

Q.3. "In Pakistan people elect their representatives to the national and provincial assemblies but still it cannot be called a democratic country." Give reasons.

Ans. In Pakistan, General Parvez Musharraf led a military coup against a democratically elected government. The work of the civilian cabinet is supervised by a National security council which is dominated by military officers. After the legal framework order, elections were held to the national and state assemblies. So, Pakistan has had elections but still it cannot be called a final decision. The final decisions are in the hands of General Musharraf who has not been elected by the people.

Q.4. "In a democracy the majority of people rule through their elected representatives". Give reasons.

Ans. Democracy is the government of the majority. The majority wins elections even though it is opposed by a minority of wise, patriotic and farsighted men. In democracy, majority also ignores the interests of minority and always gives preferences to their own interests.

Q.5. "In China, elections are regularly held after 5 years for electing the country's Parliament, but still it cannot be called a democratic country." Give reasons.

Ans. In China, elections are regularly held after every five year for electing the country's Parliament. Before contesting elections, a candidate needs the approval of the Chinese Communist Party. Only those who are the members of the Chinese communist Party or eight smaller parties allied to it were allowed to contest elections. The government is always formed by the communist party. Therefore, China cannot be called a democratic country.

Q.6. 'Since its independence in 1930, Mexico holds elections after every six years to elect its President. The country has never been under a military or dictator's rule but still it cannot be called a democratic country'. Give reason.

Ans. Since its independence in 1930, Mexico holds elections after every 6 years. The country has never been under a dictator or military ruler. But until 2000 every elections were won by a party called PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party). Opposition parties did contest elections, but never managed to win. The government used all its machinery to win elections. All those who were employed in government offices had to attend its party meeting. Teachers of government schools used to force parents to vote for the PRI. Media used to work under the influence of the government. The PRI spent a large sum of money in the campaign for its candidates. Thus, due to lack of free and fair elections, Mexico cannot be called a democratic country.

Q.7. Why Zimbabwe cannot be called a democratic nation? Give reasons.

Ans. Since independence in 1980, the country has been ruled by ZANU-PF. Its leader, Robert Mugabe, had been ruling the country since independence. Elections have been held regularly and always won by ZANU-PF. President Mugabe uses unfair practices in elections. Over the years his government has changed the constitution several times to increase the powers of the President. Opposition party workers are harassed and their meeting disrupted. Public protests and demonstrations against the government are declared illegal. The courts are there but most of the time their orders are ignored by the government. Because of all these reasons, Zimbabwe cannot be called a democratic country.

Q.8. "Democracy improves the quality of decision making." Explain.

Ans. (i) Democracy is based on consultation and discussion.

(ii) A democratic decision always involves many persons' discussions and meetings. When a number of people put their head together, they are able to point out possible mistakes in any decision.

- (iii) As most of the decisions are taken by discussion, this reduces the chances of rash or irresponsible decisions.
- (iv) If the decisions are not according to the wishes of the people they have the right to protest and even can force the government to withdraw it.

Thus, we can say that democracy improves the quality of decision making.

Q.9. "Democracy provides a method to deal with differences and conflicts." Explain.

- Ans.** (i) Democracy provides all the citizens some basic rights through which they can give their opinion.
- (ii) Democracy provides a chance to all the citizens to choose their representatives and change them if they do not work according to their wishes.
- (iii) In parliament all the members have the right to give their opinion.
- (iv) Democracy provides the citizens a right to follow any religion.
- Therefore, we can say that democracy provides a method to deal with differences and conflicts.

Q.10. "Democracy is better than other forms of government because it allows us to correct its own mistakes." Explain.

Ans. There is no guarantee that mistakes cannot be made in democracy. No form of government can guarantee that. The advantage in a 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 decisions or the rulers can be changed. While this cannot be happen in a non-democratic government.

Q.11. "Democracy enhances the dignity of citizens." Explain.

Ans. Democracy is based on the principle of political equality. So, all the citizens whether rich or poor, educated or uneducated have the same status. People are not subjects of a ruler, they are the rulers themselves. But in a non-democratic country people are killed or injured while protecting against the rulers.

Q.12. Explain the major arguments against democracy.

