

# UNIQUE STUDY POINT

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<b>Class:</b> X	<b>Subject:</b> Social Science	<b>Session:</b> 2025-26
<b>Chapter:</b> 05 - Outcomes of Democracy	<b>Time:</b> 1½ Hours	<b>Max. Marks:</b> 40

## General Instructions:

1. All questions are compulsory.
2. This question paper contains 20 questions divided into five sections A, B, C, D and E.
3. Section A contains 10 MCQs of 1 mark each.
4. Section B contains 4 questions of 2 marks each.
5. Section C contains 3 questions of 3 marks each.
6. Section D contains 1 question of 5 marks.
7. Section E contains 2 Case Study Based questions of 4 marks each.

## SECTION A - Multiple Choice Questions (1 mark each)

- Q1.** Which of the following is a definite plus point of democratic regimes?
- (a) Economic growth
  - (b) Elimination of inequality
  - (c) Ability to handle social differences and conflicts
  - (d) Complete eradication of poverty
- Q2.** Democracy is considered better than other forms of government because it:
- (a) Guarantees faster economic development
  - (b) Promotes equality among citizens
  - (c) Ensures zero corruption
  - (d) Eliminates all conflicts
- Q3.** What does "transparency" in democracy mean?
- (a) Making all decisions quickly
  - (b) Citizens having the right to examine the process of decision making
  - (c) Government working in secret
  - (d) Only educated people can understand decisions
- Q4.** According to the study (1950-2000), which type of regime had slightly higher rate of economic growth?
- (a) Democracies
  - (b) Dictatorships
  - (c) Both had equal rates
  - (d) Neither showed any growth

- Q5.** Which country has the highest share of national income held by the top 20% according to Table 2 in the chapter?
- (a) Denmark
  - (b) South Africa
  - (c) Hungary
  - (d) United Kingdom
- Q6.** Democracy is just a form of government. This means that:
- (a) It can solve all problems automatically
  - (b) It can only create conditions; citizens must take advantage
  - (c) It guarantees economic prosperity
  - (d) It eliminates all social differences
- Q7.** For democracy to accommodate social diversity, which condition is NOT necessary?
- (a) Majority should work with minority
  - (b) Rule by majority community in terms of religion
  - (c) Every citizen should have a chance of being in majority
  - (d) Majority and minority opinions are not permanent
- Q8.** The passion for respect and freedom are:
- (a) Not important for democracy
  - (b) The basis of democracy
  - (c) Only for rich countries
  - (d) Obstacles to economic growth
- Q9.** What percentage of South Asians believe democracy is suitable for their country (as per the chapter)?
- (a) 50%
  - (b) 70%
  - (c) 88%
  - (d) 95%
- Q10.** Complaining about democracy shows:
- (a) Failure of democracy
  - (b) Success of democracy - people have awareness and expectations
  - (c) Democracy should be replaced
  - (d) People don't understand democracy

### SECTION B - Short Answer Questions (2 marks each)

- Q11.** Why do democratic governments take more time to follow procedures before arriving at a decision? Is this a weakness? (2 marks)
- Q12.** Explain how democracy enhances the dignity of women with an example from the chapter. (2 marks)
- Q13.** What are the two main reasons why people support democracy according to the chapter? (2 marks)
- Q14.** How does democracy create a legitimate government? (2 marks)
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### SECTION C - Short Answer Questions (3 marks each)

**Q15.** "Democracy is not simply rule by majority opinion." Explain this statement with reference to the conditions needed for accommodating social diversity. (3 marks)

**Q16.** Examine the relationship between democracy and economic growth. Can we say democracy guarantees economic development? (3 marks)

**Q17.** Why do democracies not appear to be very successful in reducing economic inequalities? Explain with examples. (3 marks)

### SECTION D - Long Answer Question (5 marks)

**Q18.** "Democracy stands much superior to any other form of government in promoting dignity and freedom of the individual." Justify this statement with examples from the chapter, discussing how democracy handles issues of women's dignity and caste inequalities. (5 marks)

### SECTION E - Case Study Based Questions (4 marks each)

**Q19.** Read the following case study and answer the questions:

*Madam Lyngdoh's class in Chapter 2 discussed why democracy is better than dictatorship. They concluded that democracy promotes equality, enhances dignity, improves decision-making quality, resolves conflicts, and allows room to correct mistakes. However, when we talk to people around us, most support democracy in principle but are not satisfied with democracy in practice.*

(a) What dilemma does this create about democracy? (2 marks)

