

DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

1. What was the reason given by America for imprisoning people at Guantanamo Bay?

- (a) They had been caught spying.
- (b) They were planning to kill the US President.
- (c) They were planning to set up a Communist government in USA.
- (d) America considered them as enemies and linked them to the attack on New York on 11th September, 2001.

2. Which body exposed to the world that prisoners at Guantanamo Bay were being tortured in ways that violated the US laws?

- (a) United Nations
- (b) International Court of Justice
- (c) Amnesty International
- (d) Supreme Court of USA

3. Which of these options is not correct regarding Saudi Arabian political system?

- (a) The king selects the executive, legislature and judiciary
- (b) Citizens cannot form political parties
- (c) There is no freedom of religion
- (d) None of the above

4. What is the position of women in Saudi Arabia?

- (a) Women are given all the rights
- (b) Women are given equal status with men
- (c) Women are subjected to many public restrictions
- (d) They are offered high positions

5. Of which country was Kosovo a province before its split?

- (a) USSR
- (b) Yugoslavia
- (c) South Africa
- (d) Germany

6. What was Milosevic's attitude towards the Albanians?

- (a) His government was hostile to the Kosovo Albanians
- (b) He wanted to bring equality between Serbs and Albanians
- (c) He wanted Serbs to dominate the Albanians
- (d) Both (a) and (c)

7. How was the massacre of Albanians finally stopped?

- (a) The UN ordered for Milosevic's arrest
- (b) Several countries intervened to stop the massacre
- (c) The Serbs turned against Milosevic
- (d) Milosevic reformed himself

8. What was the result of the intervention of other countries to stop the killings of Albanians?

- (a) Milosevic lost power and was tried for crimes against humanity
- (b) The other countries were punished by UNO for interfering in another country
- (c) Led to further army action by Milosevic
- (d) None of the above

9. What is meant by 'rights'?

- (a) One's demand to get everything without sharing with others
- (b) Claims of a person over other fellow beings, society and the government
- (c) Not possessing any freedoms
- (d) None of the above

10. Which of these statements about the relationship between democracy and rights is more valid?

- (a) Every country that is a democracy gives rights to its citizens
- (b) Every country that gives rights to its citizens is a democracy
- (c) Giving rights is good, but it is not necessary for a democracy
- (d) All the above

11. What can be done in case of infringement of the rights in a democracy?

- (a) Citizens are helpless; they cannot do anything
- (b) They can approach courts to protect their rights
- (c) They can ask their representatives to do the needful
- (d) None of the above

12. The government is responsible for providing free and compulsory education to all the children up to the age of :

- (a) 16 years
- (b) 12 years
- (c) 18 years
- (d) 14 years

13. Under which Fundamental Right has the Parliament enacted a law giving the Right to Information to the citizens?

- (a) Right to freedom of religion
- (b) Right to freedom of thought and expression
- (c) Right to freedom of equality
- (d) Right to constitutional remedies

14. Which of these is/are the new rights guaranteed by the constitution of South Africa for its citizens?

- (a) Right to privacy
- (b) Right to an environment that is not harmful to the people's health
- (c) Right to have access to adequate housing
- (d) All the above

15. Which of these is not seen as a standard of human rights by the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights?

- (a) Right to social security and insurance
- (b) Right to health
- (c) Right to accumulate wealth
- (d) Right to adequate standard of living

16. The right to seek the enforcement of all Fundamental Rights is called :

- (a) Right against Exploitation
- (b) Right to Freedom
- (c) Right to Constitutional Remedies
- (d) Cultural and Educational Rights

17. If our Fundamental Rights are violated, where can we seek the remedy?

- (a) Supreme Court or High Courts
- (b) Parliament
- (c) Election Commission
- (d) Council of Ministers

18. What did Dr. Ambedkar refer to the 'Right to Constitutional Remedies' as?

- (a) The brain of our Constitution
- (b) The heart and soul of our Constitution

- (c) The heart of our Constitution
- (d) The soul of our Constitution

19. What is meant by the term 'writ'?

- (a) Written laws
- (b) A formal document containing an order of the court to the government
- (c) Basic features of the Constitution
- (d) None of the above

20. Which of the following is not an instance of an exercise of a Fundamental Right?

- (a) Workers from Bihar go to Punjab to work on the farms
- (b) Parents' property is inherited by their children
- (c) Christian mission sets up a chain of missionary schools
- (d) Religion is not taken into consideration during admission in schools

21. When was the NHRC set up?

- (a) 1998
- (b) 1996
- (c) 1993
- (d) 2001

22. How many Fundamental Rights does the Indian constitution provide?

- (a) 7
- (b) 6
- (c) 5
- (d) 8

23. Which of the following terms is correct for the feature of the Indian constitution stating that no person is above the law?

