

CLASS 9 SOCIAL SCIENCE – PART 1

Chapter 6: Democracy

Competency-Based Questions (CBQs)

Instructions: Read each situation or source carefully and answer in your own words. The answer key is provided at the end.

1. Multiple-Choice Questions

1. A student council allows all students to vote in a free and fair election to choose their representatives. Which democratic principle is most directly shown?
 - A. Hereditary succession
 - B. Popular sovereignty
 - C. Concentration of power
 - D. Rule by a single leader
2. A public official says that a powerful person need not follow the law. Which principle is being violated?
 - A. Rule of Law
 - B. Universal Adult Franchise
 - C. Collective decision-making
 - D. Local self-government
3. Which institution interprets laws and protects the Constitution?
 - A. Legislature
 - B. Executive
 - C. Judiciary
 - D. Election campaign

2. Fill in the Blanks

1. The Constitution of India was adopted on _____ and came into force on _____.
2. The minimum number of members required for a meeting to conduct valid proceedings is called a _____.
3. The Right to Information Act was enacted in the year _____.

3. Match the Following

Match Column A with the correct description in Column B.

Column A	Column B
A. Sabhā	i. Vedic assembly

B. Samiti	ii. Adopted on 26 November 1949
C. Bauddha Saṅgha	iii. Vedic assembly
D. Constitution of India	iv. Discussion, debate and collective decision-making

Write the correct matches.

4. Short Answer Questions

1. Explain two ways in which democracy involves more than voting.
2. What is the Rule of Law, and why is it important?
3. Differentiate between representative democracy and participatory democracy.

5. Source-Based Question: Early Indian Traditions

1. The chapter refers to Vedic institutions such as the Sabhā and Samiti, and to the Aikyamatya Sūktam of the Ṛigveda, which emphasises shared counsel and unity of purpose.
2. a) Name two Vedic institutions associated with consultation.
3. b) What democratic value is reflected in shared counsel?
4. c) Give one modern example of people discussing an issue before deciding.

6. Case Study: Gram Sabha Meeting

1. A village Gram Sabha meets to discuss how to use development funds. Women and members of marginalised communities are invited to speak. After discussion, the village agrees to repair a school and improve access to clean drinking water.
2. a) Identify the form of democracy shown.
3. b) Name two democratic values shown in the case.
4. c) How can this process strengthen local governance?

7. Assertion and Reason

1. Assertion (A): Regular free and fair elections are important in a democracy.
Reason (R): Elections allow citizens to choose representatives and hold them accountable.

8. Flowchart-Based Question

1. Complete the sequence: Citizens participate → _____ → representatives are accountable → democratic institutions are strengthened.
2. Name the three main organs of government and state one function of each.

9. Fundamental Rights Case Study

1. A student is denied admission to a public institution only because of their social background. The student seeks legal help to challenge the unfair treatment.
2. a) Which category of Fundamental Rights is most relevant?
3. b) Why are Fundamental Rights important in a democracy?
4. c) Which constitutional right allows a person to approach courts to enforce Fundamental Rights?

10. RTI and Accountability

1. A group of residents asks a public authority for details of spending on a local road project under the Right to Information Act, 2005.
2. a) What does RTI stand for?
3. b) How can access to information strengthen democracy?
4. c) Give one responsibility citizens have when using information shared online.

11. Women's Participation

1. A Panchayat ensures that women take part in meetings and that their concerns about sanitation, safety and livelihoods are included in local plans.
2. a) Why is women's participation important in democracy?
3. b) What does Article 243D provide for Panchayats?
4. c) Does voting rights alone guarantee equal representation? Explain briefly.

12. The Emergency of 1975–1977

1. During a period of National Emergency, press censorship was imposed, political leaders and activists were arrested, and civil liberties were restricted. General elections were held after the Emergency ended in 1977.
2. a) Name the period described.
3. b) Mention one way democratic freedoms were restricted.
4. c) What lesson does the 1977 election offer?

13. Digital Citizenship and Misinformation

1. A student receives an alarming political message on social media and is about to forward it without checking the source.
2. a) What should the student do before sharing the message?
3. b) How can misinformation weaken democracy?
4. c) State one positive way young people can participate in democracy.

