

Geography and Democratic Politics

5 Mark Questions

The following are the key points based on which answers can be written

Geography

1. Roadways still have an edge over railways in India. Support the statement with suitable arguments.

Ans: Advantages over railways

1. Construction cost is less
2. It can traverse dissected and undulating topography
3. It can negotiate higher gradients of slopes
4. Ideal to transport few people and smaller amount of goods
5. Provides door to door service
6. They are feeders to other means of transportation

2. What is Road Density? Mention any four problems faced by Roadways.

Ans: Total length of roads present in 100 sq. km. is called Road Density

The problems:

- Road network is inadequate in relation to volume of traffic and passengers
- Half of the roads is unsurfaced
- The NHs are inadequate
- Roads are congested
- Most bridges and culverts are old and narrow

3. How are Roadways classified on the basis of capacity?

Golden Quadrilateral

- Connects Delhi – Kolkata – Chennai – Mumbai by Six Lane Highways.
- North – South Corridor connecting Srinagar and Kanyakumari and East – West Corridor connecting Porbandar and Silchar are parts of this project.
- Main objective is to reduce time and distance between major cities.
- Constructed and maintained by NHAI

National Highways

- They link extreme parts of the country
- Laid and maintained by the CPWD
- The Sher Shah Suri Marg is the NH No.1
- It connects Delhi and Amritsar

State Highways

- They link State Capital with District Head Quarters.
- They are laid and maintained by the State Public Works Dept.

District Roads

- They connect District Head Quarters with other places of the Dist.

- Laid and maintained by the Zilla Panchayat/Parishad.

Other Roads

- They connect rural areas and villages with towns.
- Under Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana, every village is being connected to a major town with pucca roads.

Border Roads

- Setup in 1960, the Border Roads Organisation lays and maintains roads along Indian borders.
- It provides strategic importance.
- Provides access to remote areas of North and N-E states.

Helps in economic development in those areas.

4. Explain the conditions responsible for uneven distribution of the Railways in India.

- Though the northern plain with dense population ensured dense network of railways, the rivers pose a few problems.
- The dissected land of the peninsular plateau
- The undulating topography of the Semi-Arid and Arid regions of the North-West.
- The Hilly regions and difficult terrain of the Himalayas.
- The Konkan Railway is the greatest achievement but frequent landslides pose problem. The tracks sink in this region of heavy rainfall

5. Mention the significance of each of the twelve major ports of India.

Major Ports on the West Coast

1. Kandla: It is the first port developed after independence. It makes good the loss of Karachi.
2. Mumbai: It is the most spacious, the biggest and the busiest port of India.
3. JNPT(Nava Sheva): It is the largest container port of India. It has been developed to relieve congestion of the Mumbai Port.
4. Marmagaon: It is the premier Iron Ore exporter.
5. New Mangalore Port: Iron Ore from Kudremukha was exported from this port.
6. Kochi: It is present at the head of a lagoon. It is the south-western most port of India.

Major Ports on the East Coast

1. Tuticorin: (Thoothukudi): It has a very vast hinterland. It handles cargo not only from Tamil Nadu but also from Sri Lanka and Maldives.
2. Chennai: It is the oldest artificial port of India. It is the second busiest port of India.
3. Vishakhapattanam: It is deepest – land locked port. It is a major Iron ore exporter.
4. Paradip: It is an important iron ore exporter.
5. Haldia: This port has been developed to relieve traffic of the Kolkata port.
6. Kolkata: It's a riverine port. It is also known as the Tea Port of India. Big ships cannot enter this port as it is on the banks of the Hoogly. Dredging (removing silt and sand from the river bed) takes place all the time to facilitate the movement of ships.

6. What are the advantages of Airways?

Ans: **Airways: Importance**

- Fastest, most comfortable and prestigious mode of transportation.
- Can cover any difficult terrain like dense forests, deserts and vast stretch of oceans.
- Access to N – E states has been made easy with air transport. It is a land of dense forest, Himalayan terrain, international boundaries and such other hindrances.

Airways: Classification

1. Indian Airlines: Provides mostly domestic service. It also connects India with its neighbours and the Arabian countries.
2. Air India: It is mostly International in nature. It connects India with the rest of the World.
3. Pawan Hans Helicopter Services: It provides helicopter services to North Eastern state and the extreme Northern States of India. It also provided Helicopters to ONGC for exploring new oil fields.

7. What do mean by Lifelines of National Economy? Explain.

- Ans: We use many materials in our daily life. Some are available in our surroundings but many have to be brought from other places.
- Goods and services don't move themselves from supply location to demand location.
- Transportation is required to move goods and services.
- The people who are into this business of moving goods and services are called Traders.
- Thus, for rapid economic development, a well-developed and efficient Transportation and Communication and Trading network is necessary.
- These three have assumed greater significance after Globalisation.

8. Distinguish between First Class Mails and Second-Class Mails. What steps have been taken to speedup collection of posts?

India Post

- Indian Postal network is one of the largest in the world.
- There are two types of mails collected by India Post. They are
 - First Class Mail: It includes letters and post cards. They are airlifted wherever possible.
 - Second Class Mail: Books and parcels are included in this category. They are transported through mostly land and water ways.

Steps taken to speedup collection and delivery of Posts

- All the Post Offices are given unique number called the Postal Index Number
- Six Channels are created to speed up collection of posts. They are
 1. Rajadhani Channel: Letters only to Delhi is accepted.
 2. Metro Channel: Letters only to Metropolitan cities are accepted.
 3. Green Channel: Letters only to the local city are accepted.

4. Bulk Mail channel: Letters that are sent in bulk are accepted.
5. Periodical Channel: Only periodicals are accepted.
6. Business Channel: Only business correspondence letters are accepted.

9. Explain the significance of Tourism in Indian Economy.

Tourism as Trade

- Foreign tourist's arrivals in the country witnessed an increase of 11.8 per cent during the year 2010 as against the year 2009, contributing Rs 64,889 crore of foreign exchange in 2010.
- million foreign tourists visited India in 2010. More than 15 million people are directly engaged in the tourism industry.
- Tourism promotes national integration, provides support to local handicrafts and cultural pursuits.
- It also helps in the development of international understanding about our culture and heritage.
- Foreign tourists visit India for heritage tourism, eco-tourism, adventure tourism, cultural tourism, medical tourism and business tourism.

10. Why is the International Trade considered Barometer of country's economic development?

International Trade

- The exchange of goods among people, states and countries is referred to as trade.
- Trade between two countries is called international trade
- Advancement of international trade of a country is an index to its economic prosperity. It is, therefore, considered the economic barometer for a country
- As the resources are space bound, no country can survive without international trade.
- Export and import are the components of trade.
- The balance of trade of a country is the difference between its export and import.
- When the value of export exceeds the value of imports, it is called a favourable balance of trade.
- On the contrary, if the value of imports exceeds the value of exports, it is termed as unfavourable balance of trade.
- India has trade relations with all the major trading blocks and all geographical regions of the world.

Major Exports of India

- Agriculture and allied Products, Gems and jewellery, Minerals and ores, petroleum products and Coal. These are low value goods.

Major imports of India

- Petroleum and petroleum products, pearls and precious stones, coal, coke, briquette, machinery. These are high value goods.

Major imports of India (In Bulk)

- Fertilizer, cereals, edible oil and newsprint.

The Recent Trend: The export of software and other services has superseded the export of visible goods.

11. What are Manufacturing Industries? What is their significance in the Indian economy?

Production of goods in large quantities after processing from raw materials to more valuable products is called manufacturing. Large scale industries that carry out this process are called Manufacturing Industries.

