

1

What is Democracy? Why Democracy?

Facts that Matter

- Democracy is a form of government in which the rulers are elected by the people. This definition separates democracy from forms of government that are clearly not democratic.
- Democracy is the best form of government as the rulers are accountable to the people and have to fulfil their needs. Democracy is based on consultation. In democracy people enjoy several rights.
- But in non-democratic governments people do not elect their rulers and have no right in decision-making.
- A democracy has several features:
 - In democratic countries, rulers are elected by the people.
 - There are free and fair elections. Elections offer a choice and fair opportunity to the people to change the current rulers.
 - There is a freedom of expression and people enjoy their fundamental rights.
 - The opposition parties are allowed to function freely before and after the elections.
 - There is a rule of law because of which a democratic government rules within the limits set by the country's constitutional law and citizen's rights.
- Merits of Democracy:
 - A democratic government is a better government because it is a more accountable form of government.
 - Democracy improves the quality of decision-making.
 - Democracy provides a method to deal with differences and conflicts.
 - Democracy enhances the dignity of citizens.
 - Democracy is better than other forms of government because it allows us to correct its own mistakes.
- Demerits of Democracy:
 - Leaders keep changing in a democracy.
 - Democracy is all about political competition and power play.
 - Democracy leads to corruption for it is based on electoral competition.
 - Elected leaders do not know the best interest of the people. It leads to bad decisions.
- However, democracy is not the solution of all problems. It offers better chances of a good decision, it is likely to respect people's own wishes and allows different kinds of people to live together. It is undoubtedly the best form of government.

Words that Matter

- **Democracy:** A form of government in which people themselves elect their rulers.
- **Universal Adult Franchise:** Any person who is above 18 years of age has right to vote irrespective of caste, colour, status, religion etc.
- **Non-democratic Government:** A form of government in which people do not elect their rulers and have no right in decision-making.

NCERT IN-TEXT QUESTIONS SOLVED

- Q1. Refer to Activity, Textbook page 5.** All this is so remote for me. Is democracy all about rulers and governments? Can we talk about a democratic classroom? Or a democratic family?
- Ans.** No. Democracy is not all about rulers and governments. It is also about people who elect the rulers. Yes, we can definitely talk about a democratic classroom or a democratic family.
- Q2. Refer to Activity, Textbook page 11.** What would have happened if India was not a democracy? Could we have stayed together as a single nation?
- Ans.** There would have been anarchy in every part of our country. So far I think, we could not have stayed together as a single nation if India had a government other than democracy.

NCERT TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

- Q1.** 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 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:** Ruling party has lost in the last three elections.
- (d) **Country D:** There is no independent election commission.
- Ans.** (a) Country A – Undemocratic
(b) Country B – Not sure
(c) Country C – Democratic
(d) Country D – Undemocratic
- Q2.** 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 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.
- Ans.** (a) Country P – Undemocratic
(b) Country Q – Democratic
(c) Country R – Undemocratic
(d) Country S – Undemocratic
- Q3.** 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.
- Ans.** Argument (d) is not in favour of democracy, because prosperity of the people does not depend on the form of government. Instead it depends on how much a certain country is economically developed. There are many democratic countries where people are not leading standard life. They are very poor and hardly fill their stomachs. India is such a country.

Q4. Each of these statements contains a democratic and an 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.

(b) The Election Commission ordered re-polling in a constituency where large-scale rigging was reported.

(c) Women's representation in the Parliament has never reached 10 per cent. This led women's organisations to demand one-third seats for women.

Ans. (a) **Democratic** – Passing of laws by the Parliament.

Undemocratic – Passing laws in conformity to the regulations decided by the World Trade Organisation.

(b) **Democratic** – The Election Commission ordered re-polling in a constituency.

Undemocratic – Large scale rigging.

(c) **Democratic** – Demand by the women's organisations for one-third seats for women.

Undemocratic – Women's representation in the Parliament has never reached 10 per cent.

Q5. 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) Free press can report suffering from famine in different parts of the country.

(c) Government fears its defeat in the next elections.

(d) People are free to believe in and practice any religion.

Ans. (d) People are free to believe in and practice any religion.

Q6. There are 40 villages in a district where the government has made no provision for drinking water. These

villages met and considered many methods of forcing the government to respond to their need. Which of these is not a democratic method?

(a) Filing a case in the courts claiming that water is part of right to life.

