



## INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

<b>Class: IX</b>	<b>Department: Social Science</b>	<b>Sub: Civics</b>
<b>Chapter 1 Question Bank.No. 1</b>	<b>Topic: What is Democracy? Why Democracy?</b>	<b>Year: 2024-25</b>

1	<b>Define 'Democracy'.</b> Ans: Democracy is a form of government in which rulers are elected by the people.
2	<b>Mention the features of democracy.</b> Ans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In a democracy the final decision-making power must rest with those elected by the people.</li><li>• Democracy must be based on a free and fair election where those currently in power have a fair chance of losing.</li><li>• In democracy, each adult citizen must have one vote and each vote must have one value.</li><li>• A democratic government rules within the limits set by constitutional law and citizen's rights.</li></ul>
3	<b>'Pakistan under General Pervez Musharraf was a non-democratic government', Justify.</b> Ans: Pakistan under General Pervez Musharraf was a non-democratic country due to following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• He amended the Constitution according to his own will and for his personal benefits.</li><li>• According to the amendments, he could dismiss the national and provincial assemblies.</li><li>• Pakistan has had elections, and elected representatives have some powers. But the final power has been with military officers and General Musharraf himself.</li></ul>
4	<b>'China claims itself as a democratic country'. Do you agree? Justify statement.</b> <b>OR</b> <b>"Elections in China do not represent people's verdict". Explain.</b> Ans: China is not a democratic country. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In China, elections are regularly held after every five years, for electing the country's Parliament. (National People's Congress).</li><li>• The National People's Congress has the power to appoint the President of the country.</li><li>• It has nearly 3,000 members elected from all over China. Some members are elected by the army.</li><li>• Before contesting elections, a candidate needs the approval of the Chinese Communist Party.</li><li>• Only those, who are members of the Chinese Communist Party or eight smaller parties allied to it were allowed to contest elections held in 2002-03.</li><li>• The government is always formed by the Communist Party.</li></ul>
5	<b>'PRI used unfair means to win the elections in Mexico'. Justify the statement.</b> Ans:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since its independence in 1930, Mexico holds elections after every six years to elect its President. Until 2000 every election was won by a party called PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party). Opposition parties never managed to win because PRI uses many dirty tricks to win elections.</li> <li>• All those who were employed in government offices had to attend its party meetings.</li> <li>• Teachers of government schools used to force parents to vote for the PRI.</li> <li>• Media largely ignored the activities of opposition political parties except to criticize them.</li> <li>• Sometimes the polling booths were shifted from one place to another in the last minute, which made it difficult for people to cast their votes.</li> <li>• The PRI spent a large sum of money in the campaign for its candidates.</li> </ul>
6	<p><b>‘The principle of universal adult franchise has been accepted almost all over the world. Yet there are many instances of denial of equal right to vote’. Justify.</b></p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Saudi Arabia, women do not have the right to vote till 2015.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• In Fiji the electoral system is such that the vote of an indigenous Fiji has more value than that of an Indian –Fijian.</li> <li>• In democracy each adult citizen has one vote and each vote must have one value. This condition of democracy is not fulfilled by these countries</li> </ul>
7	<p><b>‘A popular democratic government can be Non-Democratic. Explain with reference to Zimbabwe.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <p><b>‘Zimbabwe saw the bitter side of their democratic leader’. Justify</b></p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robert Mugabe, the leader of ZANU-PF has been ruling the country since independence. Elections were held regularly and always won by ZANU-PF.</li> <li>• President Mugabe uses unfair practices in elections. Over the years his government has changed the constitution several times to increase the powers of the President and make him less accountable.</li> <li>• Opposition party workers were harassed and their meeting disrupted. Public protests and demonstrations against the government were declared illegal. There was a law that limits the right to criticize the President.</li> <li>• Television and radio were controlled by the government and gave only the ruling party’s version. There were independent newspapers but the government harasses those journalists who go against it.</li> <li>• The government has ignored some court judgments that went against it and has pressurized the judges.</li> </ul>
8	<p><b>Explain the merits or advantages of democracy.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <p><b>“Democracy is considered as a better form of government.” Explain</b></p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A democratic government is a better government because it is a more accountable form of government.</li> <li>• Democracy improves the quality of decision-making.</li> <li>• Democracy provides a method to deal with differences and conflicts. It is suitable in countries like India. India has diversity of language, religion and culture.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is better than other forms of government because it allows us to correct our own mistakes.</li> <li>• Democracy also increases the dignity of the citizens, because it is based on the principle of political equality.</li> </ul>
9	<p><b>What are the demerits or disadvantages of Democracy?</b>  <b>OR</b>  <b>‘Democracy is all about political competition and powerplay. There is no scope for morality’. Justify the statement by giving arguments against democracy.</b></p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instability: Under democracy, leaders and political parties keep changing. This leads to political instability.</li> <li>• Low Morality: Democracy is all about political competition and power play. There is no scope for morality.</li> <li>• Delays in Decision Making: All the decisions are to be approved and discussed in the Parliament, and many people and institutions are to be consulted. So it leads to delays in decision making.</li> <li>• Bad Decisions: As most of the leaders do not know the best interest, of the people, it leads to bad decisions.</li> <li>• Corruption: As the democracy is based on electoral competition, it leads to corruption. Many political parties use muscle and money power to come to power.</li> <li>• Illiterate and Politically Unconscious Voters: In most of the developing countries, voters are illiterate and politically unconscious, so they elect wrong candidates.</li> </ul>
10	<p><b>How far was the Communist government in China was responsible for the famine occurred in 1958-1961? Explain.</b></p> <p>Ans:</p> <p>China’s famine of 1958-1961 was the worst recorded famine in the world history.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nearly three crore people died in this famine. During those days, India’s economic condition was not much better than China. Yet India did not have a famine of the kind China.</li> <li>• Economists think that this was a result of different government policies in the two countries. The existence of democracy in India made the Indian government respond to food scarcity in a way that the Chinese government did not.</li> <li>• They point out that no large-scale famine has ever taken place in an independent and democratic country,</li> <li>• If China too had multi parti elections, an opposition party and a press free to criticize the government, then so many people may not have died in the famine.</li> </ul>
11	<p><b>‘Democracy improves the quality in decision-making.’ Explain.</b></p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Democracy is based on consultation and discussion.</li> <li>• A democratic decision always involves many persons, discussions and meetings. When a number of people put their heads together, they are able to point out possible mistakes in any decision.</li> <li>• As most of the decisions are taken by discussions, this reduces the chances of rash or irresponsible decisions.</li> <li>• If the decision is not according to the wishes of the people, they have the right to protest, and even can force the government to withdraw it.</li> </ul>

