

UNIQUE STUDY POINT

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Class: X	Subject: Social Science	Session: 2025-26
Chapter: 05 - Outcomes of Democracy	Time: 1½ Hours	Max. Marks: 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.** The most basic outcome of democracy should be that it produces a government that is:
- (a) Rich and powerful
 - (b) Accountable to citizens
 - (c) Quick in decision-making
 - (d) Supported by military
- Q2.** What is the expected outcome regarding conflicts in a democracy?
- (a) Complete elimination of all conflicts
 - (b) Suppression of conflicts
 - (c) Respecting differences and evolving mechanisms to negotiate them
 - (d) Avoiding discussions about conflicts
- Q3.** In which country did more than half the population live in poverty, as mentioned in the chapter?
- (a) India
 - (b) Pakistan
 - (c) Bangladesh
 - (d) Sri Lanka
- Q4.** The chapter states that expectations from democracy also function as:
- (a) Obstacles to progress
 - (b) Criteria for judging democratic countries
 - (c) Reasons to reject democracy
 - (d) Proof of democracy's failure
- Q5.** According to the data, which country shows belief in vote efficacy at 50%?

- (a) Nepal
- (b) Pakistan
- (c) Sri Lanka
- (d) Bangladesh

Q6. Non-democratic rulers can be quick and efficient in decision making because they:

- (a) Are smarter than democratic leaders
- (b) Don't have to bother about deliberation and public opinion
- (c) Have better advisors
- (d) Work harder than elected leaders

Q7. Which example does the chapter use to show successful negotiation of ethnic differences?

- (a) India
- (b) Belgium
- (c) Pakistan
- (d) United States

Q8. Which country in South Asia shows the lowest support for "democracy is preferable"?

- (a) Nepal
- (b) Pakistan
- (c) Bangladesh
- (d) India

Q9. Democratic governments develop mechanisms for citizens to:

- (a) Avoid responsibility
- (b) Hold government accountable and take part in decision making
- (c) Ignore government decisions
- (d) Demand favors

Q10. What transformation does democracy bring to people according to the chapter?

- (a) From poor to rich
- (b) From subject to citizen
- (c) From citizen to leader
- (d) From voter to politician

SECTION B - Short Answer Questions (2 marks each)

Q11. What is the difference between the cost of time in democracy versus dictatorship when making decisions? (2 marks)

Q12. Why does the chapter say "democracy's ability to generate its own support is itself an outcome"? (2 marks)

Q13. Mention any two practices and institutions you would look for to measure democracies based on accountability. (2 marks)

Q14. How has democracy in India strengthened the claims of disadvantaged castes? (2 marks)

SECTION C - Short Answer Questions (3 marks each)

Q15. Explain three ways in which democratic government is certainly better than its alternatives, even if it may be slow and less efficient. (3 marks)

Q16. "Democracy can't reduce inequality of incomes between different citizens." Do you agree or disagree? Give three points to support your answer. (3 marks)

Q17. Describe how the example of Sri Lanka serves as a reminder about what conditions democracy must fulfill to accommodate social diversity. (3 marks)

SECTION D - Long Answer Question (5 marks)

Q18. Analyze the relationship between democracy and economic development based on the evidence presented in the chapter. Discuss why we should still prefer democracy despite its inability to guarantee higher economic development. Provide statistical evidence from the chapter. (5 marks)

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

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

Nannu is a daily wage earner living in Welcome Mazdoor Colony, East Delhi. He lost his ration card and applied for a duplicate in January 2004. For three months, clerks and officials would not even look at him. Ultimately, he filed an application under the Right to Information Act asking about daily progress on his application and what action would be taken against officials for inaction. Within a week, an inspector visited him saying the card was ready. When he went to collect it, the FSO offered him tea and requested him to withdraw his RTI application.