(b) Boycotting the next elections to give a message to all parties.

(c) Organising public meetings against government's policies.

(d) Paying money to government officials to get water.

Ans. (d) Paying money to government officials to get water.

Q7. Write a response to the following arguments against democracy:

(a) Army is the most disciplined and corruption-free organisation in the country. Therefore army should rule the country.

(b) 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.

(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.

Ans. (a) Army plays an important role in any country. But army rule is always undemocratic because it is not elected by people. People enjoy no rights under this rule. Hence, it should not rule the country.

(b) Rule of majority does not always mean the rule of ignorant people. Sometimes it may be but not all the time. Moreover, rule of majority is considered democratic as it represents the views of all sections of people.

(c) A country if ruled by religious leaders cannot be democratic because it arouses communal feelings in people which may lead to communal riots. Moreover, religious leaders may guide us well in spiritual matters but not

in politics because they don't have much experience of politics.

Q8. 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.

Ans. (a) Father's statement is not keeping with democratic values because he denies his daughter an opportunity to express her opinion about her own marriage. It is undemocratic on father's part to force his daughter to marry according to his own will. His daughter must have the right to choose her life partner as per her wishes.

(b) The teacher's statement is undemocratic because he doesn't allow his students to ask questions. Students have full right to ask questions from their teachers and if they are denied this right, it is highly undemocratic.

(c) Employee's statement is keeping with democratic values because each of them has right to request their officer for something. Moreover, under a democratic rule there are fixed working hours.

Q9. 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 right to vote. Elections are held regularly.

(b) The country took loan from international agencies. One of the conditions for giving loan 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 people of that country.

(d) Several organisations have given a call for peaceful demonstrations and nationwide strikes in the country to oppose these policies. 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 government's policies and protests.

Ans. (a) Such a country is a democratic country because it follows the norms of democracy by allowing the citizens the right to vote and holding elections regularly.

(b) Such a country is not democratic because a democratic government works for the welfare of its citizens. By reducing expenses on education and health, it cannot bring welfare to its citizens.

(c) Such a country is highly undemocratic because it gives importance to only one language out of seven languages. In a democratic set up people enjoy the freedom to have education in their own language.

(d) If the government arrests people simply because they are holding demonstrations and strikes, it is not democratic. All democratic countries allow their citizens the right to strike.

(e) If a country doesn't allow radio, television and other means of communication to express their opinion, it is not democratic. Press enjoys free status in a democratic country.

Q10. In 2004, a report published in USA pointed to the increasing inequalities in that country. Inequalities in income reflected in the participation of people

in democracy. It also shaped their abilities to influence the decisions taken by the government. The report highlighted that:

- If an average Black family earns \$ 100 then the income of average White family is \$ 162. A White family has twelve times more wealth than the average Black family.
- In a President's election, nearly nine out of 10 individuals in families with income over \$ 75,000 have voted. These people are the top 20% of the population in terms of their income. On the other hand only 5 people out of 10 from families with income less than \$ 15,000 have voted. They are the bottom 20% of the population in terms of their income.
- About 95% contribution to the political parties comes from the rich. This gives them opportunity to express their opinion and concern, which is not available to most citizens.
- As poor sections participate less in politics, the government does not listen to their concerns – coming out of poverty, getting

job, education, health care and housing for them. Politicians hear most regularly about the concerns of business and the most rich.

Write an essay on 'Democracy and Poverty' using the information given in this report but using examples from India.

Ans. Democracy is said to be a form of government of the people, for the people and by the people. Obviously, it is a government by the people at large. Political parties represent them. But as per norms, the political parties are funded 95% by the rich people. So naturally the system is dominated by the rich people and it becomes pro-rich. It safeguards the interests of the rich at large. Hence, the poor remains poor. The poor seldom take interest in active participation of governance. They remain illiterate. In fact they are kept illiterate so that they can't raise any voice against the system. A very few per cent of them show interest in politics. Naturally they are debarred from the welfare schemes of education, job, etc. Thus, democracy and poverty go side by side.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS SOLVED

I. Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

- Which of the following statements is correct?
 - The army rulers of Myanmar are elected by the people.
 - People have no say under the army rule.
 - Pinochet of Chile was a democratic leader.
 - The king of Saudi Arabia rule because people have chosen him.
- General Pervez Musharraf led a military coup in Pakistan in the year
 - 1999
 - 2000
 - 2002
 - 2003
- With what motive did General Pervez Musharraf issue a 'Legal Framework Order' in August 2002?