Significance

- Manufacturing Industries reduces stress on the Indian Agriculture. They also modernize Indian Agriculture.
- Manufacturing Industries are required to eliminate poverty and unemployment.
- They are required to achieve uniform economic development. So, the PSUs are set up in different parts of India and in the tribal regions.
- Export of Manufactured goods bring us the much needed foreign exchange.
- India's prosperity lies in the export of finished goods than the export of raw materials.

12. What is the significance of Textile Industry in the Indian Economy? Explain with special reference to Cotton Textile Industry

Significance

- Second largest employer after agriculture (35 Million People)
- Contribution to India's GDP – 4%
- Contribution to the total Industrial production – 14%
- Contribution in earning Foreign Exchange – 24.6%
- It is the only industry that is complete in its value chain.

Features of Cotton Textile Industry

- Cotton textile industry **was** concentrated in Gujarat and Maharashtra for the following reasons.
 - Easy availability of raw cotton
 - Vast market.
 - Good Transportation
 - Easy access to ports of Surat and Mumbai
 - Cooler Climate
- It provides employment to cotton boll pluckers, ginners, spinners, weavers and tailors.
- It supports various other kinds of industries like dye manufacturing, packaging etc.
- Spinning is centralised in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.
- Weaving takes place in Handlooms, Power looms and Mills.
- Weaving is decentralised for the following reasons.
 - To provide scope for incorporating traditional skills and designs of weaving in cotton, silk, zari, embroidery, etc.

- Several lakhs of people are employed in Handlooms and Power Looms. If mills are encouraged, then the weavers employed in Handloom and Power Loom sectors can lose jobs.

13. What are the problems faced by the Textile industry in India?

Problems

- The biggest problem is the mismatch between Spinning and Weaving.
 - Due to historical reasons, spinning developed rapidly in our country but weaving lagged behind.
 - India produces world class yarn but our weaver cannot make use of this good quality yarn produced.
 - India's share in the world trade of yarn is 25%
 - India's share in the world trade of garments is 4%
 - Weaving is highly decentralised.
 - Outdated technology in weaving sector is one more reason.
- Despite producing 356 lakh bales of long staple cotton (in 2011-12), we still depend on the import of this best quality cotton.
- There is stiff competition from synthetic textile industry.
- Irregular power supply, outdated technology, low labour output are some more challenges.

14. Why are Jute mills concentrated in the Hugli basin? What are the challenges faced by Jute mills? Also mention the objectives of the National Jute Policy of 2005.

Concentration of Jute Mills in the Hugli Basin

- Proximity to Jute producing areas
- Inexpensive water transport, supported by excellent roadways, railways and water ways.
- Abundant water for processing Raw Jute.
- Cheap labour from West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh.
- Kolkata provides banking, insurance and port facilities.

Challenges to Jute Industry

- Stiff competition from Synthetic Fibre Industry.
- Stiff competition from other Jute cultivating countries like Brazil, Bangladesh, Philippines, Egypt and Thailand.

Objectives of the National Jute Policy

- Increase in productivity
- Improve quality
- Giving better wages for the farmers
- Increasing yield per hectare

15. Why are Sugar Mills shifting to South India? What are the problems of this Industry?

- Sugarcane cultivated in South India has higher sucrose content; hence the yield is high.
- Longer cooler climate ensures longer crushing season
- Cooperative Industries are functioning well in South India, especially in Maharashtra

Problems

- Seasonal nature of the Industry
- Transport delay in reaching the cane to the mill
- Old and inefficient method of crushing.
- Need to maximise the use of baggase.

16. What is the significance of the Iron and Steel Industry? Why are they concentrated on the Chota Nagpur plateau? Also mention the problems of this industry.

Significance

- The iron and steel Industry is the basic industry since all the other industries — heavy, medium and light, depend on it for their machinery.
- Steel is needed to manufacture a variety of engineering goods, construction material, defence, medical, telephonic, scientific equipment and a variety of consumer goods.

Concentration on the Chota Nagpur plateau

- Low cost Iron ore
- High grade raw material is the proximity
- Cheap labour
- Vast growth potential in the home market

Problems

- High cost and limited availability of coking coal
- Low labour output
- Irregular power supply
- Poor Infrastructure

17. How do Industries contribute to various kinds of Pollution? What suggestions have been put forth to overcome Industrial pollution?

- Industries help in rapid economic development but they also cause Land, Air, Water and Noise pollutions.

Air Pollution: Causes

- Industries release high amount of toxic gases like Sulphur Dioxide and Carbon Monoxide.
- Smoke is emitted by Chemical industries, brick kilns, paper industries, refineries and smelting industries.
- Toxic gases can be very hazardous. Bhopal Gas Tragedy is an example.

Air Pollution: Remedies

- Particulate matter in the air can be reduced by fitting smoke stacks to factories with electrostatic precipitators, fabric filters, scrubbers and inertial separators.
- Smoke can be reduced by using oil or gas instead of coal in factories.

Water/Thermal Pollution: Causes

- It is caused by releasing organic and inorganic wastes and effluents into the water bodies.
- paper, pulp, chemical, textile and dyeing, petroleum refineries, tanneries and electroplating industries that let out dyes, detergents, acids, salts and heavy

metals like lead and mercury pesticides, fertilisers, synthetic chemicals with carbon, plastics and rubber, etc. into the water bodies.

- Fly ash, phospo- gypsum and iron and steel slags are the major solid wastes in India.
- Thermal pollution is caused when hot water is released into to water bodies.
- Nuclear power Plants, defence equipment industries are the major culprits.

Water/Thermal Pollution – Remedies

- Minimising use water for processing by reusing and recycling it in two or more successive stages
- Primary treatment by mechanical means. This involves screening, grinding, flocculation and sedimentation.
- Secondary treatment by biological process
- Tertiary treatment by biological, chemical and physical processes. This involves recycling of wastewater

Noise Pollution – Causes

- Unwanted sound is an irritation and can be the cause of stress.
- It can result in anger and hearing impairment.
- Industrial and construction activities, machinery, factory equipment, generators, saws and pneumatic and electric drills also make a lot of noise.

Noise Pollution – Remedies

- Machinery and equipment can be used and generators should be fitted with silencers.
- Almost all machinery can be redesigned to increase energy efficiency and reduce noise.
- Noise absorbing material may be used apart from personal use of earplugs and earphones.

Democratic Politics

1. What are Political Parties? Explain the functions of Political Parties.

- A political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government.

Functions

- **They contest elections:** There are two ways in which tickets are given to candidates. One – The top party leaders choosing the candidates. Two – Active members electing the party candidates.
- **Parties put forth policies and programmes:** There a multitude of opinions on various issues. Parties club similar opinions to reduce the many to a few and make policies on them. The Govt. is expected base its policies on the policies of the Party.
- Parties play a decisive role in making laws for a country.
- Parties form and run governments
- Losing parties play the role of opposition, criticising the wrong steps taken by the Govt.

- **Parties shape public opinion:** Parties raise and highlight issues. With the network of lakhs of party workers and Pressure groups, the parties shape public opinion.
- **Link between the people and the Govt.:** Parties provide access to govt. machinery and welfare schemes. It is easier to get the work done by a politician than a Govt. officer.

2. Why are Political Parties necessary in Modern Democracy?

Limited utility of Independent Candidates: Elections can be held without political parties and Govt. may also be formed. Its utility remains uncertain. Independent candidates can't make big promises and take up larger responsibilities. Each of these independent candidates would be interested in the development of her/his constituency and they don't bother much about larger responsibilities. Parties, thus, are required **to make bigger promises and to take up larger responsibilities.**

Apolitical Elections: When elections are announced, as in Village Panchayat Elections, society is divided into smaller groups. Each of these groups nominates a panel of members to contest from different wards. These candidates, apparently independent, in fact represent a social group. This is what political parties do. We thus, **require Political parties to represent bigger Social Divisions.**

To represent complex society: The emergence of political parties is directly linked to the emergence of representative democracy. Today's society is large and complex. There are various views on numerous issues. We need some agency to gather these views and the representatives of these views. Political Parties fulfil this objective.

