

NCERT Solutions for Class 9 Political Science Chapter 1 – What Is Democracy? Why Democracy?

EXERCISES PAGE NO: 15

1. Here is some information about the four countries. Based on this information, how would you classify each of these countries? Write 'democratic', 'undemocratic' or 'not sure' against each of these.

- a. Country A: People who do not accept the country's official religion do not have a right to vote.
- b. Country B: The same party has been winning elections for the last twenty years.
- c. Country C: The Ruling party has lost in the last three elections.
- d. Country D: There is no independent election commission.

Answer.

- a. Country A: Undemocratic
- b. Country B: Not sure
- c. Country C: Democratic
- d. Country D: Undemocratic
- 2. Here is some information about four countries. Based on this information, how would you classify each of these countries? Write 'democratic', 'undemocratic' or 'not sure' against each of these.
 - a. Country P: The parliament cannot pass a law about the army without the consent of the Chief of the Army.
 - b. Country Q: The parliament cannot pass a law reducing the powers of the judiciary.
 - c. Country R: The country's leaders cannot sign any treaty with another country without taking permission from its neighbouring country.
 - d. Country S: All the major economic decisions about the country are taken by officials of the central bank, which the ministers cannot change.

Answer.

- a. Country P: Undemocratic
- b. Country Q: Democratic
- c. Country R: Undemocratic
- d. Country S: Undemocratic
- 3. Which of these is not a good argument in favour of democracy? Why?
 - a. People feel free and equal in a democracy.
 - b. Democracies resolve conflict in a better way than others.
 - c. Democratic government is more accountable to the people.
 - d. Democracies are more prosperous than others.

Answer.

D. Democracies are more prosperous than others is not a good argument in favour of democracy. There are examples of countries being democratic but not as prosperous as other countries which are not democratic. Democracy means that the citizen of the country is involved in the decision-making process and electing the leaders. It does not necessarily guarantee prosperity, as there are other factors like geography, economic capacity, government policies, human resources, mineral resources, etc.



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- 4. Each of these statements contains a democratic and undemocratic element. Write out the two separately for each statement.
 - a. A minister said that some laws have to be passed by the parliament in order to conform to the regulations decided by the World Trade Organisation (WTO).
 - b. The Election Commission ordered re-polling in a constituency where large-scale rigging was reported.
 - c. Women's representation in parliament has barely reached 10 per cent. This led women's organisations to demand one-third of seats for women.

Answer.

- a. Democratic element A minister said that some laws have to be passed by the parliament. Undemocratic element Conform to the regulations decided by the World Trade Organisation (WTO).
- b. Democratic element The Election Commission ordered re-polling in a constituency. Undemocratic element Large-scale rigging was reported.
- c. Democratic element Women's organisations to demand one-third of seats for women. Undemocratic element Women's representation in parliament has barely reached 10 per cent.
- 5. Which of these is not a valid reason for arguing that there is a lesser possibility of famine in a democratic country?
 - a. Opposition parties can draw attention to hunger and starvation.
 - b. A free press can report suffering from famine in different parts of the country.
 - c. The government fears its defeat in the next elections.
 - d. People are free to believe in and practise any religion.

Answer.

- D. The statement, 'People are free to believe in and practice any religion', is not a valid reason for arguing that there is a lesser possibility of famine in a democratic country.
- 6. There are 40 villages in a district where the government has made no provision for drinking water. These villagers met and considered many methods of forcing the government to respond to their needs. Which of these is not a democratic method?
 - a. Filing a case in the courts claiming that water is part of the right to life.
 - b. Boycotting the next elections to give a message to all parties.
 - c. Organising public meetings against the government's policies.
 - d. Paying money to government officials to get water.

- D. Paying money to government officials to get water is not a democratic method.
- 7. Write a response to the following arguments against democracy:
 - a. The army is the most disciplined and corruption-free organisation in the country. Therefore, the army should rule the country.
 - b. The rule of the majority means the rule of ignorant people. What we need is the rule of the wise, even if they are in small numbers.



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c. If we want religious leaders to guide us in spiritual matters, why not invite them to guide us in politics as well? The country should be ruled by religious leaders.

Answer.