(a) What does Nannu's example demonstrate about democratic rights? (2 marks)

(b) How does this case show the importance of transparency in democracy? (2 marks)

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

Between 1950 and 2000, if we consider all democracies and dictatorships, the data shows: All democratic regimes - 3.95% growth rate; All dictatorial regimes - 4.42% growth rate; Poor countries under dictatorship - 4.34% growth rate; Poor countries under democracy - 4.28% growth rate.

(a) What conclusion can be drawn from comparing growth rates of poor countries under both systems? (2 marks)

(b) Despite these figures, why should we prefer democracy? Give two reasons. (2 marks)

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SECTION A - Answers to MCQs

Ans 1. (b) Accountable to citizens

Explanation: The chapter explicitly states that the most basic outcome of democracy should be that it produces a government that is accountable to the citizens, and responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens.

Ans 2. (c) Respecting differences and evolving mechanisms to negotiate them

Explanation: No society can fully resolve conflicts among groups. But we can learn to respect differences and evolve mechanisms to negotiate them. Democracy is best suited to produce this outcome.

Ans 3. (c) Bangladesh

Explanation: The chapter specifically mentions that in Bangladesh, more than half of its population lives in poverty, and people are dependent on rich countries even for food supplies.

Ans 4. (b) Criteria for judging democratic countries

Explanation: The chapter states that expectations from democracy also function as the criteria for judging any democratic country, allowing us to assess how well a democracy performs.

Ans 5. (b) Pakistan

Explanation: According to the data on "Belief in the efficacy of vote" presented in the chapter, Pakistan shows the lowest at 50%, while other South Asian countries show higher percentages.

Ans 6. (b) Don't have to bother about deliberation and public opinion

Explanation: The chapter explains that non-democratic rulers can be quick and efficient because they do not have to bother about deliberation in assemblies or worry about majorities and public opinion.

Ans 7. (b) Belgium

Explanation: The chapter refers to how Belgium has successfully negotiated differences among ethnic populations, as discussed in the first chapter of the textbook.

Ans 8. (b) Pakistan

Explanation: According to the data presented, Pakistan shows only 37% support for "democracy is preferable," which is the lowest among South Asian countries shown (Bangladesh-69%, India-70%, Nepal-62%, Sri Lanka-71%).

Ans 9. (b) Hold government accountable and take part in decision making

Explanation: The chapter states that we can expect democratic government to develop mechanisms for citizens to hold the government accountable and mechanisms for citizens to take part in decision making whenever they think fit.

Ans 10. (b) From subject to citizen

Explanation: The chapter explicitly states that public expression of dissatisfaction with democracy shows the success of the democratic project as it transforms people from the status of a subject into that of a citizen.

SECTION B - Answers to Short Answer Questions

Ans 11.

In Dictatorship:

- A government may take decisions very fast
- But these decisions may not be accepted by the people and may face problems later
- This leads to wasted effort and potential conflicts

In Democracy:

- The government takes more time to follow procedures before arriving at a decision
- But because it has followed procedures, its decisions are both more acceptable to the people and more effective
- So, the cost of time that democracy pays is worth it

Ans 12.

Democracy's ability to generate its own support is an outcome because:

- There is overwhelming support for the idea of democracy all over the world
- This support exists in countries with democratic regimes as well as countries without democratic regimes
- People wish to be ruled by representatives elected by them and believe democracy is suitable for their country
- This self-sustaining support shows that democracy creates its own legitimacy, which itself is a significant achievement that cannot be ignored

Ans 13.

To measure democracies based on accountability, we would look for:

1. **Regular, free and fair elections:** Elections where people can genuinely choose their representatives
2. **Open public debate on major policies and legislations:** Citizens can discuss and question government decisions
3. **Citizens' right to information about the government and its functioning:** Transparency in how decisions are made

(Any two of the above or other valid practices like mechanisms for citizen participation, systems to hold government accountable, etc.)

Ans 14.

