you mean by ‘sexual division of labour’? 2. What is the result of the division of labour? (2) 3. Suggest one way by which women can be empowered.
	ASSERTION AND REASONING
	<p>Directions: In the following questions, a statement of assertion is followed by a statement of reason. Mark the option which is most suitable:</p> <p>(a) Both assertion and reason are true, and reason is the correct explanation of assertion.</p> <p>(b) Both assertion and reason are true, but reason is not the correct explanation of assertion.</p> <p>(c) Assertion is true, but reason is false.</p> <p>(d) Assertion is false, but reason is true.</p>
1	<p>Assertion: Stereotypical gender roles for males and females helps in avoiding conflicts.</p> <p>Reason: India is a patriarchal society.</p> <p>(a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.</p> <p>(b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.</p> <p>(c) A is true but R is false.</p> <p>(d) A is false but R is true</p>
2	<p>Assertion: Sex-selective abortion led to decline of sex ratio in India.</p> <p>Reason: Desire for a male child makes Indian families abort girl child.</p> <p>(a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.</p> <p>(b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.</p> <p>(c) A is true but R is false.</p>

	(d) A is false but R is true
3	<p>Assertion: Men and women should be given equal rights.</p> <p>Reason: Men are superior to women physically and emotionally.</p> <p>(a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.</p> <p>(b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.</p> <p>(c) A is true but R is false.</p> <p>(d) A is false but R is true</p>
4	<p>Assertion: Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, provides that equal wages should be paid for equal work, irrespective of gender and caste.</p> <p>Reason: Women are physically weak so they are righteously paid less than men.</p> <p>(a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.</p> <p>(b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.</p> <p>(c) A is true but R is false.</p> <p>(d) A is false but R is true</p>
5	<p>Assertion: Sometimes a caste group becomes vote bank for a party.</p> <p>Reason: Selecting the candidate from same caste helps in ensuring better governance.</p> <p>(a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.</p> <p>(b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.</p> <p>(c) A is true but R is false.</p> <p>(d) A is false but R is true</p>
6	<p>Assertion : India is a secular state.</p> <p>Reason : Constitution gives freedom to everyone to profess, practice and propagate any religion without prejudices or any discrimination.</p> <p>(a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.</p> <p>(b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.</p> <p>(c) A is true but R is false.</p> <p>(d) A is false but R is true</p>
7	<p>Assertion: Communalism is based on the idea that religion is the principal basis of social community.</p> <p>Reason: Caste should be kept away from politics.</p> <p>(a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.</p> <p>(b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.</p>

	<p>(c) A is true but R is false.</p> <p>(d) A is false but R is true</p>
8	<p>Assertion: Women face discrimination and disadvantage in India in many ways.</p> <p>Reason: India is a matriarchal society.</p> <p>(a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.</p> <p>(b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.</p> <p>(c) A is true but R is false.</p> <p>(d) A is false but R is true.</p>
	MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS
1	<p>Arrange the following in the correct sequence:</p> <p>(i) Social Reform Movement</p> <p>(ii) Caste inequality</p> <p>(iii) Caste system</p> <p>(iv) Social community</p> <p>Option:</p> <p>A. ii-i-iii-iv</p> <p>B. i-ii-iii-iv</p> <p>C. i-iv-ii-iii</p> <p>D. iv-iii-ii-</p>
2	<p>Who among the following said that religion can never be separated from politics. He believed that politics must be guided by ethics drawn from religion.</p> <p>A. B. R. Ambedkar</p> <p>B. Rajendra Prasad</p> <p>C. Mahatma Gandhi</p> <p>D. Jawaharlal Nehru</p>
3	<p>When we speak of gender divisions, we usually refer to:</p> <p>A. Biological difference between men and women</p> <p>B. Unequal roles assigned by the society to men and women</p> <p>C. Unequal child sex ratio</p> <p>D. Absence of voting rights for women in democracies.</p>

4	<p>Choose the statement that is correct about the distinguishing feature of communalism.</p> <p>A. Followers of a particular religion must belong to one community.</p> <p>B. Communalism leads to the belief that people belonging to different religions can live as equal citizens within one nation.</p> <p>C. A communal mind does not lead to quest for political dominance of one's own religious community.</p> <p>D. A secular constitution is sufficient combat communalism.</p>
5	<p>What is leading to the breakdown of caste hierarchy?</p> <p>A. Large-scale urbanisation</p> <p>B. Growth of literacy and education</p> <p>C. Occupational mobility</p> <p>D. All of the above</p>
6	<p>Consider the following statements on the meaning of communal politics. Communal politics is based on the belief that:</p> <p>(i) Our religion is superior to that of others.</p> <p>(ii) People belonging to different religions can live together happily as equal citizens.</p> <p>(iii) Followers of a particular religion constitute one community.</p> <p>(iv) State power cannot be used to establish the domination of one religious group over the other.</p> <p>Which of the statements is/are correct?</p> <p>A.(i), (ii), (iii) and (iv)</p> <p>B.(i), (ii), (iii)</p> <p>C.(i) and (iii)</p> <p>D.(ii) and (iv)</p>
7	<p>Which among the following statements about Indian Constitution is wrong?</p> <p>A. Prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion.</p> <p>B. Gives official status to one religion.</p> <p>C. Provides all individuals freedom to profess any religion.</p>