(b) Give two reasons why democracies often frustrate people despite being supported. (2 marks)

**Q20.** Read the following case study and answer the questions:

*The chapter presents data showing that in South Africa, the top 20% of people take away 64.8% of national income, leaving only 2.9% for the bottom 20% population. In contrast, in Denmark, the top 20% get 34.5% while the bottom 20% get 9.6% of national income. Both are democratic countries.*

(a) What does this data reveal about economic inequality in democracies? (2 marks)

(b) If democracy is based on political equality, why do we find growing economic inequalities in democratic countries? (2 marks)



SECTION A - Answers to MCQs

**Ans 1.** (c) Ability to handle social differences and conflicts

**Explanation:** The chapter clearly states that the ability to handle social differences, divisions and conflicts is a definite plus point of democratic regimes, while non-democratic regimes often turn a blind eye to or suppress internal social differences.

**Ans 2.** (b) Promotes equality among citizens

**Explanation:** From the Class IX discussion, democracy is better because it promotes equality among citizens, along with enhancing dignity, improving decision-making, resolving conflicts, and allowing room to correct mistakes.

**Ans 3.** (b) Citizens having the right to examine the process of decision making

**Explanation:** The chapter defines transparency as citizens having the right and means to examine the process of decision making. This factor is often missing from non-democratic governments.

**Ans 4.** (b) Dictatorships

**Explanation:** According to the data presented, dictatorships had a slightly higher rate of economic growth (4.42) compared to democracies (3.95) between 1950-2000.

**Ans 5.** (b) South Africa

**Explanation:** Table 2 shows South Africa has the highest inequality with the top 20% holding 64.8% of national income, while the bottom 20% gets only 2.9%.

**Ans 6.** (b) It can only create conditions; citizens must take advantage

**Explanation:** The chapter emphasizes that democracy is just a form of government - it can only create conditions for achieving something, and citizens have to take advantage of those conditions to achieve goals.

**Ans 7.** (b) Rule by majority community in terms of religion

**Explanation:** The chapter explicitly states that rule by majority should NOT become rule by majority community in terms of religion, race, or linguistic group for democracy to accommodate diversity.

**Ans 8.** (b) The basis of democracy

**Explanation:** The chapter states that the passion for respect and freedom are the basis of democracy, and democracies throughout the world have recognized this principle.

**Ans 9.** (c) 88%

**Explanation:** According to the data from South Asia presented in the chapter, 88% of respondents find democracy very suitable or suitable for their country.

**Ans 10.** (b) Success of democracy - people have awareness and expectations

**Explanation:** The fact that people are complaining is testimony to the success of democracy - it shows people have developed awareness and ability to look critically at power holders.

## SECTION B - Answers to Short Answer Questions

### Ans 11.

Democratic governments take more time because they are based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation. This is not a weakness because:

- Although they take more time to follow procedures, their decisions are more acceptable to the people
- Their decisions are more effective because proper procedures are followed
- The cost of time that democracy pays is worth it compared to quick decisions that may not be accepted by people and may face problems

### Ans 12.

Democracy enhances the dignity of women by recognizing the principle of equality and respect:

- Most societies were historically male-dominated, but long struggles by women have created sensitivity today
- Democracy recognizes that respect and equal treatment of women are necessary ingredients of democratic society
- Once this principle is recognized legally and morally, it becomes easier for women to wage struggle against what is now unacceptable
- In non-democratic setups, this unacceptability would not have legal basis

### Ans 13.

People support democracy for two main reasons:

1. **Moral reasons:** Democracy is seen as good in principle because it promotes equality, dignity, and freedom
2. **Prudential reasons:** Democracy provides practical advantages like accountability, transparency, and ability to correct mistakes, making it a better form of government in practice

### Ans 14.

Democracy creates a legitimate government because:

- A democratic government is people's own government - it is ruled by representatives elected by the people
- There is overwhelming support for democracy all over the world, even in countries without democratic regimes
- People wish to be ruled by representatives elected by them
- Democracy's ability to generate its own support is itself an outcome that cannot be ignored

## SECTION C - Answers to Short Answer Questions

### Ans 15.

Democracy is not simply rule by majority opinion because:

**Condition 1: Working together**

- 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 - they keep changing

### **Condition 2: Preventing permanent majorities**

- Rule by majority should not become rule by majority community (based on religion, race, or language)
- Every citizen should have 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 democratic rule ceases to be accommodative

These conditions are necessary for democracy to accommodate social diversity and prevent conflicts.