We also need Political Parties to run the Govt. efficiently and to counter the Govt. effectively for the wrong steps taken.

3. Discuss the various challenges faced by Political Parties.

Lack of Internal Democracy:

- Power is concentrated in the hands of a few top leaders.
- Membership register is not maintained.
- Organisational meetings are not held
- Internal elections are not held regularly
- Party workers are not the part of decision making process.
- They don't even know how the decisions are taken.
- Just a few leaders enjoy enormous power.
- Those who oppose them are thrown out of the party. Voice of dissent is not respected.

Dynastic Succession:

- In many Political parties, top leadership remains with the members of a single family.
- People who do not have adequate experience or popular support come to occupy positions of power.
- This tendency is not good for Democracy.
- Honest party workers can never enjoy high positions.
- Many honest politically conscious citizens may hesitate to enter into politics.

Money Power and Muscle Power

- The most important objective of the Political parties is to win elections.
- They use short cuts and dirty tricks to win elections.
- Tickets are given to those who have lots of money or to those who can raise lots of money.
- Tickets are given to criminals too, if they have a chance of winning elections.
- Business houses donate liberally to political parties. The Govt., then, is obliged to make policies favouring these business houses.

Lack of Meaningful Choice

- Political parties should be significantly different in their policies so that the citizens have meaningful choice.
- Political parties fail to offer this.
- Major political parties of India don't have different economic policies.
- In England, the two major parties agree on many things. Their objectives appear to be the same. The only difference is the means that they use.

Defection

- Party leaders keep changing parties.
- The followers are left confused.
- They can't decide whether to follow the leader or the policies and ideologies of a party.

4. Explain the three legal measures taken to reform Political parties. Also mention the suggestions given to reform them.

Legal Measures:

- **Anti-defection Law:** According to this law, if any MLA or MP changes parties, he or she will lose the seat in the legislature. This new law has helped bring defection down. At the same time this has made any dissent even more difficult. MPs and MLAs have to accept whatever the party leaders decide.
- **Details of Property and Criminal Proceedings During Nomination:** It is mandatory for every candidate who contests elections to file an AFFIDAVIT giving details of his property and criminal cases pending against him. The new system has made a lot of information available to the public. But there is no system of check if the information given by the candidates is true.
- **Mandatory Organizational Elections and IT Returns:** The Election Commission passed an order making it necessary for political parties to hold their organisational elections and file their income tax returns. The parties have started doing so but sometimes it is mere formality.
- Recently the Supreme Court has made rule according to which a politician found guilty even by a lower court of law cannot contest elections.

Suggestions for Future:

- A law should be made to regulate the internal affairs of political parties.
- It should be made mandatory for political parties to give a minimum number of tickets, about one-third, to women candidates.
- There should be state funding of elections. The government should give parties money to support their election expenses. This support could be given in kind: petrol, paper,

telephone etc. Or it could be given in cash on the basis of the votes secured by the party in the last election.

- Pressure Groups and Movements can put pressure on the Political parties forcing them to reform.
- Media can play a major role in reforming political parties.
- Every Individual has a role to play to reform them. Better politics can be achieved only by better political participation.

5. Distinguish between National Parties and State Parties. Why are State/Regional parties raising in importance in recent times?

National Party:

A party must win a minimum of 4 MP seats and secure 6% votes in the Loka Sabha Elections.

OR

A party must win a minimum of 4 MP seats and secure 6% of votes in four different assembly elections in four different states. The party must demonstrate its presence and support in at least 4 states.

State Party

A Party must win at least 2 MLA seats and secure 6% votes in an Assembly election in a state.

Raising importance of State Parties.

- The number and strength of the regional/state parties has increased.
- It has made Indian parliament more diverse.
- No National party could secure as many seats to form govt. on its own.
- They are compelled to ally with regional/state parties.
- Almost every regional/state party was/is the part of the Union Govt.
- This has strengthened Federalism and Democracy in India.

6. Discuss the various party systems available for a country. Why has India adopted Multi-Party system?

Single Party System: In some countries only one party is allowed to contest elections. This is not democratic because people don't have choice. E.g. China

Bi-Party System: In some countries power changes between two parties. Many parties could be there and win a few seats but only two parties have the real chance of winning elections and forming the Govt. E.g. the USA, England

Multi-Party System: In countries like India, more than two parties have the chance of winning elections and forming the Govt. If no single party gets majority seats, they form alliance with other parties to form govt. This is called Coalition Govt.

7. What is Sexual division of labour? How do you say that this division is only social but not biological?

Sexual Division of labour:

- It's a belief that certain kinds of works have to be done only by men and certain by men.
- Men are expected to work outside to earn money.
- Women are expected to work at home; taking care of children, cooking, washing, cleaning, taking care of cowshed etc.
- This division of labour is called sexual division of labour.

Proof to show that this division only a social division but not biological

- It is not that women don't work outside home to earn money.
- Women in rural areas work at home and also work in agricultural fields just as men do.
- Women of lower economic class, work as housemaids in the houses of middle class and upper class families, apart from working at home.
- Middle class women, along with doing household chores, work in offices.
- It is not that men don't do the work usually done by women.
- Men take up jobs these jobs if there are monetary gains.
- Most cooks, chefs and tailors are men.

8. What factors make India a Patriarchal society? Explain.

- The literacy rate among women is only 65.46% compared with 82.14% among men. There is high drop out of girl students because parents prefer to spend on boys' education rather than girls' education.
- There is very low percentage of women in the high paid and high value jobs as just a few girls are encouraged to take up higher education.
- Despite the Equal Wages Act, women in all areas are paid lesser than men, be it sports, cinema, agriculture or construction works.
- Most parents prefer boy children to girl children. Female infanticide and feticide are common in our country. This has resulted in unfavourable sex ratio.
- Political representation of women in India is very low. It has never crossed 5% in any of the Vidhana Sabhas and never crossed 12% in Loka Sabha.
- Society in general and urban centres in particular, is not safe for women. Dowry harassment, physical abuse, sexual harassment are routine tales.
- Political representation of women has given us some good results but there is still a lot to achieve.

9. What is Communalism? What various forms can communalism take in politics?

Communalism: Exclusive and partisan attachment to one's own religion. A person of this attitude hates people of other religions.

Various forms of Communalism

- The most common expression of communalism is in every beliefs and practices. This includes religious prejudices, stereotyping religious communities and belief in the superiority of one's religion over the others.
- For the majority community, it takes the forms of Majoritarianism and for the minority it takes the form of desire to form a different state.
- Political mobilisation on religious lines is another frequent form of communalism. Using sacred symbols, religious leaders, emotional appeal and plain fear to get votes are some records involved.
- Communal violence is the worst form that communalism can take in politics. India has witnessed the worst communal violence during the partition. Even of the independence, India has witnessed many communal violence.

10. Explain the theory of Communal politics.

- Religion is the main basis of formation of the society.
- The followers of a religion must form one community.
- Their fundamental interests are the same.
- If there are any differences, they should not matter and come in the way of community life.
- People following different religions cannot belong to the same social community.
- If there are similarities among the people of different religions, these are superficial and differences are bound to be there.
- The majority community should rule the country. The minority should accept the rule or form a different state.
- This is the theory of Communal Politics. This theory is wrong.