- a. The army is a disciplined organisation. However, it is unfair if an army rules, as the army was not chosen by the citizens, and hence, it will be an undemocratic practice.
- b. The rule of the majority is not the rule of ignorant people. Wisdom is subjective, and the government is run by people who know law and order.
- c. Religion and politics are two different things. While religion can guide someone towards religious affairs, it cannot guide anyone towards politics, which is an important segment of a nation.
- 8. Are the following statements in keeping with democracy as a value? Why?
 - a. Father to daughter: I don't want to hear your opinion about your marriage. In our family, children marry where the parents tell them to.
 - b. Teacher to student: Don't disturb my concentration by asking me questions in the classroom.
 - c. Employee to the officer: Our working hours must be reduced according to the law.

Answer.

- a. The statement does not keep with democracy as a value, as the daughter is not allowed to express her opinion.
- b. The statement does not keep with democracy as a value, as students are not allowed to ask questions, which is their right.
- c. The statement keeps with democracy as law, as the employee voices their opinion for their right under the law.
- 9. Consider the following facts about a country and decide if you would call it a democracy. Give reasons to support your decision.
 - a. All the citizens of the country have the right to vote. Elections are held regularly.
 - b. The country took loans from international agencies. One of the conditions for giving loans was that the government would reduce its expenses on education and health.
 - c. People speak more than seven languages, but education is available only in one language, the language spoken by 52 per cent of people in that country.
 - d. Several organisations have given a call for peaceful demonstrations and nationwide strikes in the country to oppose these policies. The government has arrested these leaders.
 - e. The government owns the radio and television in the country. All the newspapers have to get permission from the government to publish any news about the government's policies and protests.

- a. From this statement, we can understand that it is a democratic country where citizens are allowed to vote and choose their government.
- b. While taking a loan from international agencies, the country is compromising on the welfare of the people by reducing their expenditure on education and health, which is totally undemocratic.
- c. The provision of making education accessible in only one language is undemocratic. It is the fundamental right for people to have an education, and it is the government's duty to provide them with the language they know.
- d. The right to assemble and peacefully demonstrate is a basic right of an individual. Hence, arresting the protestors is undemocratic.
- e. When the government owns the radio and television, it is debarring people from availing their right to a free press. It is undemocratic.







EXERCISES PAGE NO. 31

- 1. Here are some false statements. Identify the mistake in each case and rewrite these correctly based on what you have read in this chapter.
 - a. Leaders of the freedom movement had an open mind about whether the country should be democratic or not after independence.
 - b. Members of the Constituent Assembly of India held the same views on all provisions of the Constitution.
 - c. A country that has a constitution must be a democracy.
 - d. Constitution cannot be amended because it is the supreme law of a country.

Answer.

- a. Leaders of the freedom movement had a consensus that after independence, India will be a democratic nation.
- b. Members of the constituent assembly of India held the same views on the basic principles of the Constitution.
- c. A country that is a democratic country must have a Constitution.
- d. A Constitution can be amended with time and the needs of the citizens.
- 2. Which of these was the most salient underlying conflict in the making of a democratic constitution in South Africa?
 - a. Between South Africa and its neighbours
 - b. Between men and women
 - c. Between the white majority and the black minority
 - d. Between the coloured minority and the black majority

Answer.

- D. A conflict between the coloured minority and the black majority was the most underlying conflict in the making of the South-African constitution.
- 3. Which of these is a provision that a democratic constitution does not have?
 - a. Powers of the head of the state
 - b. Name of the head of the state
 - c. Powers of the legislature
 - d. Name of the country

- B. Name of the head of the state
- 4. Match the following leaders with their roles in the making of the Constitution:

Motilal Nehru	President of the Constituent Assembly	



B.R. Ambedkar	Member of the Constituent Assembly
Rajendra Prasad	Chairman of the Drafting Committee
Sarojini Naidu	Prepared a Constitution for India in 1928

Answer.

Motilal Nehru	Prepared a Constitution for India in 1928
B.R. Ambedkar	Chairman of the Drafting Committee
Rajendra Prasad	President of the Constituent Assembly
Sarojini Naidu	Member of the Constituent Assembly

- 5. Read again the extracts from Nehru's speech 'Tryst with Destiny' and answer the following:
 - a. Why did Nehru use the expression "not wholly or in full measure" in the first sentence?
 - b. What pledge did he want the makers of the Indian Constitution to take?
 - c. "The ambition of the greatest man of our generation has been to wipe every tear from every eye". Who was he referring to?

