

What is Democracy? Why Democracy?

01. Explain the main features of democracy.

The main features of democracy are –

- [i] Major decisions by elected leaders: In a democracy the final decision-making power must rest with those elected by the people.
- [ii] Free and fair electoral competition: A democracy must be based on a free and fair election where those currently in power have a fair chance of losing.
- [iii] One person, one vote, one value: In a democracy, each adult citizen must have one vote and each vote must have one value.
- [iv] Rule of law and respect for rights: A democratic government rules within limits set by constitutional law and citizens' rights.

02. Explain the arguments against democracy.

OR

Explain the demerits of democracy.

OR

Explain the various disadvantages of democracy.

The various disadvantages of democracy are –

- Leaders keep changing in a democracy. This leads to instability
- Democracy is all about political competition and power play. There is no scope for morality
- So many people have to be consulted in a democracy that it leads to delays
- Elected leaders do not know the best interest of the people. It leads to bad decisions
- Democracy leads to corruption for it is based on electoral competition
- Ordinary people don't know what is good for them; they should not decide anything

03. Explain the merits of democracy.

OR

Explain the advantages of democracy.

OR

Explain the arguments for democracy.

The various advantages of democracy are:

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- A democratic government is a better government because it is a more accountable form of government
- democracy improves the quality of decision-making
- Democracy provides a method to deal with differences and conflicts
- Democracy enhances the dignity of citizens
- Democracy is better than other forms of government because it allows us to correct its own mistakes.

04. What is Democracy?

Democracy is the form of government in which the rulers are elected by the people of the country. Or as Abraham Lincoln says it is the form of government 'Of the People, By the People and For the People'.

05. When did General Pervez Musharraf lead a military coup?

General Pervez Musharraf led a military coup in October 1999.

06. In which year General Pervez Musharraf designated himself as the president of Pakistan?

General Pervez Musharraf designated himself as the president of Pakistan in the year 2002.

07. Define referendum.

Referendum is a direct vote in which an entire electorate is asked to either accept or reject a particular proposal. This may be adoption of a new constitution, a law or a specific government policy.

08. Define Legal Framework Order.

Legal Framework Order amended the constitution of Pakistan. According to this order, the President can dismiss the national and provincial assemblies.

09. Name the Legislature of China.

The National People's Congress (NPC)

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10. How many members are elected for the legislature of China?

Nearly 3000 members are elected for the legislature of China.

11. Who elects the President of China?

The President of China is elected by the National People's Congress.

12. Which Political Party is ruling in China?

The Communist Party of China is the political party ruling in China.

13. When did Mexico get freedom?

Mexico became independent in the year 1930.

14. Which Political Party was winning election until 2000 in Mexico?

Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) was winning the elections until 2000.

15. Explain why, Pakistan under Pervez Musharraf cannot be called a democracy.

Pakistan under Pervez Musharraf cannot be called a democracy because of the following reasons:

1. He came to power in 1999 through a military coup, overthrowing an elected government.
2. In 2002, he held a referendum to declare himself President, but the process was neither free nor fair.
3. He passed constitutional amendments giving himself and the military supreme powers, even above elected representatives.
4. In a democracy, rulers must be elected by the people through free elections and remain accountable to them, but in Pakistan the real power rested with Musharraf and the military.

Therefore, Pakistan lacked the essence of democracy under Musharraf.

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Sources: Sanjay Sir – Teacher, BMSSS

Gink AI – Gamer Inc. AI: One and Only