- To enhance the dignity of the Pakistan citizens
 - To empower himself
 - To empower his supporters
 - To amend the constitution of Pakistan
- Elections are held in China after every
 - two years
 - three years
 - four years
 - five years
 - What does a candidate need before contesting elections in China?
 - Approval of at least two big political parties
 - Approval of the National People's Congress
 - Approval of the Chinese Communist Party
 - Approval of the Election Commission

- In which country is Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) active?
 - Mexico
 - Zimbabwe
 - Pakistan
 - China
 - Which of the following countries does not deny equal right to vote?
 - Saudi Arabia
 - Estonia
 - India
 - Fiji
 - What is peculiar with ZANU-PF?
 - It has never won any election.
 - It has always won elections.
 - It is a one-man party.
 - It is the biggest political party in the world.
 - Which of the following is in favour of democracy?
 - Leaders keep changing.
 - Delays are often made in taking decisions.
 - The dignity of citizens is enhanced.
 - Political competition is very prominent.
 - Which reason is accountable for the death of nearly three crore people in China's famine of 1958-61?
 - Absence of democracy
 - Presence of democracy
 - Weak economic set-up
 - Government's negligence
 - Which of the following countries is not democratic?
 - India
 - China
 - United States of America
 - Nepal
- Ans.** 1. (b) 2. (a) 3. (d) 4. (d)
5. (c) 6. (a) 7. (c) 8. (b)
9. (c) 10. (a) 11. (b)

II. Very Short Answer Type Questions

- What was the 'Legal Framework Order' passed by Pervez Musharraf in August 2002?

Ans. In August 2002 Pervez Musharraf issued a 'Legal Framework Order' that amended the Constitution of Pakistan. According to this order, the President can dismiss the national or provincial assemblies.
- What is the name of the Chinese Parliament?

Ans. The name of the Chinese Parliament is the National People's Congress.

Q3. Can you call China a democratic country? Why?

Ans. In China, the elections do not offer the people any serious choice. They have to choose the ruling party and the candidates approved by it. Hence, we cannot call China a democratic country.

Q4. How can you say that Mexico till 2000 was not a democratic country?

Ans. In practice, people had no choice. There was no way the ruling party could be defeated, even if people were against it. Until 2000 every election was won by a party called PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party). Opposition parties never managed to win.

Q5. Give a simple definition of democracy.

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

Q6. "Holding elections of any kind is not sufficient". Explain.

Ans. The elections must offer a real choice between political alternatives. And it should be possible for people to use this choice to remove the existing rulers, if they wish so.

Q7. In which country women do not have the right to vote?

Ans. In Saudi Arabia, women do not have the right to vote.

Q8. What do you know about the electoral system in Fiji?

Ans. In Fiji, the electoral system is such that the vote of an indigenous Fiji has more value than that of an Indian Fijian.

Q9. Over the years President Mugabe's government in Zimbabwe has changed the constitution several times. Why?

Ans. His government has changed the constitution several times to increase the powers of the President and make him less accountable.

Q10. How can you say that media is not independent in Zimbabwe?

Ans. In Zimbabwe, television and radio are controlled by the government and

give only the ruling party's session. The government harasses those journalists who go against it.

Q11. Mention any two limitations of a democratic government.

Ans. (i) A democratic government cannot do whatever it likes, simply because it has won an election.

(ii) It has to respect some guarantees to the minorities.

Q12. Give one argument in favour of democracy.

Ans. A democratic government is a better government because it is a more accountable form of government.

Q13. Give one argument against democracy.

Ans. Leaders keep changing in a democracy. This leads to instability.

Q14. How is the quality of decision-making improved in a democracy?

Ans. When a number of people put their heads together, they are able to point out possible mistakes in any decision. This takes time but reduces the chances of rash or irresponsible decisions.

Q15. "Democracy enhances the dignity of citizens." Explain.

Ans. 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. People are not subjects of a ruler, they are the rulers themselves.

Q16. What is a representative democracy?

Ans. It is a form of democracy in which the majority of people rules through their elected representatives.

Q17. What is ZANU-PF?

Ans. It is a political party of Zimbabwe.

III. Short Answer Type Questions

Q1. What amendments did General Pervez Musharraf bring in the Constitution of Pakistan by issuing a 'Legal Framework Order' in August 2002?

