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Class: :IX

Subject: Social Science

Political Science: What is Democracy? Why Democracy?

Chapter No:1

INTRODUCTION

Definition of Democracy -Democracy is a form of government in which rulers are elected by the people.

Features of Democracy -

- The final decision rests in the hands of people.
- Free and fair elections.
- One person, one vote, one value.
- A democratic government should rule within the constitutional limits set by the constitution.

Merits of Democracy-

- Better form of government.
- It improves the quality of decision making.
- Provides to deal with differences and conflicts.
- Enhances the dignity of citizens.
- It allows us to correct mistakes.

Demerits of Democracy-

- No stability of government.
- It is all about political competition and power play.
- Delays on decision making.
- Sometimes, the leaders are not best for the public.
- It leads to corruption.
- Local people don't know what is good for them.

Question / Answers

Q1. Why Pakistan may not be called democratic under General Musharraf?

Ans.(1) People may have elected their representatives to the national and provincial assemblies. But, those elected representatives are not the real head. They cannot take the final decision.

(2) The power to take final decisions rest with army officials and General Musharraf and none of them are elected by the people.

(3) They formally have an elected Parliament and government but the real power is with those who are not elected.

Q2. Justify, in a democracy each adult citizen must have one vote and each vote must have one value.

Ans. This principle has now come to be accepted almost all over the world yet there are many instances of denial of equal right to vote:-

- In Saudi Arabia women do not have the right to vote.
- Estonia has made its citizenship rules in such a way that people belonging to Russian minority find it difficult to get the right to vote.
- In Fiji, the electoral system is such that the vote of an indigenous Fijian has more value than that of an Indian Fijian.

Q3. Explain with an example how popular government can be non- democratic and popular leaders can be autocrat.

Ans. (1) Zimbabwe has been ruled by ZANU- PF, the party that led the freedom struggle. Its leader, Robert Mugabe, has been ruling the country since Independence.

(2) President Mugabe is popular but also uses unfair practices in elections.

(3) Over the years his government has changed the constitution several times to increase the powers of the President and make him less accountable.

(4) Opposition party workers are harassed and their meeting disrupted.

(5) Public protests and demonstrations against the government are declared illegal.

(6) Television and radio are controlled by the government and give only the ruling party's version. There are independent newspapers but the government harasses those journalists who go it.

Q4. Justify, democracy improve the quality of decision making.

Ans. (1) Democracy is based on consultation and discussion.

(2) Democratic decision always involves many persons, discussions and meetings.

(3) When a number of people put their head together, they are able to point out possible mistakes in any decision.

Thus, democracy improve the quality of decision making

Q5. Justify, democracy provides a method of dealing with differences and conflicts.

Ans. (1) In any society people are bound to have differences of opinions and interests.

(2) These differences are particularly sharp in a country like ours which has an amazing social diversity.

(3) People belong to different regions, speak different languages, practice different religions and have different castes.

(4) They look at the world very differently and have different preferences. The preference of one group can clash with those of other groups.

(5) Democracy provides the only peaceful solution to this problem. In democracy, no one is a permanent winner. No one is a permanent loser. Different groups can live with one another peacefully.

Q6. Democracy enhances the dignity of citizens. Justify.

Ans (1) Democracy is based on the principle of political equality, on recognising that the poorest and the least educated has the same status as the rich and the educated.

(2) People are not the subjects of a ruler, they are the rulers themselves.

(3) Even when they make mistakes, they are responsible for their conduct.

Q7. Democracy is a better form of government because it allows us to correct our own mistakes. Justify.

Ans. (1) There is a space for public discussion on these mistakes. And there is a room for correction.

(2) Either the rulers have to change their decisions, or the rulers can be changed.

Q8. Write the arguments in the favour and against the favour of democracy.

Ans. **Arguments against the favour of democracy**

(1) Leaders keep changing in a democracy. This leads to instability.

(2) Democracy is all about political competition and power play. There is no scope for morality.

(3) So many people have to be consulted in a democracy that, it leads to delays.

(4) Elected leaders do not know the best interest of the people. It leads to bad decisions.

(5) Democracy leads to corruption as it is based on electoral competition.

(6) Ordinary people don't know what is good for them; they should not decide anything.

Arguments in the favour of democracy

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

Q9. Difference between Democratic and Non- Democratic Government.

Ans.

Democratic government	Non- democratic government
1. Democratic government is a government that follows the political system of democracy.	1. Non- democratic government is a government that does not follow democracy.
2. The power lies with the people.	2. The power lies with the government.
3. People choose what is right for them.	3. Government makes decision for the people.
4. The people are allowed to criticize the government.	4. People are not allowed to criticize the government.
5. Leaders or representatives are elected by the people.	5. People cannot select or change the leaders.