12. What steps have been taken to combat communalism in India?

- India is a secular state. There is no official religion or state religion in India.
- Everyone is free to practice, profess and propagate any religion.
- The constitution prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion.
- The constitution allows the state to intervene in the religious matters to ensure equality within religious communities. For example, it bans untouchability.

13. Why has the Caste based exploitation reduced in the last few decades?

1. The efforts of great social reformers like Jotiba Phule, Gandhiji, B.R. Ambedkar and Periyar Ramaswamy Naicker have contributed a lot in this regard.
2. **Socio-economic changes:** Urbanisation, occupational mobility, growth of literacy and education and breaking down of caste hierarchy have played a major role in the eroding caste system from the Indian Society.
3. Policies of Govt. like prohibition of untouchability, reservation provided for certain caste groups also have played their role.

14. How do you say that the outcome of Indian elections is not determined by caste alone?

- No parliamentary constituency in the country has a clear majority of one single caste. Every candidate needs the votes of people of different caste groups.
- No party wins the votes of all the voters of a caste or community.
- Many political parties may give tickets to the persons belonging to the majority caste group. If that caste group has many to choose from, the other caste groups have none, if they were to vote only on the basis of caste.
- The ruling party MLAs and MPs frequently lose elections. This shows that the people of India are not frozen in their political choice.
- A person's attachment to his party and the party ideology can be stronger than his attachment to his caste group. This is the reason why people of the same family vote for different political parties. People of the same caste group have different political preferences. You also find political leaders belonging to different caste groups working in one single political party.

15. Analyse the issue of Political representation of women with special reference to India.

- Women are subjected to various kinds of exploitation and discrimination.
- The situation can be improved only by enhancing political representation of women.
- All over the world, the political representation of women is very low. The world average is around 19%
- It's very high in Nordic countries – up to 40%.
- In India the Political representation of women is very low – just 10.8 %. In fact, it is less than some Arabian countries.
- The political representation of women has never crossed 5% in any Vidhana Sabha and 12% (as of 2019) in Lok Sabha.
- The only way to enhance political representation of women is to provide reservation for them in Lok Sabha and Vidhana Sabhas.
- 1/3 reservation given to women in Local Self Governments has empowered women. There are more than 10 Lakh women representatives in the Panchayat Raj system.
- The same kind of reservation should be given to women in Lok Sabha and Vidhana Sabha.
- This Women's Bill was tabled in 2008 and was passed by Rajya Sabha in 2010. Lok Sabha never voted for it. (Now, it's a lapsed bill – lapsed in 2014)
- Only 1/3 reservation given to women in the Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies can enhance women's political representation.

Geography and Democratic Politics

3 Mark Questions

Geography

1. What are the causes of Uneven distribution of water resources?

- Only 2.5% of all water available is Fresh Water
- Out of this 2.5 %, 70% is in the form of ice in the poles and in the form of glaciers.
- A little less than 30% is stored in the ground water in the world's aquifers.
- There is uneven distribution of precipitation over space and time.
- Uneven access among different social groups is one more reason.

2. Discuss how urbanisation and industrialisation have resulted in water scarcity.

3. What are the causes of qualitative scarcity of water?

Pick out appropriate points from the following to write your answer for the above two questions

- **Unequal Access among different social groups:** Not all social groups have equal access to water resources. The rich and the upper-class people have easy access to water resources while the others are deprived of it.
- **Large and Growing Population:** A place may have ample water resource. It faces water scarcity eventually, if the population in that region increase beyond a certain limit. This is the case with most of the Indian cities.
- **Intensive Agriculture:** The growing population needs water directly for its consumption. The agricultural sector should meet the food crop demand of this growing population. The farmers take up intensive cultivation where large amount of water is necessary. It has resulted in depletion of ground water resources all over the country.
- **Industrialisation:** After globalisation, many MNCs have set up their industries in India. These industries require water directly and indirectly. They need water as raw material, cooling agent and to keep the industrial complex clean. The industries require continuous power supply. 22% of all electricity produced in India comes from Hydro Electric power stations.
- **Urban Lifestyle:** Large and populous urban centres have contributed heavily to depletion of water resources. The reckless use of water by many in urban centres has only aggravated the situation.

4. Write a note on the ancient hydraulic structure.

- In the first century B.C., Sringerapur near Allahabad had sophisticated water harvesting system channelling the flood water of the river Ganga.
- During the time of Chandragupta Maurya, dams, lakes and irrigation systems were extensively built.
- Evidences of sophisticated irrigation works have also been found in Kalinga, (Orissa), Nagarjunakonda (Andhra Pradesh), Bennur (Karnataka), Kolhapur (Maharashtra), etc.
- In the 11th Century, Bhopal Lake, one of the largest artificial lakes of its time was built.
- In the 14th Century, the tank in Hauz Khas, Delhi was constructed by Iltutmish for supplying water to Siri Fort area.

5. What are the advantages of Multi-purpose river valley projects?

6. Why did Nehru call Dams as the Temples of Modern India?

Consider the following points to write answer for the above two questions.

- Many purposes are integrated into one Modern Dam. Hence the name Multipurpose River Valley Project.
- These Multi-Purpose River Valley Projects serve many purposes.
- Irrigation, generation of electricity, supplying water for domestic and industrial use, inland navigation, afforestation, recreation are some of them.
- The dams would integrate development of agriculture and the village economy with rapid industrialisation and growth of the urban economy

Disadvantages of Dams

7. How have dams proved to be detrimental for aquatic life?

8. Dams have changed the cropping pattern and increased the gap between the Rich Landlords and poor landless labourers. Justify the statement.

9. Higher priority given to urban centres in water supply can result in social unrest. Justify the statement with suitable example.

10. What are the causes of new Social Struggles like Narmada Bachao Andolan and Tehri Dam Andolan?

11. A Dam cannot always fulfil its objective. Support this statement with suitable examples.

Pick out appropriate points from the following to write your answer for the above two questions

- In recent years, multi-purpose projects and large dams have come under great scrutiny and opposition for a variety of reasons.
- The following are those reasons
- Regulating and damming of rivers affect their natural flow.
- This results in excessive sedimentation in the reservoir bed and rockier bed.
- This also results in reduced sedimentation flow in the downstream.
- These conditions are not favourable for aquatic life.
- Dams also fragment rivers. Aquatic life can't migrate upstream for spawning.
- Dams constructed in flood plains submerges vegetation that leads to decomposition over a time.
- Multi-purpose projects and large dams have also been the cause of many new social movements like the 'Narmada Bachao Andolan' and the 'Tehri Dam Andolan' etc.
- Local people and the tribal people are always asked to sacrifice their resources, culture, tradition and livelihood for the construction of dams.
- Large farmers, industrialists and urban centres are benefitted but not the people who sacrifice for the construction of dams.
- Irrigation has also changed the cropping pattern of many regions with farmers shifting to water intensive and commercial crops.
- This has great ecological consequences like salinisation of the soil.

- It has transformed the social landscape i.e. increasing the social gap between the richer landowners and the landless poor.
- Social conflicts can also be the result of dams.
- In Gujarat, the Sabarmati-basin farmers were agitated and almost caused a riot over the higher priority given to water supply in urban areas, particularly during droughts.
- Inter-state water disputes are also becoming common regarding sharing the costs and benefits of the multi-purpose project.
- The dams that were constructed to control floods have triggered floods due to sedimentation in the reservoir.
- The multi-purpose projects can induce earthquakes, cause waterborne diseases and pests and pollution resulting from excessive use of water.

12. What is Rainwater harvesting? Explain the traditional ways of Rainwater harvesting practiced in different parts of India.