Ans. The major arguments against democracy are as follows :

- (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) Elected leaders do not know the best interest of the people. It leads to bad decisions.
- (iv) Democracy leads to corruption for it is based on electoral competition.
- (v) Ordinary people don't know what is good for them; they should not decide anything.

IV. Short Answer Type Questions (SAII) (Word Limit : 100 words)

Q.1. Explain major features of democracy. 3.

Ans. The major features of democracy are as follows :

- (i) **Responsible Government** : Democratic government is a responsible government. The representatives elected by the people on the basis of universal adult franchise remain responsible to the people and in case they do not remain responsible before the people, the people can change them during the next elections.
- (ii) **Free and fair elections** : A democracy must be based on a free and fair elections where those currently in power have a fair chance of losing.
- (iii) **Based on Liberty and Fraternity** : In democracy, the rights and the liberty of the people are well safeguarded. People are given freedom to express their views without any fear. They can criticise the wrong policies of the government.

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(iv) **Respect of the Principle of Equality** : In democracy, all are equal in the eyes of law, and no discrimination is done on the basis of birth, race, caste, colour sex, religion, etc. All citizens get equal opportunities to participate in the affairs of the state.

(v) **Government based on the will of the people** : Democracy is based on the will of the people, and it functions according to their consent. The government cannot ignore the interest of the people.

(vi) **Political Education** : The greatest merit of democracy is its educative value. Participation in elections and other political activities, make the people intelligent and politically conscious. They become enlightened citizens.

Q.2. Explain any five limitations of democracy.

Ans. (i) Instability : Under democracy leaders and political parties keep changing. This leads to political instability.

(ii) **Law morality** : Democracy is all about political competition and power play. There is no scope for morality.

(iii) **Delays in decision making** : All the decisions are to be approved and discussed in the Parliament, and many people and institutions are to be consulted. So, it leads to delays in decision making.

(iv) **Bad decisions** : As most of the leaders do not know the best interest of the people it leads to bad decisions.

(v) **Corruption** : As the democracy is based on electoral competition, it leads to corruption. Many political parties used muscle and money power to come to power.

(vi) **Illiterate and politically unconscious voters** : In most of the developing countries, voters are illiterate and politically unconscious, so they elect wrong candidates.

Q.3. Distinguish between the democratic and the non-democratic conditions.

Ans.

Democratic	Non-Democratic
<p>(i) Government : A democratic government is elected by the people and it works for the people. It is also answerable to the people. People can change it if it is not working according to the wishes of the people.</p> <p>(ii) Basic rights : Under democracy, people are given basic rights like freedom of speech, freedom of movement, freedom of forming associations or unions, etc.</p> <p>(iii) Regular elections : Under this, there are regular elections through which people can change their government.</p> <p>(iv) Constitution : Under democracy the government works within the constitution. It has different institutions like judiciary which can check the powers of the government.</p> <p>(v) Parliament is supreme : Under democracy it is the parliament which is supreme. All the leaders or even the government is answerable to the parliament.</p>	<p>(i) Government : A non-democratic government is not elected by the people. The ruler may be hereditary or a military general, who has come to power by force. People cannot change it as there are no regular elections.</p> <p>(ii) No basic rights : Under non-democratic conditions, people are not given basic rights. Citizens are put behind bars if they try to demand the basic rights.</p> <p>(iii) No regular elections : Under this, there are no regular elections. Most of the non-democratic rulers have captured the power through the military coup.</p> <p>(iv) Constitution : Some of the non-democratic countries may have constitution, but it can be changed according to the wishes of the dictator.</p> <p>(v) The Ruler is supreme : Under non-democratic conditions, it is the ruler who is supreme. All the political and economic powers are in his/her hand.</p>

Q.4. Keeping in mind the features and principles of democracy can you say that India is a democratic country? Explain by giving examples.

Ans. (i) Decision making power with the people's representative : In India, the final decision making power is with the parliament whose members are directly elected by the people.

(ii) **Free and fair elections** : In India, we have Election Commission; an independent body for conducting elections. Due to this, the party which is in power has a fair chance of losing.

(iii) **One person, one vote, one value** : In India, all the adult citizens have one vote and each vote has one value.

(iv) **Rule of law and respect for rights** : Indian government rules within limits set up by the constitutional law. All the citizens have been given some basic rights.