Ans. In August 2002, General Pervez Musharraf issued a 'Legal Framework Order' to amend the constitution of Pakistan. According to this order, the President could dismiss the national or provincial assemblies. The work of

the civilian cabinet was supervised by a National Security Council which was dominated by military officers. After passing this law, elections were held to the national and state assemblies. Thus, Pakistan had elections, elected representatives had some powers. But the final power rested with military officers and General Musharraf himself. Thus, he empowered himself by issuing the 'Legal Framework Order'.

Q2. Why is Pakistan under General Pervez Musharraf not called a democracy?

[HOTS]

Ans. Pakistan under General Musharraf is not called a democracy because the rulers were not elected by the people. People might have elected their representatives to the national and provincial assemblies but these elected representatives were not really the rulers. They could not take the final decisions. The power to take final decisions rested with army officials and with General Musharraf, and none of them were elected by the people.

Q3. The Institutional Revolutionary Party in Mexico never lost any election till 2000. What were the reasons behind it?

[HOTS]

Ans. The Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) was very strong in Mexico till 2000. Several oppositional parties contested elections but never managed to win because there was the PRI. There were many reasons behind it:

(i) The PRI used many dirty tricks to win the elections.

(ii) All those, who were employed in government offices, had to attend all the meetings held by the PRI.

(iii) Teachers of government schools used to force parents to vote for the PRI.

(iv) Media largely ignored the activities of opposition political parties except to criticise them.

(v) 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.

(vi) The PRI spent a large sum of money in the election campaign for its candidates.

Q4. Mention some features of democracy.

Ans. Some features of democracy are given below:

(i) In a democracy, the final decision-making power must rest with those elected by the people.

(ii) A democracy must be based on a free and fair election where those currently in power have a fair chance of losing.

(iii) In a democracy, each adult citizen must have one vote and each vote must have one value.

(iv) A democratic government rules within limits set by constitutional law and citizens' rights.

Q5. Mention three instances which are exceptions of the principle of 'one person, one vote and one value'.

Or

What does 'one person, one vote, one value' mean? Name the countries where citizens do not enjoy right to vote.

[HOTS]

Ans. Democracy is based on a fundamental principle of political equality. In a democracy, each adult citizen must have one vote and each vote must have one value. But there are many instances of denial of equal right to vote:

(i) In Saudi Arabia, women do not have the right to vote.

(ii) 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.

(iii) In Fiji, the electoral system is such that the vote of an indigenous Fiji has more value than that of an Indian-Fijian.

Q6. Explain with an example how popular governments can be undemocratic and popular leaders can be autocratic.

Ans. Since its independence in 1980, Zimbabwe has been ruled by ZANU-PF, the party that led the freedom struggle. Its leader, Robert Mugabe, has been ruling the country since then. Elections have been held regularly and

always won by ZANU-PF. President Mugabe is popular but also 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. Opposition party workers are harassed and their meetings disrupted. Public protests and demonstrations against the government are declared illegal. There is a law that limits the right to criticise the President. Television and radio are controlled by the government and give only the ruling party's version.

Q7. Give arguments against democracy.

Or

What are the drawbacks of a democracy?

Or

What are the demerits of a democracy?

Ans. We can give the following arguments against democracy:

(i) Leaders keep changing in a democracy which leads to instability.

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

(iii) Delays are often made because many people have to be consulted in a democracy.

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

(v) Democracy leads to corruption for it is based on electoral competition.

Q8. Give arguments in favour of democracy. Write in brief.

Or

What are the merits of a democracy?

Ans. We can give the following arguments in favour of democracy:

(i) A democratic government is a better government because it is a more accountable form of government.

(ii) Democracy improves the quality of decision-making because a democratic decision always involves many persons, discussions and meetings.

(iii) Major decisions are taken by elected leaders.

(iv) There exists free and fair electoral competition.

(v) The principle of 'one person one vote, one value' is followed.

(vi) Democracy ensures rule of law and respect for rights.

(vii) In any society, people are bound to have differences of opinions and interests. Democracy provides a method to deal with differences and conflicts.

(viii) Democracy enhances the dignity of citizens.

(ix) Democracy is better than other forms of governments because it allows us to correct its own mistakes.

Q9. What distinguishes democracy from other forms of governments?

Ans. (i) Other forms of governments like monarchy, dictatorship or one-party rule do not require all citizens to take part in politics. In fact, most undemocratic governments would like citizens not to take part in politics.