13. What is Roof top rainwater harvesting? How is it practiced in Rajasthan?

Pick out appropriate points from the following to write your answer for the above two questions

- Collecting and storing rain water for future use is called rain water harvesting.
 - People had in-depth knowledge of rainfall regimes and soil types and developed wide ranging techniques to harvest rainwater, groundwater, river water and flood water in keeping with the local ecological conditions and their water needs.
 - They are as follows
1. In hill and mountainous regions, people built diversion channels like the '**guls**' or '**kuls**' of the Western Himalayas for agriculture.
 2. In the flood plains of Bengal, people developed **Inundation Channels** to irrigate their fields.
 3. In arid and semi-arid regions, agricultural fields were converted into rain fed storage structures that allowed the water to stand and moisten the soil like the '**khadins**' in Jaisalmer and '**Johads**' in other parts of Rajasthan.
 4. '**Rooftop rain water harvesting**' was commonly practised to store drinking water, particularly in Rajasthan.
 5. In the semi-arid and arid regions of Rajasthan, particularly in Bikaner, Phalodi and Barmer, almost all the houses traditionally had underground tanks or *tankas* for storing drinking water.
 6. The tankas were part of the well-developed rooftop rainwater harvesting system and were built inside the main house or the courtyard.
 7. They were connected to the sloping roofs of the houses through a pipe.
 8. Rain falling on the rooftops would travel down the pipe and was stored in these underground 'tankas'.
 9. The first spell of rain was usually not collected as this would clean the roofs and the pipes. The rainwater from the subsequent showers was then collected.
 10. Bamboo drip irrigation system is practiced in Meghalaya.
14. What is Gendathur famous for? Explain.
- Gendathur is a village in Mysore Dist. In Karnataka
 - Almost 200 houses have roof top rainwater harvesting system
 - The annual average rainfall here is 100 cm.
 - The village has earned name for itself for rich rainwater harvesting.
 - Every house can collect and use 50000 litres of rainwater annually.

15. What is significance of Agriculture in the Indian economy?

- India is agriculturally very important country.
- More than 2/3 of Indian Population depends on agriculture.
- It not only produces food grains but also supplies raw material for Agro-based industries.
- The export of agricultural products brings us Foreign Exchange.

16. What are the features of Primitive subsistence farming?

- It is a 'slash and burn' agriculture.
- Farmers clear a patch of forest and burn the trees. They believe ash increases fertility of the soil.
- Once the soil loses its fertility, the farmers shift to a different patch of forest.
- They use primitive tools like hoe, dao and digging sticks.
- This type of farming depends upon monsoon and natural fertility of the soil.
- The entire family and the community is involved in cultivation of crops.
- land productivity in this type of agriculture is low as the farmer does not use fertilisers or other modern inputs.
- It is known by different names in different parts of the country.
- It is *jhumming* in north-eastern states like Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland; Pamlou in Manipur Dipa in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh, and 1n Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

17. How is Intensive subsistence farming different from Primitive Subsistence farming?

Intensive Subsistence Farming

- It is practiced in the areas of high population density.
- The Law of Inheritance entitles everybody equal share in the ancestral property.
- The size of the land holding is decreasing generation after generation.
- The farmers provide all possible inputs to get maximum yield from these small land holdings.
- High doses of biochemical inputs and irrigation are used for obtaining higher production.
- It is labour intensive in nature.
- The farmers continue to take maximum output from the limited land in the absence of alternative source of livelihood.
- Thus, there is enormous pressure on agricultural land.

Difference between Primitive subsistence and Intensive subsistence

Primitive subsistence	Intensive is subsistence
shifting cultivation	settled agriculture
Primitive tools are used	Modern agricultural implements are used
Farmers depend on Natural fertility and monsoon	High doses of Bio-Chemical inputs are used. Irrigation is also used.
Cultivation is done for the survival	Cultivation is done for the survival, but the surplus is sold.

19. What are the features of Commercial Farming?

- The main characteristic of this type of farming is the use of higher doses of modern inputs, e.g. high yielding variety (HYV) seeds, chemical fertilisers, insecticides and pesticides to obtain higher productivity.
- The degree of commercialisation of agriculture varies from one region to another. For example, rice is a commercial crop in Haryana and Punjab, but in Orissa, it is a subsistence crop.
- Plantation is also a type of commercial farming.
- In this type of farming, a single crop is grown on a large area.
- The plantation has an interface of agriculture and industry.
- Plantations cover large tracts of land, using capital intensive inputs, with the help of migrant labourers.
- In India, tea, coffee, rubber, sugarcane, banana, etc. are important plantation crops.
- Tea in Assam and North Bengal coffee in Karnataka are some of the important plantation crops grown in these states.
- Since the production is mainly for market, a well- developed network of transport and communication is required.

20. Mention the salient features of Kharif Season.

- Kharif crops are grown with the onset of monsoon in different parts of the country and these are harvested in September-October.
- Important crops grown during this season are paddy, maize, jowar, bajra, tur (arhar), moong, urad, cotton, jute, groundnut and soya bean.
- Some of the most important rice-growing regions are Assam, West Bengal, coastal regions of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Maharashtra, particularly the (Konkan coast) along with Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
- In states like Assam, West Bengal and Orissa, three crops of paddy are grown in a year. These are *Aus*, *Aman* and *Boro*.

21. Mention the salient features of Rabi Season.

- Rabi crops are sown in winter from October to December and harvested in summer from April to June.
- Some of the important rabi crops are wheat, barley, peas, gram and mustard. The most important one is Wheat.
- Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh are important for the production of wheat and other rabi crops.
- Availability of precipitation during winter months due to the western temperate cyclones (Mahawat) helps in the success of these crops.
- The success of the green revolution in Punjab, Haryana, western Uttar Pradesh and parts of Rajasthan has also been an important factor in the growth of the above- mentioned rabi crops.

22. Mention the salient features of Zaid Season.

1. In between Rabi and Kharif, there is a short season during the summer months known as the Zaid season.
2. Some of the crops produced during 'zaid' are watermelon, muskmelon, cucumber, vegetables and fodder crops.

23. Mention the Geographical conditions required for the cultivation of various crops.

Refer: <http://engross.in/agriculture/>

24. Why is there a need to take up Institutional and Technological reforms in India?

Institutional and Technological Reforms

- Government Policies that aim at reforming agriculture are called Institutional Reforms.
- Application of Science and Technology in agriculture is called Technological Reforms.

Why is it needed?

- Agriculture has been practised in India for thousands of years.
- Continuous use of land resources without technological reforms has rendered the land useless in many parts of India.
- Though Multi-Purpose River Valley Projects are there, these are not sufficient. Most farmers depend on monsoon.
- For a growing population, this poses a serious challenge.
- Agriculture which provides livelihood for more than 60 per cent of its population, needs some serious technical and institutional reforms.

25. Mention the Institutional reforms taken up in India after independence.

26. What are the drawbacks of Green Revolution?

27. Mention the comprehensive programmes taken by the Govt. to help our farmers.

Pick out appropriate points from the following to write your answer for the above two questions

1. **Land Reforms** were the priority after independence.
2. Law of inheritance had already subdivided land holdings.
3. So, collectivisation, consolidation of holdings, cooperation and abolition of zamindari, etc. were taken up after independence through Five Year Plans.
4. Though the laws were passed, the implementation of these laws was very slow and unsatisfactory.
5. After the Land Reforms, the next step taken by the Government was to implement **Agricultural Reforms** in the 1960s and 1970s.
6. Green Revolution was introduced. India did observe quick uptrend in the agricultural production. But, it had its own drawbacks. They are as follows:
 - a) Green Revolution benefitted only those regions that were chosen for implementation, i.e., Punjab, Haryana and the Western Uttar Pradesh. The rest of the country was not benefitted.
 - b) Over irrigation and over application of chemicals resulted in land degradation in these areas.
7. To overcome the drawbacks of the Green Revolution, **Comprehensive Development Programmes** were taken up. This included both Institutional and Technological reforms. They are as follows:
 - a) Provision for crop insurance against drought, flood, cyclone, fire and disease.
 - b) Establishment of Grameen banks, cooperative societies and banks for providing loan facilities to the farmers at lower rates of interest.

