



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: X	Department: Social Science	Sub: Democratic Politics
Chapter-3 Question Bank:3	Topic: Gender, Religion and Caste	Year: 2023-24

1	<p>‘Gender division is not based on biology but on social expectations and stereotypes.’ Support the statement.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>What is Gender division? How is it practiced?</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gender division is a form of hierarchical social division which is considered as natural and unchangeable. There is a common belief that the main responsibility of women is housework and bringing up children as reflected in a Sexual division of labour.• Women do all work inside the home such as cooking, cleaning, tailoring, etc. Men do these works if they are paid. For example, most cooks in hotels are men.• In addition to their domestic work women too work outside their home. Poor women work as domestic servant in middle class homes while in urban area women work in offices along with men. But their work is not valued and does not get recognition.
2	<p>What are Feminist movements? How have they brought improvement in the condition of women?</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Although the population of women is half of the humanity but their role in public life especially Politics, is minimal in most societies. This has led to agitations for equal rights for women such as voting rights, enhancing the political and legal status of women and improving their educational and career opportunities.• More radical women’s movements called Feminist movements aimed at equality in personal and family life as well. A woman or man who believes in equal rights and opportunities is called a Feminist.• They demanded to have fair proportion of women in elected bodies. In the sphere of Panchayati Raj one-third of all the positions are reserved for women.• Women organizations’ demand is a similar reservation of at least one-third of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. A bill with this proposal has been pending before the Parliament for more than a decade.• As a result of these Feminist movements, the condition of women has improved. They are working as scientists, doctors, engineers, lawyers, managers, college and university teachers. In Scandinavian countries such as Sweden, Norway and Finland, the participation of women in public life is very high.
3	<p>‘In our country, women still lag much behind men despite some improvements since independence.’ Justify.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>“Women in India still face discrimination and oppression in various ways” Support the statement with examples.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p>

“Women are discriminated or disadvantaged in India.” Justify the statement with suitable examples.

Ans:

- The **literacy rate** among women is only 54 percent as compared with 76 percent among men. Similarly, a smaller proportion of girl student go for higher studies. Girls are performing well in school, but they drop out because parents prefer to spend their resources for their boys' education rather than spending equally on their sons and daughters.
- 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, but much of her work is not paid and therefore often not valued.
- The **Equal Remuneration Act, 1976** provides that equal wages should be paid to equal work. However, in almost all areas of work, from sports and cinema, to factories and fields, 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.
- In certain cases, women are not safe even within their own home from **beating, harassment and other forms of domestic violence**

4 **“Relationship between Religion and Politics do not seem very wrong or dangerous.” Explain**

Ans:

- **Gandhiji considered Religion as a part of Politics:** For Gandhiji religion was not a particular religion like Hinduism or Islam but moral values that inform all religions. Religion brings morality into politics. He believed that politics must be guided by ethics drawn from religion.
- **Government to protect religious minorities:** Human rights groups are of the view that the Communal riots in the country affect the religious minorities. They demand that the government should protect the religious minorities.
- **Family laws:** Women’s movement has argued that the family laws of all religions discriminate against women. They demand that steps should be taken by the government to enhance their rights and to bring equality between men and women.
- All these instances show that relationship between religion and politics do not seem very wrong or dangerous. Ideas, ideals and values drawn from different religions should play a role in politics. People should be able to express in politics their needs, interests and demands as a member of a religious community. Every religion should be treated equally.

5 **What is Communalism? What are the ideas that involve Communalism? Highlight different situations when the problem of Communalism becomes acute.**

Ans:

Communal politics/Communalism relates to the use of religion in politics.