	D. Ensures equality of citizens within religious communities.
8	<p>The political party having its main objective of upliftment of lower caste people:</p> <p>A. Communist Party of India</p> <p>B. Bharatiya Janata Party</p> <p>C. Indian National Congress</p> <p>D. Bahujan Samaj Party</p>
9	<p>“Sexual Division of labour signifies, that</p> <p>(i) Gender division emphasises division based on nature of work.</p> <p>(ii) Division between men and women.</p> <p>(iii) Caste is the basis of Gender Division.</p> <p>(iv) Work decides the division between men and women.</p> <p>A.(i), (iii) and (iv)</p> <p>B.(i), (ii) and (iv)</p> <p>C.(i) and (iii)</p> <p>D.(iv) and (i)</p>
10	<p>In local self-government institutions, at least one third of all positions are reserved for:</p> <p>A. men</p> <p>B. women</p> <p>C. children</p> <p>D. scheduled tribes</p>
11	<p>“A woman or a man who believes in equal rights and opportunities for men and women.” Select the correct option for the definition.</p> <p>A. Feminist</p> <p>B. Patriarchy</p> <p>C. Caste hierarchy</p> <p>D. Social change</p>
12	<p>‘Equal Wages Act’ signifies.</p> <p>A. Law that deals with family related matters.</p>

	<p>B. Law provides that equal wages should be paid for equal job for both men and women.</p> <p>C. An Act which signifies that all work inside the home is done by the women of the family.</p> <p>D. A radical law against the discriminatory attitude and sexual division of labour.</p>
13	<p>Which leaders worked for the elimination of caste system in India?</p> <p>A. Jotiba Phule, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Mahatma Gandhi and Periyar Ramaswami Naicker</p> <p>B. Raja Ram Mohun Roy, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi</p> <p>C. Jotiba Phule, Periyar Ramaswami Naicker and Mahatma Gandhi</p> <p>D. Swami Vivekanand, Jotiba Phule and Raja Ram Mohan Roy</p>
14	<p>Among the following, which countries have high participation of women in public life?</p> <p>A. Sweden and India</p> <p>B. Norway and Sri Lanka</p> <p>C. Nepal and Finland</p> <p>D. Sweden and Africa</p>
15	<p>Indian society is of which type?</p> <p>A. A matriarchal society</p> <p>B. A patriarchal society</p> <p>C. A fraternal society</p> <p>D. None of the above</p>
16	<p>In which year the Equal Remuneration Act was passed. That equal wages should be paid to equal work.</p> <p>A. 1966</p> <p>B. 1976</p> <p>C. 1986</p> <p>D. 1987</p>
17	<p>Which law among the following deal with family-related matters such as marriage, divorce, adoption, inheritance, etc.</p> <p>A. Family</p> <p>B. Civil</p>

	<p>C. Community</p> <p>D. Religious</p>
18	<p>Identify the reason that is not true about the fact that caste alone cannot determine elections in India.</p> <p>A. No party wins the votes of all the voters of a caste or community.</p> <p>B. Some political parties are known to favour some castes.</p> <p>C. No parliamentary constituency in the country has a clear majority of one single caste.</p> <p>D. Political parties and candidates in elections make appeals to caste sentiments.</p>
19	<p>In which of the following countries, the participation of women is not very large?</p> <p>A. Sweden</p> <p>B. Norway</p> <p>C. India</p> <p>D. Finland</p>
20	<p>Which of the following social reformers fought against caste system?</p> <p>A. Jyotiba Phule</p> <p>B. Mahatma Gandhi</p> <p>C. R. Ambedkar</p> <p>D. All of the above</p>
21	<p>In which of the following level of government seats are not reserved for women?</p> <p>A. Gram Panchayat</p> <p>B. Block Samiti</p> <p>C. Zila Parishad</p> <p>D. Vidhan Sabha</p>
22	<p>Which of the following is not correct about ‘Dalits’?</p> <p>A. A community which has been discriminated by high caste people</p> <p>B. Dalits were considered ‘untouchables’ in Indian society</p> <p>C. B. R. Ambedkar worked hard to ensure their political rights</p> <p>D. Now the issues related to Dalits are not visible in rural areas</p>
23	<p>Find out incorrect statement about caste in politics:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Caste in politics always produces positive results 2. Caste factor played important role in the formation of Central Government 3. Social reformers and laws have played important role to reduce casteism 4. Routes of casteism are visible in our society from ancient time
	2 MARKERS
1	State two reasons to say that caste alone cannot determine election results in India.
2	How are caste inequalities still continuing in India? Explain.
3	How are religious differences expressed in politics?
4	Define Patriarchy.
5	Define Urbanisation.
6	Give an example of sexual division of labour in most families.
7	How does caste get politicised? Give two points.
	3 MARKERS
1	“Secularism is not an ideology of some political parties or person, but it is one of the foundations of our country.” Examine the statement
2	“Women still lag much behind men in India despite some improvements since independence.” Analyse the statement.
3	How do social divisions affect politics? Explain with examples.
4	Suggest any three measures to check casteism in India.:
5	How can religion be used in politics in a positive manner?
6	Is the caste system coming to an end in India? Give arguments in support of your answer.
7	“Women in the Indian society still suffer from discrimination and oppression.” Support the statement with suitable examples
8	Mention any three constitutional provisions that make India a secular state.
	5 MARKERS

1	Why are caste barriers breaking down in India? Explain any five reasons
2	How is gender division understood in Indian society? To what extent does political mobilisation on gender basis help to improve women's role in public life?
3	Describe three advantages and two disadvantages of the political expression of caste differences
4	Explain any five aspects of our day-to-day life in which women are discriminated against in India.
5	Describe any five ways in which women in India are still discriminated against and oppressed
6	What are the problems faced by Indian women which affect their social status? Explain any five.
7	Explain any five reasons for the declining caste system in India.
8	Describe any five features of the caste system prevailing in India. OR Define communalism as ideology. Explain the forms of communalism in politics.