### **Ans 16.**

#### **Relationship between democracy and economic growth:**

- Evidence shows that between 1950-2000, dictatorships had slightly higher rate of economic growth than democracies
- However, the difference in rates of economic development between less developed countries with dictatorships and democracies is negligible

#### **Democracy as a guarantee:**

- We cannot say democracy is a guarantee of economic development
- Economic development depends on several factors: country's population size, global situation, cooperation from other countries, economic priorities adopted
- However, we can expect democracy not to lag behind dictatorships in this respect
- It is better to prefer democracy because it has several other positive outcomes even if economic growth rates are similar

### **Ans 17.**

Democracies are not very successful in reducing economic inequalities because:

#### **1. Political vs Economic Equality:**

- Democracies are based on political equality where all have equal weight in elections
- But parallel to political equality, we find growing economic inequalities
- A small number of ultra-rich enjoy disproportionate share of wealth, and their share is increasing

#### **2. Examples of inequality:**

- In South Africa and Brazil, top 20% take over 60% of national income, leaving less than 3% for bottom 20%
- In India, the poor constitute a large proportion of voters, yet governments are not keen to address poverty
- In Bangladesh, more than half the population lives in poverty

#### **3. Limited effectiveness:**

- Democracies often frustrate the needs of the people and ignore demands of majority population
- However, non-democracies are also not more successful in reducing inequality

### Ans 18.

Democracy stands superior in promoting dignity and freedom of individuals because:

#### 1. Fundamental Basis:

- Every individual wants to receive respect from fellow beings
- Conflicts often arise when people feel they are not treated with due respect
- The passion for respect and freedom are the very basis of democracy
- Democracies worldwide have recognized this principle, at least in principle

#### 2. Women's Dignity:

- Most societies were historically male-dominated
- Long struggles by women have created sensitivity that respect and equal treatment of women are necessary ingredients of democratic society
- Once the principle is recognized, it becomes easier for women to wage struggle against what is now unacceptable legally and morally
- In non-democratic setup, this unacceptability would not have legal basis because the principle of individual freedom and dignity would not have legal and moral force
- Though women are not always treated with respect in practice, the legal and moral foundation exists in democracy

#### 3. Caste Inequalities:

- Democracy in India has strengthened the claims of disadvantaged and discriminated castes for equal status and equal opportunity
- There are still instances of caste-based inequalities and atrocities
- However, these now lack moral and legal foundations because of democratic principles
- The recognition of equality principle makes ordinary citizens value their democratic rights

#### 4. Transformation of Citizens:

- 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
- People develop awareness and ability to expect and look critically at power holders
- Most individuals believe their vote makes a difference, showing they value their democratic rights

**Conclusion:** While democracy may not perfectly eliminate discrimination, it provides the legal and moral framework to fight for dignity and freedom, which is absent in non-democratic systems.

## SECTION E - Answers to Case Study Based Questions

### Ans 19.

#### (a) Dilemma created about democracy (2 marks):

The dilemma is that democracy is seen to be good in principle, but felt to be not so good in its practice. This creates a contradiction where:

- Most people support democracy against alternatives like monarchy or military rule
- But not many are satisfied with how democracy functions in practice
- This makes us question whether we prefer democracy only for moral reasons or if there are prudential reasons too

**(b) Two reasons why democracies frustrate people (2 marks):**

1. **Unmet needs:** Democracies often frustrate the needs of the people and often ignore the demands of a majority of its population
2. **Corruption:** The record of democracies is not impressive when it comes to being free of corruption. The routine tales of corruption are enough to convince people that democracy is not free of this evil

(Note: Other valid reasons like slow decision-making, lack of responsiveness to people's needs, etc., can also be accepted)

**Ans 20.**

**(a) What data reveals about economic inequality (2 marks):**

The data reveals that:

- Within democracies, there can be very high degree of economic inequalities
- Not all democracies are equal in terms of income distribution - some like South Africa have extreme inequality, while others like Denmark are much better
- Democratic countries can have vastly different economic outcomes despite having the same form of government
- Being a democracy does not automatically guarantee fair distribution of wealth

**(b) Why economic inequalities exist despite political equality (2 marks):**

Economic inequalities persist in democracies despite political equality because:

- Democracy provides political equality (equal weight in elections) but this does not automatically translate to economic equality
- Parallel to the process of bringing individuals into political arena on equal footing, we find growing economic inequalities
- A small number of ultra-rich enjoy disproportionate share of wealth and their share has been increasing
- Democracy can only create conditions for achieving economic equality, but various factors like economic policies, global situation, and other circumstances determine actual economic outcomes

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