

Vidya Bhawan Balika Vidyapeeth
Shakti Uthana Ashram Lakhisarai
Date 11.7.2020

Class Xth Subject Political science

Chapter: Outcomes of Democracy

Read the following question and answer thoroughly and try to understand and Write down in your H.W.Copy.

Question 1.

How can you say that democracies are based on political equality? (2015 OD)

Answer:

Democracies are based on political equality as individuals have equal weight in electing representatives.

Question 2.

What is 'transparency' in a democracy? (2014 OD, 2015 OD)

Answer:

Democracy ensures that decision making will be based on norms and procedure. Every citizen has the right and means to examine the process of decision making. This is known as transparency.

Short Answer Questions (SA) 3 Marks

Question 3.

How do democratic governments ensure transparency? Explain any three points. (2011 D)

Answer:

Democracy ensures that decision-making will be based on norms and procedures. So a citizen, who wants to know if a decision was taken through the correct procedures, can find out as democracy guarantees to the citizens the right and the means to examine the process of decision-making.

In a democracy people have the right to choose their rulers and people will have control over them. Whenever possible and necessary, citizens should be able to participate in decision-making that affects them all. Thus it ensures transparency by producing a government that is accountable to the citizens and is responsive to their needs and expectations.

It is right to expect democracy to produce a government that follows procedures and is accountable to people. To do so, the democratic government develops mechanisms for citizens—regular, free and fair elections, open public debate on major policies and legislations and citizens' right to information about the government and its functioning.

Question 4.

What are the differences between democracy and dictatorship in the decision making process?
(2012 OD)

Answer:

Democracy Dictatorship

- (i) Based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation. Thus, the necessary delay in implementation. (i) Do not have to bother about majorities and/or public opinion, thus can be quick and efficient in decision-making.
- (ii) Decisions are acceptable to people and are more effective. (ii) May take decisions not accepted by the people.
- (iii) A citizen has the right and the means to examine the process of decision-making. There is transparency. (iii) Transparency is missing from a non-democratic form of government. There is no accountability of the government to the people.

Question 5.

“An ideal government would not only keep itself away from corruption but also make fighting corruption and black money a top priority”. Justify the statement. (2013 D)

Answer:

The values attached to the above statement signify the following practices and institutions:

Regular free and fair elections, open public debate on major policies and legislation and citizens' right to information about the government and its functions.

An ideal government in a democracy follows procedures and is accountable to the people.

A citizen has the right and the means to examine the process of decision making. This is known as transparency.

An ideal government is attentive and responsive to the needs and expectations of the people and is largely free of corruption as it is a legitimate government. It is peoples own government.

Question 6.

Explain the role of democratic governments in reducing economic disparities.

Or, “Democracies do not appear to be very successful in reducing economic inequalities”.

Examine the statement with examples.

Answer:

Over the years, careful evidence has been gathered to see what the relationship of democracy with economic growth and economic inequalities is.

It is seen that on an average dictatorial regimes have had a slightly better record of economic

growth, i. e., 4.34%. But when we compare their record only in poor countries (4.28%), there is no difference.

There is enough evidence to show that within democracies there can be very high degree of inequalities. In countries like South Africa and Brazil, the top 20 per cent people take away more than 60 per cent of the national income, leaving less than 3 per cent for the bottom 20 per cent population.

Perhaps more than development, it is reasonable to expect democracies to reduce economic disparities. Democracies are based on political equality, but despite equality in the political arena there are growing economic inequalities. The poor constitute a large proportion of our voters and no party would like to lose its votes. Yet democratically elected governments do not appear to be keen to tackle the problem of poverty.

Democracies are expected to produce good government, but there is no guarantee that they would also produce development. As evidence shows, the economic development depends on several factors, such as country's size, global situation, co-operation from other countries, economic priorities adopted by the country etc.

Question 7.

'Democracy is seen to be good in principle, but felt, to be not so good in practice.' Justify the statement with suitable arguments.