- a. Jawahar Lal Nehru in his speech, 'Tryst with Destiny' used the expression, 'not wholly or in full measure' as for him, nation-building was a challenging task which can't be achieved overnight. Hence, he wanted nation-building to be a gradual process.
- b. Nehru wanted makers of the Indian constitution to take a pledge of dedication to the service of India and her people and to the still larger cause of humanity.
- c. Nehru was referring to Mahatma Gandhi, the father of our nation.
- 6. Here are some of the guiding values of the Constitution and its meaning. Rewrite them by matching them correctly.

Sovereign	The government will not favour any religion	



Republic	People have the supreme right to make decisions
Fraternity	Head of the state is an elected person
Secular	People should live like brothers and sisters

Answer.

Sovereign	People have the supreme right to make decisions
Republic	Head of the state is an elected person
Fraternity	People should live like brothers and sisters
Secular	The government will not favour any religion

7. How did your school celebrate Constitution Day on November 26th? Prepare a brief report.

Answer.

Students should write their report on their own if they have celebrated Constitution Day on November 26th.

- 8. Here are different opinions about what made India a democracy. How much importance would you give to each of these factors?
 - a. Democracy in India is a gift of the British rulers. We received training to work with representative legislative institutions under the British rule.
 - b. Freedom Struggle challenged the colonial exploitation and denial of different freedoms to Indians. Free India could not be anything but democratic.
 - c. We were lucky to have leaders who had democratic convictions. The denial of democracy in several other newly independent countries shows the important role of these leaders.

- a. Democracy was chosen as the prime value of our nation during the freedom struggle against the British. Yes, with the Indian Councils Act, Indians started participating in the councils and hence, their experiences paved the way for legislative institutions in independent India.
- b. Freedom struggle did challenge the colonial exploitation but it worked for democracy by making laws with consensus and not imposing anything on anyone.
- c. Our freedom struggle fought a bloodless struggle with tools like 'Satyagraha' and 'Ahimsa.' These struggles were undertaken to free India from the clutches of the British and give Indians the freedom they deserved.



9. Read the following extract from a conduct book for 'married women', published in 1912. 'God has made the female species delicate and fragile both physically and emotionally, pitiably incapable of self-defence. They are destined thus by God to remain in male protection – of father, husband and son – all their lives. Women should, therefore, not despair, but feel obliged that they can dedicate themselves to the service of men'. Do you think the values expressed in this para reflected the values underlying our constitution? Or does this go against the constitutional values?

Answer.

The values expressed in the above-mentioned para do not reflect the values underlying our Constitution. Our constitution gives fundamental rights to each of its citizens regardless of gender, caste, sex, place of birth and religion. Women are given equal rights as men in our constitution through various Acts.

- 10. Read the following statements about a constitution. Give reasons why each of these is true or not true.
 - a. The authority of the rules of the constitution is the same as that of any other law.
 - b. Constitution lays down how different organs of the government will be formed.
 - c. Rights of citizens and limits on the power of the government are laid down in the constitution.
 - d. A constitution is about institutions, not about values

- a. Not true because the Constitution is the supreme law.
- b. True, as the constitution lays out the roles and powers the legislature, executive and judiciary.
- c. True, as the Constitution has provided Fundamental Rights to each and every citizen of India.
- d. Not true as the Constitution holds values on which all institutions work. Our preamble states about values justice, liberty, fraternity, and equality.



NCERT Solutions for Class 9 Political Science Chapter 3 – Electoral Politics

EXERCISES PAGE NO. 52

- 1. Which of the following statements about the reasons for conducting elections are false?
 - a. Elections enable people to judge the performance of the government.
 - b. People select the representative of their choice in an election.
 - c. Elections enable people to evaluate the performance of the judiciary.
 - d. People can indicate which policies they prefer.

Answer.

- c. Elections enable people to evaluate the performance of the judiciary.
- 2. Which of these is not a good reason to say that Indian elections are democratic?
 - a. India has the largest number of voters in the world.
 - b. India's Election Commission is very powerful.
 - c. In India, everyone above the age of 18 has a right to vote.
 - d. In India, the losing parties accept the electoral verdict.

Answer.