- c) Kissan Credit Card (KCC), Personal Accident Insurance Scheme (PAIS) are some other schemes introduced by the Government of India for the benefit of the farmers.
- d) Special weather bulletins and agricultural programmes for farmers were introduced on the radio and television.
- e) The government also announces minimum support price, remunerative and procurement prices for important crops to check the exploitation of farmers by speculators and middlemen.
- f) Establishment of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), agricultural universities, veterinary services and animal breeding centres and horticulture development programme were taken up.
- g) research and development in the field of meteorology and weather forecast, etc. were given priority for improving Indian agriculture.
- h) Apart from this, improving the rural infrastructure was also considered essential for the same.

28. Write a note on Bhoodan and Gramdaan.

Mahatma Gandhi declared Vinoba Bhave as his spiritual heir. He also participated in Satyagraha as one of the foremost satyagrahis. He was one of the votaries of Gandhi's concept of gram swarajya. After Gandhiji's martyrdom, Vinoba Bhave undertook padyatra to spread Gandhiji's message covered almost the entire country. Once, when he was delivering a lecture at Pochampalli in Andhra Pradesh, some poor landless villagers demanded some land for their economic well-being. Vinoba Bhave could not promise it to them immediately but assured them to talk to the Government of India regarding provision of land for them if they undertook cooperative farming. Suddenly, Shri Ram Chandra Reddy stood up and offered 80 acres of land to be distributed among 80 land-less villagers. This act was known as 'Bhoodan'. Later he travelled and introduced his ideas widely all over India. Some zamindars, owners of many villages offered to distribute some villages among the landless. It was known as Gramdan. However, many land-owners chose to provide some part of their land to the poor farmers due to the fear of land ceiling act. This Bhoodan-Gramdan movement initiated by Vinoba Bhave is also known as the Blood-less Revolution.

Democratic Politics

1. How is Federalism different from Unitary Democracy?

- Under the unitary system, usually you'll find only one level of the government for the entire country.
- If there are sub units, they are subordinate to the central government.
- The central government can pass orders to the provincial or the local government.
- In contrast, the central government cannot order the state government.
- State government has powers of its own for which it is not answerable to the central government.
- Both these governments are separately answerable to the people.

2. Mention the key features of Federalism.

- There are two or more levels of government.
- Different levels of the government govern the same citizens. Each of these levels has its own jurisdiction in specific matters of legislation, taxation and administration.
- The existence and powers of these levels of the government is constitutionally guaranteed because the jurisdiction of these governments is mentioned in the constitution.
- The fundamental problem of the constitution cannot be unilaterally changed by one level of government. Such changes require the approval of both the levels of government.
- Courts have the power to interpret the constitution and the powers of the different levels of government. In case of disputes between different levels of the government, the highest court acts as an umpire.
- Sources of revenue for each level of government are clearly specified in the constitution to ensure financial autonomy.
- The Federal System has dual objectives. The first one is to safeguard and promote unity of the country. The second is to accommodate regional diversity.

3. Distinguish between Coming Together and Holding Together types of Federation.

Coming Together of federations: In this type of federation, many independent states come together to form a bigger unit. By pooling their sovereignty, these independent states can increase their security. This also helps them to retain their regional identity. The USA, Switzerland and Australia are examples of this kind of federations. In this type of federation, the state governments are as powerful as the central government. All the states usually have equal powers. A unit may walk away from the federation.

Holding Together Federations: In this type of federation, a large country decides to divide itself into smaller constituent units or states. Then, the power is divided between the central government and the state governments. India, Spain and Belgium are examples of this type of federation. In this type of Federation, the central government is more powerful than the state governments. Different state governments enjoy different powers. Some units are granted special status. In this type of federation, a unit cannot walk away from the federation.

4. How are the legislative powers distributed between the Central Govt. and the State Govts in India?

1. **The union list:** This list includes subjects of national importance. The union government alone can make laws relating to these subjects. Some of the examples of the subjects included in this list are foreign affairs, banking, communication and currency.
2. **The state list:** this list includes subjects of state and local importance. The state governments alone can make laws relating to these subjects. Some of the examples of the subjects included in this list are police, trade, commerce, agriculture and irrigation.
3. **Concurrent list:** this list includes subjects of common interest to both the Union Government and the State Governments. Both the governments can make laws on the subjects mentioned in the list. If there is a conflict in the law made, then the law made by the union government will prevail. Some of the examples of the subjects included in this list are education, forest, trade unions, marriage, adoption and succession.
4. There are some subjects that do not fall in any of these lists. Some new subjects have come up often the constitution has been adopted. Such subjects are called Residuary Subjects. Some examples of such subjects are Computer Software, mobile telephones etc.

5. How do you say that not all states/regions in India enjoy equal power?

Special status enjoyed by some states.

- Not all states in India enjoys equal powers. Some states enjoy special status.
- Jammu and Kashmir is an example of it. This state has its own constitution. Many provisions of the Indian constitution are not applicable to this state without the approval of the State Assembly.
- Only Kashmiri citizens can buy property in the Jammu and Kashmir. Other Indians cannot buy the property there.
- Many North East Indian states also enjoy special status.
- Union Territories of India enjoy special status. The union government rules these territories.

6. What steps have to be taken to change the fundamental provisions of the Constitution?

Rigid constitution:

- It is not easy to make changes to the power sharing arrangement mentioned in the constitution.
- Neither the Union Government nor the State Governments can make changes to the constitution.
- Any change to this has to be approved by both the houses of the parliament with at least 2/3 majority.
- Then it should be ratified (approved) by more of their half of the total states.

7. What are the advantages of Linguistic States?

- It has made administration very easy.
- It has created more unity among Indians.
- It has helped regional diversity to flourish.

8. Write a note on the language policy of India.

- Our constitution did not give the status of national language to any one language.
- Apart from Hindi, there are 21 other languages recognized as scheduled languages by the constitution.
- A person taking competitive examination can write the examination in any of the 22 languages.
- Every state can have its own official language. Much of the government work takes place in the official language of the concerned state.
- The use of English in our country was to stop by 1965. Non-Hindi speaking states pressurized for the retention of it. Hence English stays.
- Even Hindi is not promoted aggressively in non-Hindi speaking states.
- There was violent protest in Tamil Nadu against spreading of Hindi.
- Now, both Hindi and English are used for official purpose.

9. What is Decentralisation? Why is it necessary in India?

Decentralisation in India

- Taking some powers of the Centre and some of the states and giving them to Local Self Governments is called Decentralisation.

Why is Decentralisation necessary in India?

- Some states in our country are very big and populous. The two Tiers System is not sufficient. We need further power sharing arrangement.
- These big states are internally very diverse. Diverse population has diverse needs and aspirations. This can be achieved only by the local self-governments.
- There are many problems and issues which are best settled at the local level. People have better knowledge of problems in their localities. They also have better ideas on where to spend money and how to manage things more efficiently.
- It also provides an opportunity for the people to participate in the decision-making process.
- This helps to inculcate a habit of democracy participation.

10. Why was the LSG not meaningful before 1992?

- Panchayats in villages and Municipalities in urban centres were there in many states.
- But these were directly under the control of the State Governments.
- Elections were not held regularly.
- Local Self Governments did not have any powers or resources of their own.