- Communalism is based on the idea that religion is the principal basis of a social community. It believes that the followers of a particular religion must belong to one community. 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. If the followers of different religions have some commonalities these are superficial. Their interests are bound to be different and involve a conflict.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In its extreme form, Communalism leads to the belief that people belonging to different religions cannot live as equal citizens within one nation. Either, one of them has to dominate the rest or they have to form different nations. <p>The problem of communalism begins and becomes acute in the following situations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When religion is seen as the basis of the nation. When religion is expressed in politics in exclusive and partisan terms. • One religion and its followers are pitted against another. When beliefs of one religion are presented as superior to those of other religions. • When the demands of one religious group are formed in opposition to another and State power is used to establish domination of one religious' group over the rest.
6	<p>“Communalism take various forms in politics” Explain.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The most common expression of Communalism is in everyday beliefs. For example; belief in the superiority of one’s religion and inferiority of 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 together. • Sometimes, Communalism takes its most ugly form of Communal violence, riots and massacre. The Post-Independence period has seen large scale communal violence in our country.
7	<p>Explain the features that makes India as a ‘secular state’.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no official religion for India. Unlike the status of Buddhism in Sri Lanka, that of Islam in Pakistan and that of Christianity in England, our Constitution does not give a special status to any religion. The Constitution provides to all individuals freedom to profess, practice and propagate any religion, or not to follow any. • The Constitution prohibits discrimination on the grounds of religion. At the same time the Constitution allows the state to intervene in the matters of religion in order to ensure equality within religious communities. For example, it bans Untouchability. • Thus, the idea of Secularism constitutes one of the foundations of our country. The makers of our Constitution were aware that communalism was and continues to be one of the major challenges to democracy in India. Hence, they chose the model of a Secular state.

8	<p>Describe the features of Caste inequalities in India.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Why is Caste system in India different from other societies?</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caste division is special to India. It is different from other societies because here hereditary Occupational division was sanctioned by rituals. • Members of same caste group used to form a social community that practiced the same or similar occupation, used to marry within the caste group and did not eat with members from other caste groups. Thus, caste system was based on exclusion of and discrimination against the 'outcaste groups' and they were called the Untouchables. • That is why political leaders and social reformers like Jotiba Phule, Gandhiji, B.R. Ambedkar and Periyar Ramaswamy Naicker advocated and worked to establish a society in which caste inequalities are absent.
9	<p>State the reasons for the declining of Caste system in India.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Assess the circumstances prevalent in the contemporary India which are responsible for bringing about a change in the Caste system.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>“Caste barriers are breaking down in India”. Justify.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political leaders and Social reformers like Jotiba Phule, Gandhiji, B.R. Ambedkar and Periyar Ramaswamy Naicker played a major role to establish a society in which caste inequalities are absent. • Other Socio-economic changes like economic development, large scale urbanization, growth of literacy and education, occupational mobility and the weakening of the position of landlords in the villages also helped in the breaking down of Caste Hierarchy. • The Constitution of India too prohibits discrimination on the basis of caste. So, we find people of different castes working together in offices. Untouchability is a legal offence.
10	<p>“Caste has not disappeared from contemporary India”. Explain</p> <p>Ans: Page no.51 (Para 2)</p>
11	<p>“Caste can take various forms in politics”. Explain</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Describe the various forms of Caste in Politics.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <p>Caste is the sole basis of social community. It can take various forms in politics as given below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of candidates: At the time of election, Political parties select their candidates on the basis of caste of the voters in a constituency so that they may muster necessary support to win elections. • Formation of governments: At the time of formation of the government or Council of Ministers, effort is made to have representatives from all castes and communities. • Appeal to voters: During election campaign appeals are made to voters to cast their votes in favour of the candidate of their own caste. Some political parties are known to favour some castes and are seen as their representatives.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effect of Universal Adult Franchise: 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.
12	<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. Many political parties may put up candidates from the same caste. Some voters have more than one candidate from their caste while many voters have no candidate from their caste. The ruling party and the sitting MP or MLA frequently loose elections in our country.
13	<p>“Politics too influences the Caste system and Caste identities by bringing them into the political arena.” How?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Assess the influence of Politics in Caste system.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>“It is not the Politics which is Caste ridden, but it is the caste that gets politicized” Justify</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 enter into a coalition with other castes or communities. Now new caste groups known as ‘backward’ and ‘forward’ caste groups have emerged in the political field.
14	<p>Describe the advantages and disadvantages of the political expression of Caste differences.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <p>Advantages of the political expression of caste differences:</p> <p>The caste-politics in India has helped Dalits and OBCs to gain better access to decision making. Several political and non-political organizations have come forward in support of particular castes. They have demanded to end discrimination against them. Their demands include more dignity for them, more access to land, resources and opportunities.</p> <p>Disadvantages of the political expression of caste differences:</p> <p>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.</p>