

CLASS 6 SOCIAL SCIENCE

Chapter 10 - Grassroots Democracy — Part 1: Governance

Exam-Preparation Notes

Key Concepts • Important Terms • Flow Charts • Exam Questions • Competency Revision

1. What is Governance?

Governance refers to the processes through which decisions are made and implemented for managing the affairs of a society or community. Governance helps organise society and address people's common needs.

- Making decisions
- Creating and following rules
- Assigning responsibilities
- Implementing decisions
- Managing public resources
- Solving common problems
- Ensuring accountability

2. Why Do We Need Governance?

A society has many common needs and problems. People need systems to make decisions and manage these matters.

- Roads need to be maintained.
- Water facilities need to be managed.
- Public spaces need to be looked after.
- Rules need to be followed.
- Common resources need to be used responsibly.
- Without appropriate systems of governance, confusion and conflicts can arise in managing common affairs.

3. Rules and Governance

Rules provide a framework for how people should behave and how institutions should function.

- Rules help maintain order.
- They define responsibilities.
- They help protect people's rights.
- They guide behaviour.
- They can reduce conflicts.
- They make decision-making more organised.

4. Decision-Making

Decision-making is an important part of governance. Governance requires decisions about public needs, available resources, rules, priorities and common problems.

- Identify needs → Study available resources → Consult affected people → Set priorities → Make a decision → Implement it

5. People's Participation

People's participation means that citizens have opportunities to express their views and contribute to matters that affect them.

- People know about many local problems.
- Different viewpoints can be heard.
- Local needs can be better understood.
- People develop a sense of responsibility.
- Decisions can become more responsive to the community.

6. Local Governance

Local governance deals with matters affecting people in a particular locality.

- Local issues may include roads, water, sanitation, public spaces and community facilities.
- Local authorities are closer to people and their surroundings and can understand local issues and conditions.

7. Different Levels of Governance

Governance operates at different levels. Different institutions and authorities have different responsibilities.

- Local level: Deals with local and community matters.
- State level: Deals with matters concerning the state.
- National level: Deals with matters concerning the country.

8. Public Resources

Public resources are resources meant to serve public purposes.

- Examples include public funds, roads, parks, water facilities, public buildings and community facilities.
- Public resources should be managed responsibly and used for their intended purposes.

9. Transparency

Transparency means making relevant information about decisions and actions available in a clear and understandable way.

- It helps people understand decisions.
- It can build public trust.
- It makes actions easier to examine.
- It promotes responsible use of resources.

10. Accountability

Accountability means that people or institutions responsible for decisions and actions are expected to explain what they have done and take responsibility for it.

- For example, an authority receiving funds for a public facility should be able to explain how the money was used, what work was carried out and what results were achieved.
- Remember: Transparency → Information is available; Accountability → Responsibility is accepted and explained.

11. Common Interest

Governance often involves decisions that affect many people. Different people may have different preferences.

- Listen to different views → Understand needs → Consider available resources → Set priorities → Work towards the common interest

12. Cooperation in Governance

Governance works better when citizens and institutions cooperate.

- Citizens can follow rules, raise genuine public issues, participate appropriately, respect different viewpoints and use public resources responsibly.

- Institutions can listen to concerns, make decisions responsibly, implement decisions, manage resources properly and provide relevant information.

13. Governance as a Problem-Solving Process

Governance involves not only making decisions but also putting decisions into action.

- Problem identified → Citizens raise the issue → Authority examines the problem → Possible solutions considered → Decision made → Action implemented → Results reviewed

14. Resolving Differences

People may disagree about public issues. A constructive approach is to listen to different viewpoints, discuss respectfully, understand concerns, consider facts and resources, and look for a practical solution.

- Different opinions → Dialogue → Listening → Understanding → Decision → Cooperation

15. Rights and Responsibilities

Citizens have both rights and responsibilities.

- Know their rights.
- Follow laws and rules.
- Respect other people.
- Participate appropriately in public affairs.
- Use public resources responsibly.
- Contribute to the well-being of the community.

16. Governance in Everyday Life

Governance is not limited to large government institutions. It can be observed in schools, local communities, villages, towns, cities, state-level institutions and national institutions.

- Whenever people and institutions make and implement decisions to manage common affairs, governance is involved.

17. Important Terms

Term	Meaning
Governance	Processes through which decisions are made and implemented to manage public affairs.
Participation	Involvement of people in matters that affect them.
Local Governance	Governance dealing with matters of a particular locality.
Decision-Making	Process of choosing an action or course of action.
Transparency	Making relevant information about decisions and actions available.
Accountability	Responsibility to explain actions and accept responsibility for them.
Public Resources	Resources intended for public purposes.
Common Interest	An interest or need shared by members of a community.
Citizen	A member of a political community with rights and responsibilities.
Cooperation	Working together towards a shared purpose.

18. Important Exam Questions

Q. What is governance?

Ans. Governance refers to the processes through which decisions are made and implemented for managing the affairs of a society or community.

Q. Why are rules important in governance?

Ans. Rules provide a framework for behaviour and responsibilities. They help maintain order, guide actions and reduce conflicts.

Q. Why is people's participation important?

Ans. People's participation allows citizens to express their views and share information about their needs. It can make governance more responsive to the community.

Q. What is transparency?

Ans. Transparency means making relevant information about decisions and actions available in a clear and understandable way.

Q. What is accountability?

Ans. Accountability means that people or institutions responsible for decisions and actions are expected to explain their actions and take responsibility for them.

Q. Why is local governance important?

Ans. Local governance is important because local authorities are closer to the people and their surroundings. They can understand local issues and address them according to local needs and conditions.

Q. Why should public resources be managed responsibly?

Ans. Public resources are meant for public purposes. Responsible management helps ensure that they are used properly and benefit the community.

Q. How can citizens contribute to governance?

Ans. Citizens can follow laws and rules, participate appropriately in public affairs, raise genuine concerns, respect different viewpoints and use public resources responsibly.

Q. How should disagreements about community issues be resolved?

Ans. People should listen to different viewpoints, discuss the issue respectfully, understand different concerns and work towards a practical solution that considers the common interest.

Q. Explain the relationship between transparency and accountability.

Ans. Transparency makes information about decisions and actions available. Accountability requires responsible people or institutions to explain their actions and accept responsibility. Both support responsible governance.

19. Competency-Based Exam Clues

Situation in a question	Concept to identify
People discussing a public problem	Participation
Authority making a public decision	Governance
Rules and duties	Rules and responsibilities
Residents consulted about a project	People's participation
Public money being recorded	Transparency
Authority explaining expenditure	Accountability
Repairing local roads	Local governance
Limited funds for several needs	Prioritisation
Different groups giving opinions	Different viewpoints
People working together	Cooperation
Citizens reporting a problem	Citizen participation
Checking whether a decision was implemented	Accountability

20. Final Revision Mind Map

GOVERNANCE

Rules & Responsibilities

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Decision-Making

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People's Participation

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Management of Public Resources

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Implementation

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Transparency + Accountability

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Common Interest & Public Well-Being

21. 10 Must-Remember Points

- Governance involves making and implementing decisions for managing public affairs.
- Rules provide a framework for responsible behaviour.
- Decision-making is an essential part of governance.
- People's participation allows citizens to contribute their views.
- Local governance deals with issues affecting particular localities.
- Public resources should be managed responsibly.
- Transparency means relevant information about decisions and actions is available.
- Accountability means taking responsibility and explaining actions.

- Different viewpoints should be heard and considered.
- Effective governance involves participation, responsibility, cooperation, transparency and accountability.