11. What measures were taken in 1992 to strengthen the LSG?

- Now it is constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections to local government bodies.
- Seats are reserved in elected bodies for the schedule castes, schedule tribes and other backward classes.
- At least 1/3 all positions are reserved for women.
- An independent institution called state election commission has been created in each state to conduct elections to local bodies.
- These state governments are required to share some powers and revenue with local government bodies. The nature of sharing varies from state to state.

12. What are the positive outcomes of decentralisation?

- Constitutional status for local self-government has helped to deepen democracy in our country.
- It has also increased women's representation and a voice in our democracy.
- It has made our democracy more inclusive and participatory.

13. Mention the challenges to decentralisation.

- Though elections are held regularly and enthusiastically, Grama Sabhas are not held regularly.
- Most state governments have not transferred significant powers to the local governments.
- Even the resource transfer is not adequate.

14. How did the athletes make a political statement in the Mexico Olympics? What values do you learn from this?

- In the 200 metres running race, a US athlete Tommie Smith won Gold Medal.
- Another US athlete John Carlos won Bronze medal.
- An Australian, Peter Norman won Silver Medal.
- The three athletes decided to highlight racism practiced in the USA.
- The US athletes decided to express their support for the Black Power Movement.
- The US athletes received their medals wearing black socks and no shoes to represent Black Poverty.
- The black gloved raised clenched fists were meant to symbolize Black Power.
- The Australian athlete, Peter Norman, expressed his support for the African American athletes by wearing a human rights badge on his shirt.
- The International Olympic Association held the African American athletes guilty of violating the Olympic spirit by making political statement.
- Back in the USA, these athletes were subjected to a lot of criticism.
- Peter Norman was not included in the Australian team in the next Olympics.
- When Peter Norman died in 2006, the two African American athletes were the Pallbearers at his funeral.

- The athletes making a political statement is an instance of protest against racial discrimination. The value that we learn is that one should not be looked down upon or exploited on the basis of gender, religion, caste, class, race, language group or any other social diversity based on birth.

15. Explain the origin of Social diversities.

- **Based on Birth:** Most social diversities are based on a person's birth. Gender, religion, caste, language group are examples of it. A person doesn't choose his language, religion or caste when he/she is born. He / She is simply born into such a family. It is the simple case of accident of birth.
- **Based on Choice:** Some social diversities are based on a person's choice. Some people don't believe in God. Some change their religion. Many of us decide what to study, which occupation to take up or cultural or games activities to take part in. These are based on a person's choice.

16. How do you say that not all social differences lead to social division?

Diversities can unite very different people but can also divide very similar ones

- Not all social differences lead to social division.
- People belonging to different social groups have similarities and differences cutting across social differences.
- Similarities bring people together even though they belong to different social groups.
- Tommie Smith and John Carlos are African Americans, and Peter Norman was an Australian. All of them united despite the different race and country they belong to.
- The fact that they were athletes and all of them were against racism united them.
- It is common to find rich and poor people in an extended family.
- Usually the poor of the family group together and the rich form their own groups. Though they belong to the same family, the rich and the poor of the family may feel that they belong to different classes.
- It is the case with religious communities as well. People of the exploited caste group may feel that they belong to a different class than that of the religious community.

17. What is Overlapping of Social Differences? Explain with examples.

Overlapping:

- Every kind of exploitation meted out to a person or a group of people just because they belong to a specific social division is an instance of Overlapping of social differences.
- It is a situation where one social difference becomes more important than the rest.
- In this situation, people develop singular identity. That develop the feeling of belongingness to a class than a community.
- The African Americans in the USA are examples of it. The African Americans tend to be poor and discriminated. The fee that they belong to a class rather than the

community of Americans. Here, that they are African Americans becomes more important than being the citizens of America.

- So are the Protestants and Catholics of Northern Ireland. The protestants tend to be rich and powerful. The Catholics tend to be poor and discriminated. The Catholics feel that they belong to a class rather than the community of Christians or the citizens of Northern Ireland.
- These examples show that, for a particular group of people, one social difference becomes more important than the rest.

18. What is Cross cutting of Social Differences? Explain with examples.

Cross-Cutting

- it is a situation where no social difference takes importance.
- Similarities crosscut social differences.
- In the Netherlands, both protestants and Catholics are equally likely to be rich or poor.
- For them, the social group that they belong to doesn't matter.
- They are likely to consider themselves as Christians or citizens of Netherland.
- Cross cutting social differences are easy to handle in democracy.

19. When do social differences become social division?

When social differences overlap social division takes place. In other words, if a people are exploited by virtue of their social group, then overlapping takes place. Refer to Overlapping for other points.

20. Political expression of Social Division can be dangerous. Explain this with suitable examples.

- Northern Ireland is a part of the United Kingdom.
- The protestants constitute 53 per cent of the population and they are rich and powerful.
- The Catholics constitute 44 per cent of the population and they are poor.
- The Catholics were represented by Nationalist Parties. Their demanded that Northern Ireland the united way it the Republic of Ireland because, the Republic of Ireland is predominantly a Catholics country.
- The Protestants where represented by Unionists. Their demanded that Northern Ireland remain the part of the United Kingdom. The basis of their demand was that the UK is predominantly protestant.
- In the strife that erupted between the social groups, hundreds of civilians, militants and security forces were killed.
- It was only in 1998, that the UK government and the Nationalists reached a peace treaty after which the armed struggle stopped.
- In Yugoslavia, the story did not have a happy ending.
- Political expression of social divisions deserted in the division of the country into seven independent countries.

21. What are Homogeneous and Heterogeneous Societies?

- A society where people of same identity/ethnic group are found is called a Homogeneous society.
- A society where people of different identities/ethnic groups are found is called a Heterogeneous society.
- Countries such as Germany and Sweden once were highly homogeneous.
- All the people belonged to the same race and practiced same religion. There was no diversity at all.
- These societies are undergoing rapid change with migrants from different parts of the world settling in these countries.
- These migrants bring along with them their religion, culture, language etc.
- So, most of the societies today are heterogeneous in nature.

22. How do you say that Political expression of Social Division is desirable?

- Social divisions of one kind or another exist in most countries of the world.
- Where they exist, political representation of these divisions is common.
- It is common for political parties to make different promises to different social groups, look for the due representation of various communities and make policies to redress the grievances of the members of each of the communities.
- Social divisions affect voting in most countries.
- In many countries, there are parties that focus only on one community.
- But all these do not always lead to disintegration of the country.

23. Discuss the three determinants of political expression of social divisions.

a) **How the people perceive their identities:**

- a) If people have singular and exclusive identity, then the outcome would be negative.
- b) The People of Sri Lanka and Northern Ireland have singular identities. They were concerned about their social group. So, the outcome was negative.
- c) If people have multiple identities, then the outcome would be positive.
- d) The people of Belgium today consider themselves as Belgians first. The other social identity of linguistic group doesn't matter now. So, the outcome has been positive.
- e) Most Indians today feel that they are Indians first. Then come other identities.

b) **How the leaders raise demands:**

- a) If the demands raised by the political leaders are within the constitutional framework of the country, then the outcome would be positive. The Belgian Model of Power Sharing is a good example of this.
- b) If the demands are beyond the constitutional framework, then the outcome would be negative. This is what happened in Yugoslavia.

c) **How the Government reacts to the demands:**

- a) If the Government is ready to share power with other social groups and accommodate all social groups, then the outcome would be positive. Belgium is an example of it.

b) If the Government refuses to share power with other social groups and suppress their voice, then the outcome would be negative. Sri Lanka is an example of it.