- a) India has the largest number of voters in the world.
- 3. Match the following:

There is a fair representation of all sections of our society
Everyone has an equal opportunity to elect their representative
All candidates must have a fair chance of competing in elections
Some people may have moved away from the area where they voted last

It is necessary to keep the voters list up to date because	Some people may have moved away from the area where they voted last
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Some constituencies are reserved for SCs and STs so that	There is a fair representation of all sections of our society
Everyone has one and only one vote so that	Everyone has an equal opportunity to elect their representative
Party in power is not allowed to use government vehicles because	All candidates must have a fair chance of competing in elections

4. List all the different election-related activities mentioned in the chapter and arrange them in a time sequence, beginning with the first activity and ending with the last. Some of these activities are given below:

releasing election manifestos

counting of votes

making of voters' list

election campaign

declaration of election results

casting of votes

ordering of re-poll

announcing election schedule

filing nomination

- 1. Making of Voters' List
- 2. Announcing Election Schedule
- 3. Releasing Election Manifesto
- 4. Election Campaign
- 5. Filing Nomination
- 6. Casting of Votes
- 7. Ordering of Re-poll
- 8. Counting of Votes
- 9. Declaration of Election Results
- 5. Surekha is an officer-in-charge of ensuring free and fair elections in an assembly constituency in a state. Describe what she should focus on for each of the following stages of election:

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- a. Election campaign
- b. Polling day
- c. Counting day

Answer.

- a. Election Campaign
 - i. Check law and order
 - ii. Keep a check on muscle and money power
 - iii. Keep a check on the expenditure limit of a candidate
 - iv. To ensure no promotion on the grounds of religion, caste or sex
- b. Polling Day
 - i. Check the voters' list
 - ii. Check on voters' id
 - iii. Prevent booth capturing
 - iv. Ensure free and fair elections
- c. Counting Day
 - i. Keep a fair counting practice
 - ii. Prevent the rigging of votes
- 6. The table below gives the proportion of different communities among the candidates who won elections to the US Congress. Compare these to the proportion of these communities in the population of the US. Based on this, would you suggest a system of reservations in the US Congress? If yes, why and for which communities? If no, why not?

Communities	The proportion of the Community (in per cent)	
	House of representatives	Population of US
Blacks	8	13
Hispanics	5	13
Whites	86	70

Answer.

Yes, the system of reservation should be present in the US Congress for Hispanics and Blacks. Their representation in the US Congress is comparatively lower than Whites, who are the majority in the US.

7. Can we draw the following conclusions from the information given in this chapter? Give two facts to support your position for each of these.



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- a. Election Commission of India does not have enough powers to conduct free and fair elections in the country.
- b. There is a high level of popular participation in the elections in our country.
- c. It is very easy for the party in power to win an election.
- d. Many reforms are needed to make our elections completely free and fair.

Answer.

- a. No. The given conclusion for the Election Commission cannot be drawn because:
 - Election Commission released the code of conduct for elections and has the power to punish whoever violates them.
 - ii. During elections, the election in-charge works under the Election Commission of India and not the government.
- b. Yes, the given conclusion can be drawn because:
 - i. Voter-turnout has soared in the past few years
 - ii. There has been an increase in people's participation in election-related activities
- c. No, it is not the right conclusion because:
 - i. The ruling party in one election loses the power in the next
 - ii. Despite a lot of expenditure in the election campaign, candidates lose
- d. Yes, the conclusion is fair because:
 - i. Reforms will make it easier for small parties to face no major challenge in fighting an election
 - ii. To stop candidates' facing criminal charges from running an election
- 8. Chinappa was convicted of torturing his wife for dowry. Satbir was held guilty of practising untouchability. The court did not allow either of them to contest elections. Does this decision go against the principles of democratic elections?

Answer.

No. The decision to not allow both Chinappa and Satbir to contest elections for the crime they committed is totally fair. According to the elections' rule, no criminal can participate in elections. Hence, it is a fair verdict.

- 9. Here are some reports of electoral malpractices from different parts of the world. Is there anything that these countries can learn from India to improve their elections? What would you suggest in each case?
 - a. During an election in Nigeria, the officer in charge of counting votes deliberately increased the votes of one candidate and declared him elected. The court later found out that more than five lakh votes cast for one candidate were counted in favour of another.
 - b. Just before elections in Fiji, a pamphlet was distributed warning voters that a vote for former Prime Minister, Mahendra Chaudhry will lead to bloodshed. This was a threat to voters of Indian origin.
 - c. In the US, each state has its own method of voting, its own procedure of counting and its own authority for conducting elections. Authorities in the state of Florida took many controversial decisions that favoured Mr. Bush in the presidential elections in 2000. But no one could change those decisions.

Answer.

a. On the vote-counting day, the representatives of each party that has contested in the election should be present. Nigeria should follow this rule of the election that is practised in India.