- (a) State of law
- (b) Application of law
- (c) Rule of law
- (d) Governance by law

24. What does 'Right to Equality' say about the public jobs?

- (a) Jobs will be provided to all by the government
- (b) Jobs will be reserved for the more meritorious students
- (c) All citizens will be provided with equal opportunity in matters of employment
- (d) None of the above

25. What does the Constitution say about the practice of untouchability?

- (a) It stands abolished
- (b) Its practice in any form is punishable by law
- (c) Since it is an age-old custom, it should be respected
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

26. Which of these is false regarding the Freedom of Speech and Expression?

- (a) Everyone has a right to think differently
- (b) One may disagree with a policy of the government
- (c) One can use it to incite people against the government
- (d) One is free to criticize the government

27. Which of these rights is/are provided to a person arrested by the government or police?

- (a) To be informed of the reasons of his arrest
- (b) To be produced before a magistrate within 24 hrs of his arrest
- (c) To engage a lawyer for his defense
- (d) All the above

28. One of the forms of exploitation as mentioned in the constitution is 'traffic'. What does it mean?

- (a) Transport system
- (b) Buying and selling of human beings
- (c) Buying and selling of goods
- (d) None of the above

29. What is meant by 'begar'?

- (a) Practice of begging
- (b) Practice of forcing workers to work without any wages
- (c) Practice of encouraging workers to work at normal wages
- (d) Both (b) and (c)

30. Laws have been made to prohibit children from working in which of these industries?

- (a) Beedi making
- (b) Fire crackers and matches
- (c) Printing and dyeing
- (d) All the above

31. Which of the following freedom is not available to an Indian citizen?

- (a) Freedom to start a movement to change the government
- (b) Freedom to oppose the government
- (c) Freedom to participate in armed revolution
- (d) None of these

32. Which among the following cannot be challenged in a court?

- (a) Directive principles of state policy
- (b) Fundamental Rights
- (c) Freedom to choose any profession or business
- (d) Right to move freely to any part of the country.

33. Cultural and Educational Rights are safeguarded mainly for :

- (a) Women
- (b) minorities
- (c) children
- (d) Men

34. Which of the following is not a Fundamental Right?

- (a) Right to Freedom
- (b) Right to Vote
- (c) Right to Equality
- (d) None of these

35. Which of the following rights is not available under the fundamental rights?

- (a) Right to Equality
- (b) Right to Freedom
- (b) Right to protect one's culture
- (d) Right to property.

36. India is a secular state. What does the word 'secular' mean?

- (a) The state gives protection to the Hindu religion
- (b) The state allows only the majority to propagate their religion
- (c) The state has no religion of its own
- (d) None of the above.

37. Which one of the following fundamental rights is called the heart and soul of Indian constitution?

- (a) Right to equality
- (b) Right to constitutional remedies
- (c) Right to freedom
- (d) Right to freedom of religion

38. Civil Rights are given to the individual by:

- (a) Nature
- (b) God
- (c) The State
- (d) The people

39. The Indian Constitution prescribes Fundamental Rights in:

- (a) part III
- (b) part VII
- (c) part V
- (d) part IV

40. Which one of the following rights is available to the citizens of India and not to the citizens of Saudi Arabia?

- (a) The country is ruled by a hereditary king
- (b) Citizens cannot form political parties
- (c) Women are subjected to many public restrictions
- (d) Citizens enjoy the freedom of religion

41. Who called the right to constitutional remedies as the heart and soul of the constitution?

- (a) J.L. Nehru
- (b) B. R. Ambedkar
- (c) Mahatma Gandhi
- (d) Rajendra Prasad

42. The National Human Right Commission is an independent commission, set up by the law in the year :

- (a) 1993
- (b) 1995
- (c) 1999
- (d) 2001

43. Which of the following Fundamental Rights prohibits traffic in human beings?

- (a) Right against exploitation
- (b) Right to equality
- (c) Right to freedom of religion
- (d) Right to freedom

44. Which of these is not a freedom available under the 'Right to Freedom' in India?

- (a) Freedom of speech and expression
- (b) Freedom to incite people to rebel against the government
- (c) Freedom to assemble in a peaceful manner
- (d) Freedom to form associations and unions

45. Which among the following is correct regarding PIL?

- (a) Public Interest Legislature
- (b) Public Interest Litigation
- (c) Public Information Litigation
- (d) Public Information Legislature

46. Which one of the following is not true regarding the Fundamental Rights?

- (a) Men and women government employees get the same salary.
- (b) Christian missionaries set up a chain of missionary schools
- (c) Workers from Uttar Pradesh go to Punjab to work on the farms.
- (d) Parents property is inherited by the children.