12	<p><b>“Democracy provides a method to deal with differences and conflicts.” Explain.</b></p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In any society people are bound to have differences of opinions and interests.</li> <li>• The conflicts can be solved by brutal power. Whichever group is more powerful will dictate its terms and others have to accept that.</li> <li>• But that would lead to resentment and unhappiness.</li> <li>• Democracy provides the only peaceful solution to this problem. Different groups can live with one another peacefully.</li> </ul>
13	<p><b>“Democracy enhances the dignity of citizen”. Explain the statement.</b></p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Democracy is based on the principle of political equality.</li> <li>• On recognizing that, the poorest and the least educated have the same status as the rich and the educated.</li> <li>• People are not mere subjects under a ruler, their status is raised from Subject to Citizens.</li> </ul>
14	<p><b>Differentiate between Democratic and Non- Democratic Government.</b></p> <p>Ans:</p> <p><b>Democratic Government:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a form of Government in which the rulers are elected by the people.</li> <li>• People have a share in the decision making of the Government</li> <li>• There are fundamental rights in it.</li> <li>• There is dignity of human beings in it.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non- Democratic Government:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a form of Government in which rulers are not elected by the people have no role in the formation of Government.</li> <li>• People have no role in the decision-making process of the Government.</li> <li>• People don’t have any right to enjoy.</li> <li>• The status of an individual is mere Subject.</li> </ul>
15	<p><b>What are the two types of Democracy.? What do they imply? Which form is practiced in the modern world?</b></p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct Democracy and Indirect Democracy or Representative Democracy are the two types of democracies.</li> <li>• Direct democracy implies to the democracy in which every citizen must play an equal role in decision-making.</li> <li>• Elected representatives run the government and take important decisions on behalf of the people in an indirect democracy or representative democracy.</li> </ul> <p>Representative Democracy or Indirect Democracy is practiced in the Modern World because,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modern democracies involve such a large number of people that it is physically impossible for them to sit together and take a collective decision.</li> <li>• Even if they could, the citizen does not have the time, the desire or the skills to take part in all the decisions.</li> </ul>