14. Separation of Powers

1. A new law is passed by the legislature. Government departments then implement it, while a court considers whether its application is consistent with the Constitution.
2. a) Which organ makes laws?
3. b) Which organ implements laws and policies?
4. c) Why is separation of powers important?

15. Long Answer: Strengthening Democracy

1. A town faces problems including misinformation, low participation in local meetings and damage to public property. Suggest practical ways citizens and institutions can address these issues.

Answer Key / Suggested Answers

1. Multiple-Choice Questions

1. B. Popular sovereignty.
2. A. Rule of Law.
3. C. Judiciary.

2. Fill in the Blanks

1. 26 November 1949; 26 January 1950.
2. Quorum.
3. 2005.

3. Match the Following

1. A–(iii), B–(i), C–(iv), D–(ii).

4. Short Answer Questions

1. It protects rights and equality; it requires accountability, public discussion, inclusion and responsible citizen participation.
2. Everyone is subject to the law. It prevents arbitrary use of power, supports equal treatment and protects people through lawful procedures.
3. In representative democracy, people elect representatives to make decisions. In participatory democracy, citizens are also directly involved through consultations, local meetings and community initiatives.

5. Source-Based Question: Early Indian Traditions

1. These traditions emphasise consultation and collective decision-making. Today, similar values can be seen in group discussions, elected councils and community meetings.
2. Sabhā and Samiti.
3. Participation and collective decision-making.
4. A Gram Sabha meeting or a school council discussion.

6. Case Study: Gram Sabha Meeting

1. This is participatory democracy at the local level. It encourages inclusion, public discussion and decisions based on community needs.
2. Participatory democracy / grassroots democracy.
3. Participation and inclusion; accountability and collective decision-making are also acceptable.
4. Residents can raise needs, question priorities and help ensure that public funds respond to community requirements.

7. Assertion and Reason

1. Both A and R are true, and R correctly explains A.

8. Flowchart-Based Question

1. Free and fair elections / choosing representatives.
2. Legislature—makes laws; Executive—implements laws and policies; Judiciary—interprets laws and protects the Constitution.

9. Fundamental Rights Case Study

1. The situation relates to the Right to Equality. Courts and constitutional remedies can help protect rights, according to the Constitution and applicable law.
2. Right to Equality.
3. They protect freedom, dignity and equality and limit misuse of power.
4. Right to Constitutional Remedies.

10. RTI and Accountability

1. RTI helps citizens access information held by public authorities and supports transparency and accountability.
2. Right to Information.
3. Citizens can assess decisions, ask questions and monitor public spending.
4. Check its reliability and context before sharing it.

11. Women's Participation

1. Inclusive participation helps make local decisions more responsive to the needs of the community.
2. It improves representation and helps ensure that women's needs and perspectives are considered.
3. Not less than one-third reservation for women in seats filled by direct election.
4. No. Social prejudice and other barriers can still restrict participation and leadership.

12. The Emergency of 1975–1977

1. The period shows why constitutional safeguards, civil liberties, free public discussion and elections matter in a democracy.
2. The Emergency of 1975–1977.
3. Press censorship, arrests of political leaders and activists, or suspension/restriction of certain rights as described in the chapter.
4. Elections and citizen participation can hold governments accountable.

13. Digital Citizenship and Misinformation

1. Responsible digital citizenship requires checking whether information is reliable, considering context and avoiding the spread of misinformation.
2. Verify it using reliable sources and check the context.
3. It can mislead citizens, create mistrust and distort public discussion.

4. Learn about the Constitution, take part in community service, discuss public issues respectfully or participate in school/community initiatives.

14. Separation of Powers

1. The example illustrates the distinct roles of the legislature, executive and judiciary.

2. Legislature.

3. Executive.

4. It limits excessive concentration of power and supports checks, accountability and constitutional government.

15. Long Answer: Strengthening Democracy

1. Possible points: improve civic and media literacy; verify information before sharing; encourage inclusive local meetings; ensure transparent use of public funds; respect laws and public property; protect rights; support accountable institutions; and promote peaceful discussion.