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- b. In Fiji, the election commission should set up an enquiry-committee, and the party or the candidate who was involved in this negative propaganda should be debarred from the election.
- c. The US should have one Election Commission, who can make rules for states for the election.
- 10. Here are some reports of malpractices in Indian elections. Identify what the problem in each case is. What should be done to correct the situation?
 - a. Following the announcement of elections, the minister promised to provide financial aid to reopen the closed sugar mill.
 - b. Opposition parties alleged that their statements and campaign was not given due attention in Doordarshan and All India Radio.
 - c. An inquiry by the Election Commission showed that electoral rolls of a state contain name of 20 lakh fake voters.
 - d. The hoodlums of a political party were moving with guns, physically preventing supporters of other political parties to meet the voters and attacking meetings of other parties.

Answer.

- a. As per the code of conduct that a candidate has to obey during the election, they should not announce any promises. Hence, in this case, the Election Commission should take this up with the minister.
- b. Election Commission should ensure free and fair representation to all parties in the government-owned media.
- c. Election Commission should announce re-elections, as the presence of fake votes shows the vote-rigging.
- d. Election Commission should ban the party, as the use of muscle power and money power is totally illegal.
- 11. Ramesh was not in class when this chapter was being taught. He came the next day and repeated what he had heard from his father. Can you tell Ramesh what is wrong with these statements?
 - a. Women always vote the way men tell them to. So what is the point of giving them the right to vote?
 - b. Party politics creates tension in society. Elections should be decided by consensus not by competition.
 - c. Only graduates should be allowed to stand as candidates for elections.

- a. In elections, the secret-ballot system is used where an individual can vote for the party he/she likes. Hence, women can also use their discretion and cast a vote as per their wish.
- b. Competition is important for any profession, as it motivates one to improve. Competition in elections ensures that candidates work hard for society. Hence, it should be encouraged.
- c. Educational qualification is not the only factor for a candidate to understand the social needs of the people. Hence, it should be fair if someone who is not a graduate decides to run for an election.



EXERCISES PAGE NO: 71

- 1. If you are elected as the President of India, which of the following decision can you take on your own?
 - a. Select the person you like as Prime Minister.
 - b. Dismiss a Prime Minister who has a majority in Lok Sabha.
 - c. Ask for reconsideration of a bill passed by both Houses.
 - d. Nominate the leaders of your choice to the Council of Ministers.

Answer.

- c. Ask for reconsideration of a bill passed by both Houses.
- 2. Who among the following is a part of the political executive?
 - a. District Collector
 - b. Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs
 - c. Home Minister
 - d. Director-General of Police

Answer.

- c. Home Minister
- 3. Which of the following statements about the judiciary is false?
 - a. Every law passed by the Parliament needs the approval of the Supreme Court
 - b. Judiciary can strike down a law if it goes against the spirit of the Constitution
 - c. Judiciary is independent of the Executive
 - d. Any citizen can approach the courts if her rights are violated

Answer.

- a. Every law passed by the Parliament needs the approval of the Supreme Court
- 4. Which of the following institutions can make changes to an existing law of the country?
 - a. The Supreme Court
 - b. The President
 - c. The Prime Minister
 - d. The Parliament

- d. The Parliament
- 5. Match the ministry with the news that the ministry may have released:



A new policy is being made to increase the jute exports from the country	Ministry of Defence
Telephone services will be made more accessible to rural areas	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Public Distribution
The price of rice and wheat sold under the Public Distribution System will go down	Ministry of Health
A pulse polio campaign will be launched	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
The allowances of the soldiers posted at high altitudes will be increased	Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

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A pulse polio campaign will be launched	Ministry of Health
The allowances of the soldiers posted at high altitudes will be increased	Ministry of Defence

- 6. Of all the institutions that we have studied in this chapter, name the one that exercises the powers on each of the following matters.
 - a. Decision on the allocation of money for developing infrastructure like roads, irrigation etc. and different welfare activities for the citizens



- b. Considers the recommendation of the committee on a law to regulate the stock exchange
- c. Decides on a legal dispute between two state governments
- d. Implements the decision to provide relief for the victims of an earthquake

Answer.

- a. Lok Sabha (Ministry of Finance)
- b. Parliament
- c. Supreme Court
- d. Executive
- 7. Why is the Prime Minister in India not directly elected by the people? Choose the most appropriate answer and give reasons for your choice.
 - a. In a Parliamentary democracy, only the leader of the majority party in the Lok Sabha can become the Prime Minister.
 - b. Lok Sabha can remove the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers even before the expiry of their term.
 - c. Since the Prime Minister is appointed by the President, there is no need for it.
 - d. Direct election of the Prime Minister will involve a lot of expenditure on the election.

