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ANSWERS TO EXERCISES

A. Choose the correct option:

1. (a) Parliamentary
2. (b) all of these
3. (d) Judiciary branch
4. (a) inequality
5. (b) equality

B. Fill in the blanks:

1. Athens
2. Democracy
3. Presidential
4. Democracy
5. India

C. Short-answer questions:

1. Monarchy, oligarchy, dictatorship are called totalitarian regimes where government exercises absolute power and people have no say.
2. Direct Democracy is a form of government in which people collectively take decisions for themselves. This system prevailed in ancient Greece, Rome and India. Whereas, in Indirect or Representative Democracy, citizens elect representatives to make laws on their behalf (through free and fair elections). USA, Canada, Britain and India have this kind of democracy.
3. India is a Republic where the head of the state - the president or the Prime Minister is chosen through elections. Indian Republic is governed by the rule of law. This law is exercised through the courts, armed and police forces.
4. Direct democracy is a form of government in which people collectively make decisions for themselves. This system prevailed in ancient India. But now, Presidential democracy exists in India. People choose their representatives through elections. These representatives make laws on their behalf.
5. Democracy has six key elements. (i) Rule of law (ii) Universal adult franchise (iii) active participation of people (iv) protection of human rights (v) equality and justice (vi) separation of powers.
6. The Judiciary branch takes care of the laws made by the Legislature. The Supreme Court is at its apex and High Courts are at the state level with numerous civil and criminal courts at the district level. The courts of justice are independent of the other two branches.
7. The citizens of a democratic country have the right to cast their votes at regular interval to elect their representatives for governance. The voting right of the people is called franchise or suffrage. Universal adult franchise gives all citizens the right to vote irrespective of caste, class, colour, religion or sex. This notion is based on the basic principle of democracy—equality.
8. India adopted the principle of Universal Adult Franchise on January, 1950. Thus all adult Indians got the right to vote and the age of voting was fixed to 21 years. After the 61st Amendment Act of 1989, the age of voting was lowered to 18 years.

D. Long-answer questions:

1. Democracy today is the most popular form of government. This form of government has its basis on some values—equality, dignity, tolerance and justice. Democracy existed in some ancient Greek city-states notably Athens. It has its origin in 5th or 4th century BC. The word is derived from the Greek word *demokratia* which means rule of the people. But in its early years this form of government was far from equality. It is only after the European Renaissance, American and French Revolutions, that democracy came closer to the principle of equality. The meaning of democracy in today's world is equality in the eyes of law, which is based on the idea of universal suffrage, freedom of speech and rule of law.
2. Right to Equality prohibits discrimination based on any grounds. This has helped to overcome many social evils like untouchability and caste system. The Constitution makes special provisions for the advancement of socially or educationally backward classes, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes by providing reservation in posts for them.

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3. Democracy as a form of government has both merits and defects. The merits are— firstly, in a democracy people's representatives actually govern the country. They come to power through fair elections. Secondly, decisions in times of conflict are taken through Referendum or popular consent of all. Thirdly, equality is the hallmark of democratic governments.

Democracy as a form of government also faces challenges like – tendencies to separate out, unemployment, extremism/terrorism, illiteracy, corruption and popular explosion.

4. Democracy although working successfully as a form of government faces challenges too. Some of these are—tendencies to separate out, unemployment, extremism/terrorism, illiteracy, corruption, popular explosion, etc.

Social evils such as beggary, dowry and poverty are checked by providing equal opportunities to both sexes and also providing employment opportunities for the backward classes and the poor. Persons with disabilities are given equal rights and special privileges through the Disabilities Act. Children belonging to poor families are provided Mid-Day-Meals in government schools.

2 Institutional Representation of Democracy

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The student will:

- gather what Universal Adult Franchise is
- know how elections are held
- name the political parties
- understand what coalition governments are

LESSON DEVELOPMENT

TOPICS: Elections at various levels; election commission; different political party systems

RESOURCES: Television, neighbourhood survey, newspaper articles

TIME: 4 Periods / 140–160 Minutes

ACTIVITY

- Tell the students to do a survey in their neighbourhood on a sample population for the number of people that vote or voted.
- Discuss how party funds were scrutinized by Election Commission during Delhi Elections.