(ii) But democracy depends on active political participation by all the citizens.

(iii) In a democratic set-up, the fate of the country depends not just on what the rulers do, but mainly on what its citizens do.

Q10. "China's famine of 1958-61 was a result of government policies." Elucidate it. [HOTS]

Ans. China's famine of 1958-61 was the worst-recorded famine in the world history. 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 had. 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. If China too had multi-party elections, an opposition party and a press were free to criticise the

government, then so many people may not have died in the famine.

Q11. How does democracy improve the quality of decision-making?

Ans. (i) Democracy is based on consultation and discussion. A democratic decision always involves many persons, discussions and meetings.

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

(iii) This takes time. But there is a big advantage in taking time over important decision. This reduces the chances of rash or irresponsible decisions.

Q12. "Democracy provides a method to deal with differences and conflicts." Elaborate this statement.

Ans. (i) In any society, people are bound to have differences of opinions and interests. These differences are particularly sharp in our country which has amazing social diversity.

(ii) People belong to different regions, speak different languages, practise different religions and have different castes. The preferences of one group can clash with those of other groups.

(iii) The conflict can be solved by brutal power. Whichever group is more powerful will dictate its terms and others will have to accept that. But that will lead to resentment.

(iv) Democracy provides the only peaceful solution to this problem. In democracy, no one is permanent winner. No one is a permanent loser. Different groups can live with one another peacefully. In a diverse country like India, democracy allows different kinds of people to live together.

Q13. How are mistakes corrected in a democracy?

Ans. (i) Democracy allows us to correct its own mistakes. There is no guarantee that mistakes cannot be made in democracy. No form of government can guarantee that.

(ii) The advantage in a democracy is that such mistakes cannot be a burden

for long. There is a space for public discussion on these mistakes. And there is a room for correction.

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

IV. Long Answer Type Questions

Q1. How is a democratic government a better government? Explain in view of the governance in China and that in India. [HOTS]

Or

How is democracy better than other forms of government in responding to the people's needs? Explain giving example of China's famine.

Ans. (i) In China, there is one-party government. Hence, elections do not offer the people any serious choice. They are bound to choose the ruling party and the candidates approved by it.

(ii) This does not happen in India because here people are offered several choices. It depends on them whom to choose and whom to reject. Thus, people have a say in the government. At the same time, the government, because it is democratic in nature, responds to the needs of the people.

(iii) Here, we can give instance of China's famine that occurred there during 1958-61. This famine was the worst recorded famine in world history. Nearly three crore people died in this famine.

(iv) During those days, India's economic condition was not much better than China. Yet India did not have a famine of the kind as China had.

(v) Economists think that this was a result of different government policies in the two countries. They point out that no large scale famine has ever taken place in an independent and democratic country.

(vi) If China too had multi-party elections, an opposition party and a press free to criticise the government, then so many

people may not have died in the famine.

(vii) Thus, democracy is better than other forms of government in responding to the people's needs. A non-democratic government may and can respond to the people's needs, but it all depends on the wishes of the people who rule.

Q2. How is democracy better than other forms of government? Explain giving at least five arguments in the favour of democracy. [HOTS]

Ans. Democracy is undoubtedly better than other forms of government. We can give the following arguments in its favour:

(i) Democracy improves the quality of decision-making. Democracy is based on consultation and discussion. A democratic decision always involves many persons, discussions and meetings. When a number of people put their head together, they are able to point out possible mistakes in any decision. This takes time but there is a big advantage in taking time over important decisions. This reduces the chances of rash or irresponsible decisions.

(ii) Democracy provides a method to deal with differences and conflicts. In any society, people are bound to have differences of opinions and interests. These differences are particularly sharp in a country like ours which has an amazing social diversity. People belong to different regions, speak different languages, practise different religions and have different castes. They look at the world differently and have different preferences. The preference of one group can clash with those of other groups. This conflict can be solved peacefully in a democratic set-up. In democracy, no one is a permanent winner, no one is a permanent loser. Different groups can live with one another peacefully.

(iii) Democracy enhances the dignity of citizens. 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. People are not subjects of a ruler, they are the rulers themselves.

- (iv) **Democracy allows us to correct its own mistakes.** Another advantage in a democracy is that if mistakes are made, they cannot be hidden for long. There is a space for public discussion on these mistakes. And there is a room for correction. Either the rulers have

to change their decisions, or the rules can be changed. This cannot happen in a non-democratic government.

