

# **CIVICS CHAPTER - 1: WHAT IS DEMOCRACY? WHY DEMOCRACY?**

## **Mind Map & Glossary (Simplified)**

- Democracy - Govt by the people.
- Representation - Speaking on behalf of others.
- Accountability - Govt officials answerable to public.
- Participation - Citizens involved in decision-making.
- Equality - Equal rights and opportunities.
- Justice - Fair and impartial law.
- Rule of Law - Law applies equally to all.
- Monarchy - Hereditary rule by one person.
- Mandate - Authority given via elections.
- Dictatorship - Power held by one/small group, no citizen input.

## **Short Questions and Answers**

### **Q1. What is democracy?**

Ans: A system where people elect their leaders through free and fair elections.

### **Q2. What are the main features of democracy?**

Ans: Equality, freedom of expression, citizen participation, minority rights.

### **Q3. How does democracy promote political stability?**

Ans: Peaceful power transitions, accountability, conflict resolution mechanisms.

### **Q4. What are the different forms of democracy?**

Ans: Direct, Representative, Parliamentary, Presidential.

### **Q5. What are the challenges to democracy?**

Ans: Inequality, corruption, apathy, threats to freedom, governance issues.

### **Q6. What are minority rights in a democracy?**

Ans: Protection of smaller groups from being oppressed by majority.

### **Q7. What is the difference between democracy and dictatorship?**

Ans: Democracy = Power to people; Dictatorship = Power to one/few.

### **Q8. What does the term 'rule of law' mean in a democracy?**

Ans: Everyone, including leaders, must follow the law.

## **Long Questions and Answers**

### **Q1. Explain the concept of democracy and why it is considered the best form of government.**

- Democracy is where power is with the people, directly or through representatives.
- It provides political equality - everyone has voting rights and freedom of speech.
- Ensures accountability - leaders work for the welfare of people.
- Protects rights and freedoms like justice, liberty, and participation.

**Q2. Compare and contrast direct democracy and representative democracy. Which is more practical today?**

- Direct Democracy - Citizens directly vote on laws/policies.
- Practical only in small communities.
- Representative Democracy - People elect leaders to decide on their behalf.
- More efficient and suitable for large, modern countries.
- In today's world, representative democracy is more practical due to scale and complexity.

**Q3. How does democracy ensure accountability in government?**

- Elections - Non-performing leaders can be replaced.
- Judicial Oversight - Courts check govt actions.
- Free Press - Media exposes wrongdoings.
- Public Participation - Protests, petitions, RTI in India boost transparency.

**Q4. Can a country be called democratic if media is controlled and speech is restricted?**

- No, because democracy requires freedom of speech and press.
- Without these freedoms, citizens can't question or challenge the govt.
- Such a system lacks transparency and checks on power.

**Q5. Why is democracy better than authoritarianism in protecting individual rights?**

- Democracy ensures rights through constitution and rule of law.
- Leaders are answerable to people.
- Authoritarian regimes suppress dissent and control citizens.
- Example: In India, rights like free speech and equality are protected.