

Chapter-3

What is Government

2marks

1Q: Why does every country need a government?

Answer: Every country needs a government to make decisions, implement policies, and address various issues such as infrastructure development, social welfare, and national security.

2Q: List three different activities mentioned in the newspaper headlines that the government is reported to be doing.

Answer: Activities may include building roads and schools, addressing the rising prices of commodities like onions, implementing social welfare programs, and managing postal and railway services.

3Q: What is the role of laws in a government?

Answer: Laws are essential in a government to set rules that everyone must follow. They help maintain order, protect citizens' rights, and allow the government to enforce its decisions.

4Q: Explain the difference between local, state, and national levels of government.

Answer: Local government operates in villages, towns, or localities; state government covers an entire state (e.g., Haryana or Assam); national government pertains to the entire country.

5Q:What is the main feature of a democracy, and how is it achieved in a representative democracy?

Answer: The main feature of a democracy is that people have the power to elect their leaders. In a representative democracy, people choose representatives through an electoral process, and these representatives make decisions on their behalf.

6Q:Describe the role of the government in protecting the boundaries of a country.

Answer: The government is responsible for safeguarding the boundaries of a country, ensuring national security, and maintaining peaceful relations with other nations.

7Q:What are stereotypes, and how do they affect individuals and society?

Answer: Stereotypes are fixed, oversimplified beliefs about a particular group of people. They limit individuals by fitting them into preconceived notions, hindering the recognition of unique qualities and abilities.

4MARKS

1. Do you think it is important for people to be involved in decisions that affect them? Give two reasons for your answer.

Answer: Yes, it is crucial for people to be involved in decisions that affect them. Two reasons for this are:

Representation: Involving people ensures that diverse perspectives and interests are considered in decision-making, leading to fair and inclusive policies.

Responsibility: People feel a sense of responsibility and ownership when they participate in decisions, fostering a more engaged and accountable society.

2. Which type of government would you prefer to have in the place you live in? Why?

Answer: I would prefer to have a democratic government in the place I live. The reasons include:

Inclusivity: Democracy allows people to participate in decision-making, promoting inclusivity and representing various voices.

Accountability: Democratic governments are accountable to the people, and citizens have the power to elect leaders and hold them responsible for their actions.

3. Which of the statements below is correct? Correct those sentences that you think need correction.

a. In a monarchy, the country's citizens are allowed to elect whomever they want.

- Correction: In a monarchy, citizens usually do not have the right to elect their leaders; leadership is often hereditary.

b. In a democracy, a king has absolute powers to rule the country.

- Correction: In a democracy, the power to rule is vested in elected representatives, not a king.

c. In a monarchy, people can raise questions about the decisions the monarch takes.

- Correction: In a monarchy, questioning decisions made by the monarch is often limited, as the monarch holds absolute authority.

3. What do you understand by the word 'government'? List five ways in which you think the government affects your daily life.

Answer: The government is a governing body responsible for making decisions and implementing policies. It affects daily life in various ways, including:

Infrastructure: Building roads, schools, and public facilities.

Social Welfare: Implementing programs to help the poor and marginalized.

Law Enforcement: Enforcing laws to maintain order and security.

Public Services: Managing postal, railway, and other essential services.

Decision-Making: Influencing policies that impact citizens' lives.

4. Why do you think the government needs to make rules for everyone in the form of laws?

Answer: The government needs to make rules in the form of laws to ensure:

Order and Security: Laws establish guidelines that maintain order and security in society.

Fairness: Laws promote fairness by treating everyone equally and protecting individual rights.

5. Name two essential features of a democratic government.

Answer: Two essential features of a democratic government are:

Universal Adult Franchise: All adults have the right to vote.

Representation: People elect representatives who make decisions on their behalf.

6. What was the suffrage movement? What did it accomplish?

Answer: The suffrage movement was a women's struggle for the right to vote. It achieved success in various countries, granting women the right to vote, such as in the United States in 1920 and the United Kingdom in 1928.

7. Gandhiji strongly believed that every adult in India should be given the right to vote. However, a few people don't share his views. They feel that illiterate people, who are mainly poor, should not be given the right to vote. What do you think? Do you think this would be a form of discrimination? Give five points to support your view and share these with the class.

Answer:

Equal Citizenship: Denying voting rights based on literacy discriminates against a particular group, violating the principle of equal citizenship.

Right to Participation: Every citizen, regardless of literacy, has the right to participate in the democratic process.

Diverse Perspectives: Illiterate individuals may bring diverse perspectives and experiences that should be considered in decision-making.

Potential for Change: Education levels can change over time, and denying voting rights based on literacy may hinder social progress.

Inclusivity: A democratic society thrives on inclusivity, and restricting voting based on literacy contradicts the democratic values of representation and equal participation.

7MARKS

1. Explain the various activities mentioned in the text that highlight the role of the government. How do these activities contribute to the well-being of citizens?