22. Why do people prefer Democracy to other forms of Government?

- Promotes equality among citizens;
- Enhances the dignity of the individual;
- Improves the quality of decision making;
- Provides a method to resolve conflicts; and,
- Allows room to correct mistakes.

23. Democracy is seen to be good in principle, but felt to be not so good in its practice. Explain why.

- People have high expectations of Democracy.
- They believe that it promotes equality, enhances dignity, improves quality decision making etc
- Most people prefer Democracy to other forms of Governments like monarchy and dictatorship.
- But not many are satisfied with Democracy in practice.
- The dilemma is, should one support democracy just for the moral reasons or should there be prudential reasons as well?
- In other words, should Democracy be supported only for its principles or should the practical aspects be considered too?
- Democracy has not been able to produce responsive govt.
- It has given a mixed result in producing an Accountable Govt.
- Democracy is not a guarantee of economic growth and development.
- It has failed miserably in reducing economic inequality and poverty.
- So, Democracy is seen to be good in principle but not in practice.

24. What may be achieved or not achieved under different democracies will be very different. Explain why.

- There are more than hundred countries that claim themselves to be Democracies.
- They have formal constitutions, elections are held, political parties are there, and some rights are given to citizens.
- But, what democracy has achieved in different countries is different.
- Democracy's achievement in different countries is determined by a host of factors like social composition, culture, their economic achievements, advancement in human resource etc.

25. Democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation. Put forth your view on this statement.

26. Compare Democracy and Non Democratic forms of Govts. In decision making process.

Pick out points from the following to answer the above two questions.

- One allegation against democracy is that it produces less effective government and the decision-making process is very slow.

- Non-democratic rulers don't have to bother about deliberations in assemblies, public opinion and the majorities.
- Democracy must follow certain norms and procedures. It is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation.
- Deliberations must take place in assemblies and the public opinion must be respected by the rulers in democracy. This doesn't make democracy inefficient.
- When the outcomes of these deliberations are considered, one can see a vast difference.
- Non-Democratic rulers take quick decisions. But, the decisions may not affect the people positively as the people aren't consulted.
- Governments in Democracy consult the people, follow norms and procedures before taking decisions. These decisions are likely to affect the people positively.

27. How can produce an Accountable, Responsive and Legitimate Govt.?

Ans: Democracy can produce an Accountable Govt. by ensuring the following.

- **Free, fair and regular elections:** This is required so that the people have the right to elect their rulers and have control over them.
- **Public Debate:** Decisions taken in democracy affect the people. So, wherever possible, people need to be consulted before major decisions are taken. One way is to ensure public debate before such decisions are taken.
- **Transparency and Sharing of Information:** This is required to enable a citizen to know if a decision is taken through correct procedure. She has the right and means to examine the decision-making process.
- Most democracies have been successful in ensuring free and regular elections, but these elections are not level playing ground for all. Big political parties and rich candidates have advantage over poor candidates and small parties.
- Just a few countries subject a few issues to public debate.
- Transparency and Information sharing are not satisfactory either.

28. Why is Democracy considered a Legitimate Govt.?

- There is one respect in which democratic government is certainly better than its alternatives.
- Democratic government is legitimate government. It may be slow, less efficient, not always very responsive or clean.
- There is large support for Democracy all over the world as in South Asia.
- In India alone more than 70% of people prefer Democracy to other forms of Governments.
- Thus, democratic government is people's own government. Unlike Dictatorship or Monarchy, it is not imposed on the people.
- Hence an overwhelming support for the idea of democracy all over the world.
- Democracy's ability to generate its own support itself is an outcome, which cannot be overlooked.

29. Democracy's inability to produced Economic Growth and Development worries us. Yet, we shouldn't reject Democracy. Discuss why.

- When democracy is compared with dictatorship for the fifty years between 1950 and 2000, dictatorships have slightly higher rate of economic growth.
- The inability of democracy to achieve higher economic development worries us.
- But this alone cannot be reason to reject democracy.

- Economic development depends on several factors: country's population size, global situation, cooperation from other countries, economic priorities adopted by the country, Et cetera.
- However, the difference in the rates of economic development between less developed countries with dictatorships and democracies is negligible.
- Overall, we cannot say that democracy is a guarantee of economic development. But we can expect democracy not to lag dictatorships in this respect.
- The positives of democracy over weigh the negatives.

30. Assess Democracy's performance in achieving Reduction of Inequality and Poverty.

- Democracies are based on political equality. All individuals have equal weight in electing representatives.
- Though everybody is equal in democracy, we find growing economic inequalities.
- A small number of ultra-rich enjoy a highly disproportionate share of wealth and incomes. Not only that, their share in the total income of the country has been increasing.
- Those at the bottom of the society have very little to depend upon. Their incomes have been declining. Sometimes they find it difficult to meet their basic needs of life, such as food, clothing, house, education and health.
- In actual life, democracies have not been very successful in reducing economic inequalities.
- The poor constitute a large proportion of our voters and no party will like to lose their votes. Yet democratically elected governments haven't done much to alleviate poverty or reduce economic inequality.

31. Mention the three conditions that Democracy needs to fulfil in order to accommodate Social Diversity.

- Democracy can promote harmonious life among the citizens.
- It is natural that differences exist in every society. No society can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups.
- Non-democratic regimes suppress internal social differences.
- Ability to handle social differences, divisions and conflicts is thus a definite plus point of democratic regimes.
- Democracy can develop mechanism to accommodate social diversity.

Democracy need to fulfil two conditions to accommodate social diversity. They are:

- In Democracy, majority opinion should rule. The majority always needs to work with the minority so that governments function to represent the general view. Majority and minority opinions are not permanent.
- It is also necessary that rule by majority does not become rule by majority community in terms of religion or race or linguistic group, etc.
- Rule by majority means that in case of every decision or in case of every election, different persons and groups may and can form a majority. Democracy remains democracy only as long as every citizen has a chance of being in majority at some point of time. If someone is barred from being in majority on the basis of birth, then the democratic rule ceases to be accommodative for that person or group

32. Why is it believed that Democracy stands superior to other forms of Govt. in ensuring dignity and freedom to citizen?

- Democracy stands much superior to any other form of government in promoting dignity and freedom of the individual. Every individual wants to receive respect from fellow beings.

- Often conflicts arise among individuals because some feel that they are not treated with due respect. The passion for respect and freedom are the basis of democracy.
- Democracies throughout the world have recognised this, at least in principle. This has been achieved in various degrees in various democracies.
- Just because democracy has created condition to this effect, it doesn't mean that every individual enjoys dignity and freedom.
- Long struggles by feminists have created some sensitivity today that respect to and equal treatment is necessary ingredients of a democratic society. That doesn't mean that women are actually treated with respect.
- This is the same case with the people of backward classes. Exploitation continues even today.
- Such exploitations do not have moral support or legal support.
- This element is absent in Non-Democratic countries.
- The lack of moral and legal support gives courage to disadvantaged groups to fight for their rights.

33. How do you say that Democracy has successfully transformed people from subjects to citizens?

OR

The fact that people are complaining is itself a testimony to the success of democracy. Explain why.

- Expectations from democracy also function as the criteria for judging any democratic country.
- What is most distinctive about democracy is that its examination never gets over. As democracy passes one test, it produces another test.
- As people get some benefits of democracy, they ask for more and want to make democracy even better.
- That is why people always complain about democracy and have suggestions to give to reform democracy.
- The fact that people are complaining is itself a testimony to the success of democracy.
- it shows that people have developed awareness. They criticize the Govt. and hold the high and the mighty responsible.
- A public expression of dissatisfaction with democracy shows the success of the democratic project: it transforms people from the status of a subject into that of a citizen.
- Most individuals today believe that their vote makes a difference to the way the government is run and to their own self-interest.