Democracy in India has strengthened claims of disadvantaged castes by:

- Providing legal and constitutional recognition of equality, which gives disadvantaged castes a strong foundation to demand equal status and equal opportunity
- While caste-based inequalities and atrocities still exist, they now lack moral and legal

foundations due to democratic principles

- This recognition makes it easier for disadvantaged groups to wage struggles against discrimination as they have legal backing
- Democracy has made ordinary citizens from these castes value their democratic rights and use them to fight for justice

SECTION C - Answers to Short Answer Questions

Ans 15.

Three ways democratic government is certainly better than alternatives:

1. Legitimacy:

- A democratic government is legitimate government - it is people's own government
- It is ruled by representatives elected by the people
- This gives it moral authority that non-democratic governments lack

2. Accountability and Transparency:

- Democracy ensures that decision making is based on norms and procedures
- Citizens have the right and means to examine the process of decision making
- This transparency is often missing from non-democratic governments

3. Promotes Dignity and Freedom:

- Democracy stands much superior in promoting dignity and freedom of individuals
- It recognizes principles of equality, respect, and individual rights
- This provides legal and moral foundation for marginalized groups to fight discrimination
- Non-democratic systems do not provide such foundational support for individual dignity

Ans 16.

I agree with this statement based on the following evidence:

Point 1: Empirical Evidence

- In actual life, democracies do not appear to be very successful in reducing economic inequalities
- Countries like South Africa and Brazil (both democracies) show extreme inequality where top 20% take over 60% of national income
- The poor constitute a large proportion of voters in democracies, yet governments do not adequately address poverty

Point 2: Political vs Economic Equality

- Democracies are based on political equality where all individuals have equal weight in electing representatives
- However, 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
- Those at the bottom have very little and their incomes have been declining

Point 3: Structural Limitations

- Democracy is just a form of government - it can only create conditions, not guarantee outcomes
- Economic outcomes depend on various factors beyond the form of government: economic

policies, global situation, historical conditions, etc.

- At the same time, non-democracies are also not more successful in reducing inequality, so democracy should not be rejected for this reason alone

Ans 17.

The example of Sri Lanka serves as a reminder about conditions for accommodating social diversity:

Context:

- Sri Lanka is mentioned in the chapter as an example where democracy failed to fulfill necessary conditions
- Despite being a democracy, Sri Lanka faced serious ethnic conflict

Two Conditions that Must be Fulfilled:

Condition 1: Majority-Minority Cooperation

- Democracy is not simply rule by majority opinion
- The majority always needs to work with the minority
- If the majority community dominates decision-making ignoring minorities, it leads to conflict
- Sri Lanka's example shows what happens when this condition is not met

Condition 2: No Permanent Majorities Based on Birth

- Rule by majority should not become rule by majority community in terms of religion, race or linguistic group
- 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 (like ethnicity), democratic rule ceases to be accommodative
- Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict demonstrates the consequences when a permanent ethnic majority dominates

SECTION D - Answer to Long Answer Question

Ans 18.

Relationship Between Democracy and Economic Development:

1. Statistical Evidence from the Chapter:

- Between 1950 and 2000, considering all democracies and dictatorships:
- All democratic regimes: 3.95% growth rate
- All dictatorial regimes: 4.42% growth rate
- This shows dictatorships had slightly higher rate of economic growth

2. Comparison for Poor Countries:

- Poor countries under dictatorship: 4.34% growth rate
- Poor countries under democracy: 4.28% growth rate
- The difference in rates of economic development between less developed countries with dictatorships and democracies is negligible
- This is a crucial finding - when we focus on poor countries specifically, the economic advantage of dictatorship almost disappears

3. Inability to Guarantee Development:

- We cannot say that 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 by the country
- However, we can expect democracy not to lag behind dictatorships in this respect

4. Why We Should Still Prefer Democracy:

Reason 1: Other Positive Outcomes

- When we find such insignificant difference in growth rates, it is better to prefer democracy because it has several other positive outcomes
- Democracy provides accountability, transparency, and responsiveness to citizens
- These benefits exist even if economic growth is similar

Reason 2: Legitimacy and Support

- Democratic government is legitimate government - it is people's own government
- There is overwhelming support for democracy all over the world
- Democracy's ability to generate its own support is itself an important outcome