Answer:

The role of the government is multifaceted, encompassing various activities that significantly contribute to the well-being of citizens. Firstly, infrastructure development, such as the construction of roads and schools, plays a pivotal role. By investing in these projects, the government enhances connectivity, facilitates transportation, and provides access to education. This, in turn, directly contributes to the overall development and quality of life of citizens.

Secondly, the government intervenes in economic matters to ensure the stability and affordability of essential commodities. For instance, when prices of items like onions surge, the government takes corrective measures to prevent exploitation and maintain affordability for citizens. Economic stability is crucial for the well-being of citizens as it directly impacts their purchasing power and standard of living.

Furthermore, the government actively addresses social issues by implementing welfare programs. These programs are designed to assist the poor and marginalized sections of society, ensuring that basic needs such as food, healthcare, and education are met. By undertaking such initiatives, the government aims to reduce disparities and promote social justice, ultimately enhancing the well-being of all citizens.

In summary, the government's involvement in infrastructure development, economic regulation, and social welfare programs collectively contributes to creating a more secure, inclusive, and prosperous society, thereby positively impacting the well-being of its citizens.

2. Discuss the significance of laws in the functioning of the government. Provide examples of laws and explain how they contribute to maintaining order and fairness in society. (7 marks)

Answer:

Laws serve as the backbone of a well-functioning government, playing a crucial role in maintaining order and fostering fairness within society. They provide a framework for acceptable behavior, regulate interactions, and establish consequences for non-compliance. Several laws are instrumental in ensuring order and fairness, contributing to the overall functioning of the government.

One key example is traffic laws, which mandate that individuals must possess a valid driving license to operate a motor vehicle. These laws not only regulate traffic flow but also contribute to public safety by ensuring that individuals with the necessary skills and knowledge operate vehicles. Violating these laws, such as driving without a license, can result in legal consequences, reinforcing the government's power to enforce its decisions.

Another significant law pertains to anti-discrimination in employment. Laws prohibiting discrimination based on factors such as religion or caste ensure fairness in hiring practices. By promoting equal opportunities, these laws contribute to creating a just and inclusive society. Individuals who believe they have been discriminated against can seek legal recourse, emphasizing the role of laws in safeguarding citizens' rights and ensuring fairness.

In essence, laws are essential tools that empower the government to maintain order, regulate societal behavior, and uphold principles of justice and fairness. They act as a foundation for a functional and just society, providing citizens with a legal framework that governs their interactions and protects their rights.

3. Explore the concept of levels of government discussed in the text. How do local, state, and national levels function, and what role do they play in governing a country like India? (7 marks)

Answer:

The concept of levels of government is crucial for understanding the functioning of governance in a country like India. Governments operate at three main levels: local, state, and national.

At the local level, which includes villages, towns, and localities, the government addresses issues directly impacting residents. Local governments handle matters like building local infrastructure, waste management, and small-scale public services. The primary objective is to cater to the immediate needs of the community and ensure effective governance at the grassroots level.

Moving to the state level, governments cover entire states, such as Haryana or Assam in India. State governments have broader responsibilities, including healthcare, education, and infrastructure development within the state borders. They play a crucial role in implementing national policies and tailoring them to the specific needs of the state.

At the national level, the central government oversees matters that impact the entire country. It handles national defense, foreign relations, and major economic policies. The central government also sets overarching guidelines that states follow and coordinates efforts for national development. In India, the national government is responsible for maintaining unity among diverse states and ensuring the overall progress of the nation.

In essence, the levels of government in India function cohesively to address issues at varying scales. Local governments attend to immediate concerns, state governments adapt national policies, and the central government manages affairs of national importance. This layered approach ensures effective governance and comprehensive development across the country.

4. Elaborate on the significance of universal adult franchise in a democratic government. Discuss its historical context in India and how it promotes inclusivity and representation. (7 marks)

Answer:

Universal adult franchise is a cornerstone of democratic governments, signifying the right of all adult citizens to vote in elections. Its significance lies in fostering inclusivity, representation, and ensuring that diverse voices contribute to the decision-making process.

In India, the historical context of universal adult franchise is noteworthy. Before Independence, only a select minority had the right to vote. The discriminatory practice excluded women, the poor, the property-less, and the uneducated from participating in elections. However, the demand for universal adult franchise gained momentum during the independence movement.

Visionaries like Mahatma Gandhi emphasized the importance of extending voting rights to all adults, regardless of wealth or literacy. The idea was rooted in the belief that every citizen, irrespective of their background, should have a say in the governance of the country. This vision became a reality with the adoption of universal adult franchise in India after Independence, ensuring that all adults could participate in the democratic process.

Universal adult franchise promotes inclusivity by allowing citizens from diverse backgrounds to contribute to the democratic process. It ensures that decisions made by elected representatives consider the perspectives of the entire population. In this way, the principle of representation is upheld, and the government becomes a true reflection of the people it serves.

In conclusion, universal adult franchise stands as a testament to the democratic values of inclusivity and representation. Its historical context in India underscores the commitment to providing every citizen with the opportunity to shape the nation's destiny through the power of the vote.