47. Which of the following freedoms is not available to an Indian citizen?

- (a) Freedom to criticize the government
- (b) Freedom to participate in armed rebellion
- (c) Freedom to reside in any part of the country
- (d) All the above

48. Which of these is not allowed under the Culture and Educational Right in India?

- (a) Every cultural group has the right to protect its language and culture.
- (b) Admissions can be denied on the basis of religion and culture in government aided educational organizations set up by cultural groups.
- (c) All minority groups have the right to establish educational institutions of their choice.
- (d) None of these

49. Which one of the following is not a Political Right?

- (a) Right to contest election
- (b) Right to vote
- (c) Right to seek any political office
- (d) Right to freedom

50. Which of the following practices is against the secular philosophy of the

country?

- (a) To propagate one's religion
- (b) To change one's religion
- (c) To offer religious instruction in government schools
- (d) To practice a religion of choice

51. If anyone violates our Fundamental Rights we can directly approach the :

- (a) Prime Minister
- (b) Supreme Court
- (c) President
- (d) Vice President

52. Which fundamental rights ensures the ban on bonded labour?

- (a) Right against exploitation
- (b) Right to freedom
- (c) Right to constitutional remedies
- (d) Right to equality

53. Which of the following was not relevant to the prisoners of Guantanamo Bay?

- (a) The governments of their countries were not informed of their arrests
- (b) Families and UN representatives were allowed to meet them
- (c) There was no proper trial before a magistrate
- (d) They were kept in prison even after they were officially declared 'not guilty'

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS

1. (d) America considered them as enemies and linked them to the attack on New York on 11th September, 2001.
2. (c) Amnesty International
3. (d) None of the above
4. (c) Women are subjected to many public restrictions
5. (b) Yugoslavia
6. (d) Both (a) and (c)
7. (b) Several countries intervened to stop the massacre
8. (a) Milosevic lost power and was tried for crimes against humanity
9. (b) Claims of a person over other fellow beings, society and the government
10. (b) Every country that gives rights to its citizens is a democracy
11. (b) They can approach courts to protect their rights
12. (d) 14 years
13. (b) Right to freedom of thought and expression
14. (d) All the above
15. (c) Right to accumulate wealth

16. (c) Right to Constitutional Remedies
17. (a) Supreme Court or High Courts
18. (d) The soul of our Constitution
19. (b) A formal document containing an order of the court to the government
20. (b) Parents' property is inherited by their children
21. (c) 1993
22. (b) 6
23. (c) Rule of law
24. (c) All citizens will be provided with equal opportunity in matters of employment
25. (d) Both (a) and (b)
26. (c) One can use it to incite people against the government
27. (d) All the above
28. (b) Buying and selling of human beings
29. (b) Practice of forcing workers to work without any wages
30. (d) All the above
31. (c) Freedom to participate in armed revolution
32. (b) Fundamental Rights
33. (b) minorities
34. (b) Right to Vote
35. (d) Right to property.
36. (c) The state has no religion of its own
37. (b) Right to constitutional remedies
38. (c) The State
39. (a) part III
40. (d) Citizens enjoy the freedom of religion
41. (b) B. R. Ambedkar
42. (a) 1993
43. (a) Right against exploitation
44. (b) Freedom to incite people to rebel against the government
45. (b) Public Interest Litigation
46. (d) Parents property is inherited by the children.
47. (b) Freedom to participate in armed rebellion
48. (b) Admissions can be denied on the basis of religion and culture in government aided educational organizations set up by cultural groups.
49. (d) Right to freedom
50. (c) To offer religious instruction in government schools
51. (b) Supreme Court
52. (a) Right against exploitation
53. (b) Families and UN representatives were allowed to meet them

Q.1 Chapter one: Chile under Pinochet and Poland under Jaruzelsky were not democratic because.....

