



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

CLASS: X	DEPARTMENT: SOCIAL SCIENCE	SUB: DEMOCRATIC POLITICS
CHAPTER: 3 Q.B. NO: 3	TOPIC: Gender, Religion and Caste	YEAR: 2025 -2026

1	<p>What is SEXUAL DIVISION OF LABOUR?</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Boys and girls are brought up to believe that the main responsibilities of women are housework and bringing up children.➤ This is reflected in a sexual division of labour in most families, women do all work inside the house cooking, cleaning, washing clothes, tailoring etc. and men do all the work outside the home. When these jobs are paid for men are ready to take up these works. Women also work outside.➤ In fact, the majority of women do some kind of paid work in addition to domestic works. But their work is not valued and does not get recognition.
2	<p>What are Feminist movements? What were the major demands of these movements?</p> <p>Ans:</p> <p>Radical women movements, aimed at equality in personal and family life as well, are called Feminist movements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Women in different parts of the world organized and agitated for equal rights in all spheres of life.➤ These agitations demanded enhancing the political and legal status of women.➤ They also demanded for educational and career opportunities for the women.➤ Political expression of gender, division and political mobilization on this question helped to improve women's role in public life.
3.	<p>“Women in India still face disadvantage, discrimination and oppression in various ways”</p> <p>Support the statement with five examples.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The literacy rate among women is only 54 percent as compared with 76 percent among men. Similarly, a smaller proportion of girl students go for higher studies. Girls perform as well as boys in school. But they drop out because parents prefer to spend their resources for their boys' education rather than spending equally.➤ The proportion of women among the highly paid and valued jobs is still very small. On an average, an Indian woman works one hour more than an average man every day.➤ The Equal Remuneration Act of 1976 provides that equal wages should be paid to equal work. However, in almost all areas of work, women are paid less than men even when both do exactly the same work.➤ In many parts of India, parents prefer to have sons and find ways to have the girl child aborted before she is born. Such sex-selective abortion led to a decline in child sex ratio.➤ Women face harassment, exploitation and violence even at their homes. Urban areas are not safe for women.

4.	<p>“In India the proportion of women in legislature has been very low.” Assess the statement.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <p>The women participation in politics in India is very low. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In Central Legislature less than 10% of its total strength are women. ➤ In State Legislature less than 5% of its total strength are women. ➤ In Panchayati Raj one third seats are reserved for women in local government bodies. ➤ India is among the bottom group of nations in the world in this aspect. ➤ Women organizations and activists have been demanding a similar reservation in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. In 2023, Nari shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (Womens’Reservation Act, 2023) was passed which will give 33 percent reservation of seats for women in Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies and also Delhi Assembly.
5.	<p>“The religious differences are often expressed in the field of politics.” Explain.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ According to Gandhiji religion cannot be separated from politics. For him religion was not any particular religion but moral values that form all religions. He believed that politics must be guided by ethics drawn from religion. ➤ Human rights groups argued that the communal riots in the country affect the religious minorities. They demanded that the government should protect the religious minorities. ➤ Women activists have argued that the FAMILY LAWS of all religions discriminate against women. They demanded that the government should change to bring equality between men and women.
6.	<p>Explain the concept of communalism.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Communal politics is based on the idea that religion is the principal basis of social community. It believes that the followers of a particular religion must belong to one community because their fundamental interests are the same. Any difference that they may have is irrelevant. ➤ It also follows that people who follow different religions cannot belong to the same social community. Even if they have some commonalities, these are superficial. Their interests are bound to be different and involve a conflict. ➤ In its extreme form communalism leads to the belief that either, one of them has to dominate the rest or they have to form different nations. ➤ This belief is fundamentally flawed. People of one religion do not have same interests and aspirations in every context. There are many voices inside every community. All these voices have a right to be heard and should not be suppressed.
7	<p>“Communalism takes various forms in politics” Explain the statement.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <p>Communalism can take various forms in politics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The most common expression of communalism is in everyday beliefs. These routinely involve religious prejudices, stereotypes of religious communities and belief in the superiority of one’s religion over other religions. ➤ A communal mind often leads to a quest for political dominance of one’s own religious community. In a majority community this takes the form of majoritarian dominance. For those belonging to the minority community, it can take the form of a desire to form a separate political unit. ➤ Political mobilization on religious lines is another form of communalism. This involves the use of sacred symbols, religious leaders, to bring the followers of one religion