Answer:

If we look at some of the democratic policies being implemented in more than one hundred countries of the world, democracy seems to be good. For example, having a formal Constitution, holding regular elections, guaranteeing the citizens certain rights, working for the welfare of the people, etc. make us advocate that democracy is good.

But if we look in terms of social situations, their economic achievements and varied cultures, we find a very big difference in most of the democracies. The vast economic disparities, social injustice based on discrimination, standard of life, sex discrimination, etc. create many doubts about the merits of democracy. Whenever some of our expectations are not met, we start blaming the idea of democracy. Since democracy is a form of government, it can only create conditions for achieving our goals if they are reasonable.

Question 8.

How is democracy accountable and responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens?

Analyse.

Answer:

A democracy is concerned with ensuring that people have the right to choose their rulers and have

control over the rulers:

Whenever possible and necessary, citizens should be able to participate in decision-making in a democracy.

Democracy ensures that decision-making is based on norms and procedures. A citizen has the right and the means to examine the process of decision-making. Thus democracy entails transparency.

For a democracy to produce an accountable, responsive and legitimate government, it must ensure the following:

Regular, free and fair elections.

Open public debate on major policies and legislations.

Citizens' right to be informed about government policies.

A government free from corruption.

Question 9.

“Democratic government is legitimate government?” Support the statement with arguments.

Answer:

Democratic government is a legitimate government. It may be slow, less efficient, not always very responsive or clean. But a democratic government is peoples' own government. That is why there is an overwhelming support for the idea of democracy all over the world. People's wish to be ruled by representatives elected by them. As a democratic government is peoples' own government, they believe that democracy is suitable for their country as it is a legitimate government.

Democracy's ability to generate its own support is itself an outcome that cannot be ignored.

Question 10.

“Democracy accommodates social diversities.” Support the statement with examples.

Answer:

“Democracy accommodates social diversities” in the following ways:

Democracies develop a procedure to conduct their competition. This reduces the possibility of these tensions becoming explosive or violent.

No society can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups. But we can certainly learn to respect these differences and can evolve mechanism to negotiate these differences.

Example, Belgium has successfully negotiated differences among ethnic population. This reduces the possibility of tensions.

Ability to handle social differences, divisions and conflicts is thus a definite plus point of democratic regimes.

Question 11.

Analyse any three values that make democracy better.

Answer:

We feel that democracy is a better form of government than any other form of government because:

Democracy promotes equality among citizens.

It enhances dignity of individual. It promotes dignity of women and strengthens the claims of the disadvantaged.

It improves the quality of decision making. There is transparency in a democracy.

It provides methods to resolve conflicts.

Democracy allows room to correct mistakes.

Question 12.

On the basis of which values will it be a fair expectation that democracy should produce a harmonious social life? Explain.

Answer:

No society can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups. But we can certainly learn to respect these differences and evolve a mechanism to negotiate the differences.

Belgium is an example of how successfully differences were negotiated among ethnic groups.

Therefore, democracy is best suited to accommodate various social divisions as it usually develops a procedure to conduct their competition. But the example of Sri Lanka shows how distrust between two communities turned into widespread conflict. Thus, a democracy must fulfil the following conditions and be based on these values in order to achieve a harmonious social life—

Majority and minority opinions are not permanent. Democracy is not simply rule by majority opinion. The majority needs to work with minority so that government may function to represent the general view.

Rule by majority does not become rule by majority community in terms of religion or race or linguistic groups, etc.

Democracy remains democracy so long as every citizen has a chance of being in majority at some point of time. No individual should be debarred from participating in a democracy on the basis of religion, caste, community, creed and other such factors.

Question 13.

Why do we feel that democracy is a better form of government than any other form? Explain.

Answer: Democracy is a better form of government than any other form because:

It is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation. Thus the necessary delay in implementation.

Decisions are acceptable to people and are more effective.

A citizen has the right and the means to examine the process of decision-making. There is transparency in a democracy.

Democratic government is a legitimate Government.

=====

SUBJECT TEACHER MUKESH KUMAR