Answer.

- a. In a Parliamentary democracy, only the leader of the majority party in the Lok Sabha can become the Prime Minister. This provision is made so that the leader of a party has a majority before he becomes the PM.
- 8. Three friends went to watch a film that showed the hero becoming Chief Minister for a day and making big changes in the state. Imran said this is what the country needs. Rizwan said this kind of a personal rule without institutions is dangerous. Shankar said all this is a fantasy. No minister can do anything in one day. What would be your reaction to such a film?

Answer.

There is no such provision where a man can become a CM for a day. A proper institution is needed for any state to run. Similarly, as a CM, he needs his council to make decisions and administer. One day is not enough to pass laws, as all laws are implemented following a certain procedure.

9. A teacher was making preparations for a mock parliament. She called two students to act as leaders of two political parties. She gave them an option: Each one could choose to have a majority either in the mock Lok Sabha or in the mock Rajya Sabha. If this choice was given to you, which one would you choose and why?

Answer.

Students should choose on their own. A suggestion would be to write for both. However, the majority in Lok Sabha is more powerful, as members of Lok Sabha are directly elected by the people. Hence, to have a majority in the Lok Sabha means that the Prime Minister will be from your party, and that is a powerful position.

- 10. After reading the example of the reservation order, three students had different reactions to the role of the judiciary. Which view, according to you, is a correct reading of the role of the judiciary?
 - a. Srinivas argues that since the Supreme Court agreed with the government, it is not independent.



- b. Anjaiah says that the judiciary is independent because it could have given a verdict against the government order. The Supreme Court did direct the government to modify it.
- c. Vijaya thinks that the judiciary is neither independent nor conformist, but acts as a mediator between opposing parties. The court struck a good balance between those who supported and those who opposed the order.

Answer.

b. Anjaiah says that the judiciary is independent because it could have given a verdict against the government order. The Supreme Court did direct the government to modify it.



NCERT Solutions for Class 9 Political Science Chapter 5 – Democratic Rights

EXERCISES PAGE NO. 89

- 1. 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. 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

Answer.

- d. Parents' property is inherited by their children
- 2. Which of the following freedoms is not available to an Indian citizen?
 - a. Freedom to criticise 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

Answer.

- b. Freedom to participate in armed revolution
- 3. Which of the following rights is available under the Indian Constitution?
 - a. Right to work
 - b. Right to an adequate livelihood
 - c. Right to protect one's culture
 - d. Right to privacy

Answer.

- c. Right to protect one's culture
- 4. Name the Fundamental Right 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

- a. Right to Freedom of Religion
- b. Right to Freedom
- c. Right to Equality
- d. Right against Exploitation



NCERT Solutions for Class 9 Political Science Chapter 5 – Democratic Rights

- 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 it is not necessary for a democracy.

Answer.

- a. Every democratic country gives rights to its citizens, as the basic characteristic of being a democratic country is to focus on its citizens and work for their welfare. However, the country that gives rights to its citizens may or may not be democratic.
- 6. Are there 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.

Answer.

- a. Yes, it is justified. Even though the right to travel to any part of the country is a fundamental right, there are some reasonable restrictions. These restrictions are applied to secure the interests of different communities of the country and also to maintain law and order.
- b. Yes, this is justified, as the intention is to secure the cultural and linguistic rights of certain sections of the community.
- c. No, it is not justified. It curtails an individual's fundamental right to freedom, where they can express their opinions. Freedom of speech and expression empowers people to exhibit their thoughts.
- 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 is being violated in this instance?

Answer.

Manoj's fundamental right to equality has been violated. The right to equality confers the right to get employment regardless of caste, gender, or religion. The other right that has been violated is the right to freedom. This right confers freedom or personal liberty for anyone to seek a job.

8. When Madhurima went to the property registration office, the exercises Registrar told her, "You can't write your name as Madhurima Banerjee d/o A. K. Banerjee. You are married, 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?

Answer.

Madhurima is right. The registrar is violating her right to freedom. The question of choosing the surname of her husband or her father is totally Madhurima's discretion. By insisting her to adapt to her husband's surname, the registrar violated her right to choose and her right to privacy.