Reason 3: Dignity and Freedom

- Democracy stands much superior to any other form of government in promoting dignity and freedom of the individual
- It provides legal and moral foundation for fighting inequality and discrimination
- This human dimension cannot be measured in economic growth rates alone

Reason 4: Better Quality of Decisions

- Although democracies may be slower, their decisions are more acceptable and effective
- The cost of time is worth paying for decisions that have public support
- Quick decisions in dictatorships may not be accepted by people and can face problems

Conclusion:

While democracy may not guarantee superior economic growth, it should be preferred because: (a) the difference in growth rates is negligible, especially among poor countries, and (b) democracy provides numerous other benefits related to accountability, legitimacy, dignity, and freedom that make it worth choosing even if economic performance is similar to or slightly lower than dictatorships.

SECTION E - Answers to Case Study Based Questions

Ans 19.

(a) What Nannu's example demonstrates (2 marks):

Nannu's example demonstrates several important aspects of democratic rights:

- **Empowerment of ordinary citizens:** Even a daily wage earner from a slum could use democratic rights (RTI Act) to demand accountability from officials
- **Transformation from subject to citizen:** This shows how democracy transforms people from subjects who accept whatever treatment they get to citizens who can demand their rights
- **Effectiveness of legal rights:** When Nannu used his legal right, the system responded within

a week, showing that democratic rights are not just theoretical but can produce real results

- **Power of awareness:** Once citizens are aware of their rights and use them, even powerful officials have to respond and become accountable

(b) Importance of transparency (2 marks):

This case shows the importance of transparency in democracy in the following ways:

- **Right to examine process:** Through RTI, Nannu could demand to know the daily progress on his application and which officials were responsible - this is transparency in action
- **Accountability mechanism:** Transparency forces officials to be accountable. The officials had ignored Nannu for three months, but once he used RTI (which would make their inaction transparent), they acted immediately
- **Prevention of arbitrariness:** Without transparency, officials can act arbitrarily and ignore citizens. The Right to Information makes the process transparent and prevents such behavior
- **Essential for democracy:** This case proves that transparency is not just a nice feature but is essential for making democracy work effectively - without it, the government can be unresponsive to citizens' needs

Ans 20.

(a) Conclusion from comparing poor countries (2 marks):

From comparing growth rates of poor countries under both systems, we can conclude:

- **Negligible difference:** The difference between poor countries under dictatorship (4.34%) and poor countries under democracy (4.28%) is only 0.06 percentage points - this is negligible
- **No clear economic advantage:** For poor countries specifically, dictatorship does not offer any significant economic advantage over democracy
- **Democracy not lagging:** We can expect democracy not to lag behind dictatorships in economic growth, especially in the context of poor countries
- **Economic arguments weakened:** Those who argue for dictatorship based on superior economic performance cannot make a strong case when we look specifically at poor countries, where the difference essentially disappears

(b) Why prefer democracy despite these figures (2 marks):

Reason 1: Multiple positive outcomes beyond economics

- When the economic difference is so insignificant, it is better to prefer democracy because it has several other positive outcomes
- Democracy provides:
 - Accountability and transparency in government
 - Legitimacy - it is people's own government
 - Protection of dignity and freedom of individuals
 - Mechanisms to resolve conflicts peacefully
- These benefits exist regardless of economic growth rates

Reason 2: Long-term sustainable development

- Even if dictatorships can make quick decisions that might boost short-term growth, these decisions may not be accepted by people
- Democratic decisions, though slower, are more acceptable and effective in the long run
- Democracy ensures that development happens with public participation and consent, making it more sustainable
- The quality of life improvements in democracy (freedom, dignity, equality) are as important as

economic growth numbers

Additional point: Since the difference is negligible (especially for poor countries), choosing dictatorship for a tiny potential economic advantage while sacrificing all other democratic benefits would be irrational. The comprehensive benefits of democracy far outweigh the negligible difference in economic growth rates.

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