5. Evaluate the role of the government in protecting the boundaries of a country and maintaining peaceful relations with other nations. Provide examples of how governments perform these duties and their significance in the contemporary geopolitical landscape. (7 marks)

Answer:

The role of the government in protecting national boundaries and maintaining peaceful international relations is paramount in ensuring the security and stability of a country. Governments employ various strategies and institutions to carry out these duties, and their significance is particularly crucial in the contemporary geopolitical landscape.

One primary responsibility of the government is to safeguard the territorial integrity of the country. This involves the establishment and maintenance of robust defense forces, including the army, navy, and air force. These forces are tasked with defending against external threats and ensuring that the nation's borders are secure. For instance, the Indian Armed Forces play a vital role in protecting the country's boundaries, as demonstrated in conflicts and border disputes.

Additionally, governments engage in diplomacy to maintain peaceful relations with other nations. This involves negotiations, treaties, and international collaborations to foster cooperation and prevent conflicts. Organizations like the Ministry of External Affairs in India are instrumental in managing diplomatic relations. International forums, such as the United Nations, provide platforms for countries to address issues diplomatically and promote global peace.

The significance of these efforts is evident in the prevention of armed conflicts and the promotion of economic and cultural exchanges between nations. In the contemporary context, where global interdependence is increasing, maintaining peaceful relations is crucial for addressing transnational challenges like climate change, terrorism, and public health crises.

In summary, the government's role in protecting national boundaries and ensuring peaceful international relations is foundational to a country's security and prosperity. Through defense mechanisms and diplomatic engagements,

governments contribute to a stable and harmonious global order, fostering collaboration and mutual understanding among nations.

summary

The chapter explores the concept of government and its various roles in a country. It emphasizes that every country needs a government to make decisions and implement actions for the welfare of its citizens. The government is involved in diverse activities such as infrastructure development, social programs, and disaster relief.

The text introduces the idea that rules and laws are necessary for the functioning of a government, and these laws apply to everyone in the country. The importance of government in protecting territorial boundaries, maintaining peaceful relations, and ensuring citizens' well-being during natural disasters is highlighted.

The chapter also discusses the different levels of government—local, state, and national—and briefly mentions their functions. It emphasizes the need for organization and decision-making when people live and work together.

Laws play a crucial role in government functioning, and the government has the power to make and enforce laws. The passage encourages readers to think about the importance of abiding by laws and the consequences of not doing so.

The text introduces different types of governments, focusing on democracy and monarchy. In a democracy, power is derived from the people through elections, while in a monarchy, a king or queen holds decision-making power without the need for public explanation.

The discussion then delves into the concept of representative democracy, where people elect representatives to make decisions on their behalf. Universal adult franchise, allowing all adults to vote, is considered a fundamental aspect of democracy.

The chapter concludes by briefly mentioning the historical struggle for democracy, particularly the women's suffrage movement. The significance of universal adult

franchise in India and the idea that people should participate in decision-making processes are emphasized.

The exercise at the end encourages readers to identify the neighbors of India and gather information about their own state, union territory, district, and routes to the national capital. It also presents statements for categorization based on the level of government—local, state, or central. The questions at the end prompt reflection on the understanding of government, the role of laws, essential features of a democratic government, the suffrage movement, and opinions on voting rights for illiterate people.

CHOOSE THE CORRET ANSWERS

1. Why do rules need to be made that apply to everyone? Choose the correct reason:

- a. To control resources
- b. To protect the territory of a country
- c. To ensure people feel secure
- d. All of the above

Answer: d

2. What are the levels at which the government works?

- a. Local level
- b. State level
- c. National level
- d. All of the above

Answer: d

3. Think of an example of a law and choose the reason why it is important for people to abide by this law:

- a. Maintaining social order
- b. Upholding justice
- c. Ensuring safety
- d. All of the above

Answer: d

4. Who gives the government the power to make decisions and enforce laws?

- a. The monarch
- b. The people
- c. The elected representatives
- d. Only a and c

Answer: b

5. Democracy and Monarchy:

- a. In a democracy, citizens elect their leaders.
- b. In a monarchy, the monarch has to explain and defend decisions.
- c. In a democracy, a king has absolute powers.
- d. In a monarchy, people can raise questions about the decisions the monarch takes.

Answer: a, b, d

6. Why is it important for people to be involved in decisions that affect them?

Choose the correct reasons:

- a. Representation of diverse perspectives
- b. Ensuring accountability
- c. Both a and b
- d. None of the above

Answer: c

FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. **Democracy**, for inclusivity and accountability type of government would be preferred.
- 2 **All adults allowed to vote, ensuring equal participation** is universal adult franchise, and why is it significant in a democracy.
3. I would prefer to have a **democratic government** in the place I live
4. . **Laws prohibiting discrimination** based on factors such as religion or caste ensure fairness
5. In India, the historical context of **universal adult franchise** is noteworthy