- (v) **Democracy is more accountable form of government.** Democracy responds to the needs of the people. A non-democratic government may and can respond to the people's needs, but it all depends on the wishes of the people who rule. A democracy requires that the rulers have to attend to the needs of the people.

Q3. Distinguish between the democratic government and non-democratic government.
Ans. Differences between democratic and non-democratic forms of government:

Democratic Government	Non-democratic Government
1. Democracy is the best form of government as the rulers are accountable to the people and have to fulfil their needs.	1. The rulers are not accountable to the people and their needs.
2. In democratic governments, people elect their rulers and have right in decision making.	2. In non-democratic governments, people do not elect their rulers and have no right in decision-making.
3. The Parliament is a separate body and has no interference of army.	3. The Parliament cannot pass a law about the army without the consent of the chief of army.
4. In a democratic country, any citizen can aspire to contest elections for any post irrespective of his or her caste, religion, socio-economic and educational backgrounds which means the right of vote is available to all citizens.	4. The citizens of the country have not right to vote.
5. Democracy is based on Consultation, and in democratic government people enjoy their rights of discussion.	5. Non-democratic government is based on dictatorship. The ruler does what he wishes.
6. There are free and fair elections. Elections offer a choice and fair opportunity to the people to change the current rulers.	6. In non-democratic government elections are often not held and if held they are not fair enough rather they are imposing.
7. There is a freedom of expression and people enjoy their fundamental rights.	7. There is no freedom of expression and people do not enjoy their fundamental rights.
8. Example—India, the USA.	8. Example—Saudi Arabia, Zimbabwe.

TEST YOUR SKILLS

1. Which freedom is taken away when democracy is overthrown by military?
2. What is the most common form of democracy in the modern world? Why?
3. In which way is the quality of decision-making improved in democracy?
4. How are differences and conflicts dealt with in a democracy?

□□□

2

Constitutional Design

Facts that Matter

- After South Africa got rid of the apartheid regime in 1994 under the leadership of Nelson Mandela, Democratic Constitution began to be drawn up.
- The party that ruled through oppression and the party that led the freedom struggle sat together to draw up a common Constitution.
- After two years of discussion and debate they came out with one of the finest constitutions the world has ever had. This Constitution gave its citizens the most extensive rights available in any country. Together, they decided that in search for a solution to the problems, nobody should be excluded, no one should be treated as a demon.
- A Constitution is essential for the smooth running of a country. It is a set of written rules that is accepted by all people living together in a country. All countries that have constitutions are not necessarily democratic. But all countries that are democratic will have Constitutions.
- India's Constitution like that of South Africa was also drawn up under very difficult circumstances. The country was born through a partition on the basis of religious differences. When the Constitution was being written, the future of the country did not look as secure as it does today. The makers of the Constitution had anxieties about the present and the future of the country.
- The drafting of the document called the Constitution was done by an assembly of elected representatives called the Constituent Assembly. The Constituent Assembly had 299 members. The Assembly adopted the Constitution on 26 November 1949 but it came into effect on January 26, 1950.
- Our Constitution begins with a short statement of its basic values. This is called the Preamble of the Constitution. It is the preface or the introduction of the constitution. It contains the philosophy on which the entire Constitution has been built. It provides a standard to examine and evaluate any law and action of government, to find out whether it is good or bad. It is the soul of the Indian Constitution.
- The guiding values of the Constitution are given below along with their meanings:
 - **We, the people of India:** The Constitution has been drawn up and enacted by the people through their representatives.
 - **Sovereign:** People have the supreme right to make decisions on internal as well as external matters.
 - **Socialist:** Wealth is generated socially and should be shared equally by society.
 - **Secular:** Government will not favour any religion.
 - **Democratic:** A form of government where people enjoy equal political rights, elect their rulers and hold them accountable.
 - **Republic:** The head of the government is an elected person and not a hereditary position.
 - **Justice:** Citizens cannot be discriminated on the grounds of caste, religion and gender.
 - **Liberty:** There are no unreasonable restrictions on the citizens in what they think, how they wish to express their thoughts and the way they wish to follow up their thoughts in action.
 - **Equality:** All are equal before law. The government should ensure equal opportunities for all.
 - **Fraternity:** People should live like brothers and sisters.