	<p>together.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sometimes, communalism takes its most ugly form in communal violence, riots and massacre. The post-Independence period has seen large scale communal violence in our country.
8.	<p>Mention the provisions in the Constitution that make India a secular country.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There is no official religion in India. Our Constitution does not give a special status to any religion. ➤ The Constitution provides to all individuals and communities freedom to profess, practice and propagate any religion or not to follow any. ➤ The Constitution prohibits discrimination on the grounds of religion. ➤ The Constitution also allows the state to intervene in matters of religion in order to ensure equality within religious communities. For example, it bans untouchability.
9.	<p>Describe features of caste inequalities in India.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Or</p> <p>How is caste system in India different from other societies?</p> <p>Ans:</p> <p>The main features of caste system in India are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Caste division is special to India. In this system, hereditary occupational division was sanctioned by rituals. ➤ Members of the same caste group used to form a social community that practiced the same or similar occupation, form a social group, marry within the caste group and did not eat with members from other caste groups. ➤ People of lower caste were subjected to discriminatory treatment. Thus, caste system was based on exclusion of and discrimination against the 'outcaste groups. They were called untouchables.
10.	<p>Explain how the caste barriers are breaking down in India.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <p>Due to socio-economic changes caste system in India has undergone great changes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ As a result of economic development, large scale urbanization, growth of literacy rate, occupational mobility and the weakening of the positions of landlords in the villages, the old notion of caste hierarchy is breaking down. ➤ The Constitution of India too prohibits discrimination on the basis of caste. Untouchability is a legal offence. ➤ The role played by political leaders and social reformers like Jyotiba Phule, Mahatma Gandhi, B.R. Ambedkar and Periyar Ramaswami Naicker was important in this direction.
11.	<p>“Yet caste has not disappeared from contemporary India.” Explain.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>State how caste inequalities are still continuing in India.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Even now most people still marry within their own castes. ➤ Untouchability has not ended completely despite constitutional prohibition. ➤ Effects of centuries of advantages and disadvantages are felt today, Caste continues to be closely linked to economic status.

12.	<p>“Caste can take various forms in politics.” Explain.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <p>Caste is the sole basis of social community. It can take various forms in politics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ When parties choose their candidates in elections, they keep in mind the caste composition of the electorate and nominate candidates accordingly. When governments are formed, then also parties take care that representatives of different castes find a place. ➤ Political parties in election campaigns make appeals to caste sentiment to get support. ➤ Universal adult franchise and the principle of one-person-one vote compelled political leaders to gear up to the task of mobilizing and securing political support.
13.	<p>“Caste alone cannot determine election results in India”. Justify the statement</p> <p>Caste alone cannot determine election results in India because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No parliamentary constituency has a clear majority of one single caste. So, every candidate and party need to win the confidence of more than one caste and community to win elections. ➤ No party wins all the votes of a particular caste or community. Usually when a caste is considered as a vote bank of a particular party, it means that a large proportion of voters from that caste vote for that party. ➤ Many political parties may put up candidates from the same caste. ➤ The ruling party and the sitting MP or MLA frequently lose elections in our country.
14.	<p>“It is not politics that gets caste ridden, it is the caste that gets politicized.” Justify the statement.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Each caste group tries to become bigger by incorporating within its neighboring castes or sub-castes which were earlier excluded from it. ➤ Various caste groups are required to enter into a coalition with other castes or communities and thus enter into a dialogue and negotiations. ➤ New kinds of caste groups have come up in the political arena like ‘backward’ and ‘forward’ caste groups. Thus, caste plays different roles in politics.
15.	<p>Assess the different role that caste plays in Indian politics.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In some situations, expression of caste difference in politics, gives many disadvantaged communities the space to demand their share of power. In this sense caste has helped Dalits and OBCs to gain better access to decision making. ➤ At the same time exclusive attention to caste can produce negative results as well. It can divert attention from other pressing issues like poverty, development and corruption. In some cases, caste division leads to tensions, conflict and even violence.