Chapter Two: A comprehensive definition of democracy includes....

Chapter Three: Our constitution makers believed that fundamental rights were quite central to the constitution because....

Chapter Four: Every adult citizen of India has the right to ... and to be....

Chapter Five: If a law is against the Constitution, every citizen has the right to approach.....

Ans: Chapter One: Chile under Pinochet and Poland under Jaruzelsky were not democratic because they did not grant freedom of speech and expression to its people and did not hold free and fair elections regularly.

Chapter Two: A comprehensive definition of democracy includes a government of the people, elected periodically by universal adult franchise through free and fair elections. The will of the people is supreme in a democracy.

Chapter Three: Our Constitution makers believed that fundamental rights were quite central to the constitution because they were committed to universal adult franchise, right to freedom and equality and to protecting the rights of the minorities.

Chapter Four: Every adult citizen of India has the right to vote and to be elected.

Chapter Five: If a law is against the constitution, every citizen has the right to approach the courts.

Q.2 If you were a Serb, would you support what Milosevic did in Kosovo? Do you think this project of establishing Serb dominance was good for the Serbs?

Ans: I would oppose it. This kind of eminence would recoil on the Serbs themselves as it would make them very unpopular. It did. The Albanians overthrew Milosevic and he died in a prison. He would always be remembered for his brutality and terror.

Q.3 What are the examples of elected governments not protecting or even attacking the rights of their own citizens? Why do they do that?

Ans. Examples of Pinochet in Chile; Mugabe of Zimbabwe, Milosevic in Kosovo, Saddam Hussein in Iraq. They do that so that they can remain in power by terrorising the minorities and their own people.

Q.4 Everyone knows that the rich can have better lawyers in the courts. What is the point in talking about equality before law?

Ans: The lawyers, however brilliant, do not decide the case. It is the judge who does so, and so far judiciary has shown that it is impartial and gives fair justice.

Q.5 Should the freedom of expression be extended to those who are spreading wrong and narrow-minded ideas? Should they be allowed to confuse the public?

Ans: No. They should be warned or punished. Freedom of expression does not allow one to encroach on other people's freedom or hurt their feelings, create confusion or

conflict.

Q.6 The constitution does not give people their religion. Then how can it give people the right to practice their religion?

Ans: Our constitution does not favour any religion. It is secular. The constitution is not concerned with the relation between human beings and God. It is only concerned with relations among human beings, so it has given the people the right to practice, profess, and propagate their religion. It only safeguards that this freedom is not misused.

Q.7 Can the President of India stop you from approaching the Supreme Court to secure your fundamental rights?

Ans: No. It is the fundamental right granted by the constitution. The President has to abide by the laws of the constitution.

Q.8 Are these rights only for adults? Which of these rights are available to children?

Ans: (i) Compulsory education given free to every child till the age of 14. That is school education is compulsory.

(ii) Child labour is not allowed by the constitution. Children under the age of 14 cannot be employed in dangerous occupations. Example: mines, factories, etc.

Q.1 Which of the following is not an instance of the exercise of a fundamental right?

- (a) Workers from Bihar go to Punjab to work on the farms.
- (b) Christian missions set up a chain of missionary schools.
- (c) Men and women government employees get the same salary.
- (d) Parents' property is inherited by their children.

Ans: (d) Parents' property is inherited by their children.

Q.2 Which of the following freedoms is available to an Indian citizen?

- (a) Freedom to criticize the government
- (b) Freedom to participate in armed revolution
- (c) Freedom to start a movement to change the government
- (d) Freedom to oppose the central values of the constitution

Ans: (a) Freedom to criticize the government.

Q.3 Which of the following rights is available under the Indian Constitution?

- (a) Right to work**
- (b) Right to adequate livelihood**
- (c) Right to protect one's culture**
- (d) Right to privacy**

Ans: (c) Right to protect one's culture.

Q.4 Name the Fundamental Rights under which each of the following rights falls:

- (a) Freedom to propagate one's religion**
- (b) Right to life**
- (c) Abolition of untouchability**
- (d) Ban on bonded labour**

Ans: (a) Right to Freedom of Religion

- (b) Right to Freedom
- (c) Right to Equality and
- (d) Right Against Exploitation.

Q.5 Which of these statements about the relationship between democracy and rights is more valid? Give reasons for your preference.

- (a) Every country that is a democracy gives rights to its citizens.**
- (b) Every country that gives rights to its citizens is a democracy.**
- (c) Giving rights is good, but is not necessary for a democracy.**

Ans: (b) Unless the people are given the right to choose and vote freely their representative in the government, the country cannot have a democracy. A true a democratic country is called only when the citizens choose their government or representatives.

Q.6 Are these restrictions on the Right to Freedom justified? Give reasons for your answer.

- (a) Indian citizens need permission to visit some border areas of the country for reasons of security.**
- (b) Outsiders are not allowed to buy property in some areas to protect the interest of the local population.**
- (c) The government bans the publication of a book that can go against the ruling party in the next elections.**

Ans: (a) It is justified. The security of a country is the first duty of a government, and it can stop people from visiting the border areas.

(b) This action is also justified. The local population may not be financially strong to

protect its interests. Outsiders can take away their rights in their own area, so the government's step is right.

(c) No, this is not justified. The publication of a book can only be banned if it disturbs peace or hurts the sentiments of a section of people, and not on grounds of protecting the ruling party's prospects in the next elections.

Q.7 Manoj went to a college to apply for admission into an MBA course. The clerk refused to take his application and said, "You, the son of a sweeper, wish to be a manager! Has anyone done this job in your community? Go to the municipality office and apply for a sweeper's position." Which of Manoj's fundamental rights are being violated in this instance? Spell these out in a letter from Manoj to the District Collector.

Ans: The following rights are being violated.

1. Right to Equality: Everyone is equal in the eyes of the law. No one can be denied admissions on grounds of birth. The person is practicing "untouchability" in an indirect way, and this is an offense in the eyes of law. His right to opportunity is also being violated.
2. Right to Freedom: Manoj has a right to apply for any job anywhere as long as he is qualified for it.

These two points should be pointed out in your letter to the District Collector.

Q.8 When Madhurima went to the property registration office, the Registrar told her, "You can't write your name as Madhurima Banerjee d/o A.K. Banerjee. You are married, so you must give your husband's name. Your husband's surname is Rao. So your name should be changed to Madhurima Rao." She did not agree. She said, "If my husband's name has not changed after marriage, why should mine?" In your opinion who is right in this dispute? And why?

Ans: There is no law which states that a woman can own property in her married name only. The constitution gives equal right to both men and women. So if Madhurima wants to give her maiden name, though married, she has the right to do so. The Registrar is being traditional.

Q.9 Thousands of tribals and other forest dwellers gathered at Piparia in Hoshnagabad district in Madhya Pradesh to protest against their proposed displacement from the Satpura National Park, Bori Wildlife Sanctuary and Panchmarhi Wildlife Sanctuary. They argue that such a displacement is an attack on their livelihood and beliefs. Government claims that their displacement is essential for the development of the area and for protection of wildlife. Write a petition on behalf of the forest dwellers to the NHRC, a response from the government and a report of the NHRC on this matter.

Ans: (a) Letter from Tribals to NHRC can include these points

- i. Government's proposal is a violation of human rights.
- ii. It is taking away their right to live, right to follow their beliefs.
- iii. For centuries the forests have been their means of livelihood.
- iv. They have practised their rituals here.
- v. No alternative has been suggested to them.
- vi. Nothing has happened to the wildlife, so why this sudden interest?
- vii. Displacement would cause untold misery to them, their families, children and their future.

(b) Response from the Government may include these points

- i. The government had given a warning to the people two years ago.
- ii. There has been an alarming rise in poaching, cutting of trees and killing of wildlife.
- iii. Environmental pollution has also increased.
- iv. It is the government's duty to protect the endangered species.
- v. The government has offered compensation and promised rehabilitation in alternative places.
- vi. Offered jobs to the men.

(c) NHRC's Report may include these points

- i. Both sides have a point.
- ii. The Tribals have tradition, practice and decades of residence behind them. It is their world and life.
- iii. Sudden uprooting will leave them emotionally disturbed, turn them into vagabonds and force them into jobs or occupations which they have never followed.
- iv. The Government is right in its concern for wildlife. It is its duty to save certain species from becoming extinct. Poachers are having a field day, and every day the environment is threatened.

Suggestions: Transfer should be slow, not sudden. First, shelter and occupation should be provided to all the people. Education should be the primary concern. Only through education can the younger generation take to the new environment and occupation. Not one family should be rendered homeless and without means of occupation.