

# 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.** What is the first step towards thinking carefully about the outcomes of democracy?
- (a) Comparing it with dictatorship
  - (b) Recognising that democracy is just a form of government
  - (c) Measuring economic growth
  - (d) Counting the number of elections
- Q2.** Which country shows the most equal distribution of income according to Table 2?
- (a) Brazil
  - (b) Russia
  - (c) Denmark
  - (d) United Kingdom
- Q3.** The record of democracies is "not impressive" on which two counts according to the chapter?
- (a) Elections and political parties
  - (b) Attentiveness to people's needs and freedom from corruption
  - (c) Economic growth and military power
  - (d) Population control and infrastructure
- Q4.** What does democracy's examination never getting over indicate?
- (a) Democracy is failing
  - (b) People are never satisfied
  - (c) As democracy passes one test, it produces another - showing continuous improvement
  - (d) Democracy should be replaced
- Q5.** According to the chapter, people in several poor countries are now dependent on rich countries

for:

- (a) Education only
- (b) Technology only
- (c) Even food supplies
- (d) Entertainment

**Q6.** The actual performance of democracies shows a "mixed record" on which aspect?

- (a) Military strength
- (b) Regular elections and open public debate
- (c) Religious freedom
- (d) Sports achievements

**Q7.** Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a factor on which economic development depends?

- (a) Country's population size
- (b) Form of government alone
- (c) Global situation
- (d) Cooperation from other countries

**Q8.** What percentage of Indians believe their vote makes a difference according to the chapter?

- (a) 50%
- (b) 67%
- (c) 75%
- (d) 81%

**Q9.** The chapter states that as people get some benefits of democracy, they:

- (a) Stop complaining
- (b) Ask for more and want to make democracy even better
- (c) Become satisfied
- (d) Stop participating

**Q10.** Democracies usually develop a procedure to conduct their competition which reduces:

- (a) Number of political parties
- (b) Voter turnout
- (c) The possibility of tensions becoming explosive or violent
- (d) Public interest

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

**Q11.** State any two factors on which economic development depends, apart from the form of government. (2 marks)

**Q12.** Why do people wish to be ruled by representatives elected by them? Give two reasons. (2 marks)

**Q13.** Explain what is meant by "democracy is responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens." (2 marks)

**Q14.** How does the principle of individual freedom and dignity get legal and moral force in democracy? (2 marks)

### SECTION C - Short Answer Questions (3 marks each)

**Q15.** Explain three reasons why most democracies fall short of elections that provide a fair chance to everyone and in subjecting every decision to public debate. (3 marks)

**Q16.** "No society can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups." In light of this statement, explain how democracies handle conflicts differently from non-democratic regimes. (3 marks)

**Q17.** Analyze the data on support for democracy in South Asia presented in the chapter. What does it reveal about people's perception of democracy? (3 marks)

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

**Q18.** "Over a hundred countries of the world today claim and practice some kind of democratic politics, but these democracies are very much different from each other." Explain this statement by discussing what we can reasonably expect from every democracy and what varies based on specific circumstances. Support your answer with examples from the chapter. (5 marks)

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

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

*The chapter presents evidence that democracies are based on political equality where all individuals have equal weight in electing representatives. However, parallel to bringing individuals into the political arena on equal footing, we find growing economic inequalities. A small number of ultra-rich enjoy highly disproportionate share of wealth and incomes, and their share has been increasing. Those at the bottom have very little to depend upon and their incomes have been declining.*

- (a) Why do you think political equality does not automatically lead to economic equality? (2 marks)
- (b) Should we reject democracy because it has failed to reduce economic inequality? Give reasons. (2 marks)

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

*The chapter states that for societies which have been built for long on the basis of subordination and domination, it is not a simple matter to recognise that all individuals are equal. Long struggles by women have created some sensitivity today that respect to and equal treatment of women are necessary ingredients of a democratic society. The same is true of caste inequalities where democracy in India has strengthened claims for equal status.*

- (a) How do long struggles help in changing social attitudes in a democracy? (2 marks)
- (b) Why is recognition of the principle of equality important even if practice does not always match it? (2 marks)



SECTION A - Answers to MCQs

**Ans 1.** (b) Recognising that democracy is just a form of government

**Explanation:** The chapter explicitly states: "The first step towards thinking carefully about the outcomes of democracy is to recognise that democracy is just a form of government. It can only create conditions for achieving something. The citizens have to take advantage of those conditions and achieve those goals."

**Ans 2.** (c) Denmark

**Explanation:** According to Table 2, Denmark shows the most equal distribution where the top 20% gets 34.5% and the bottom 20% gets 9.6% of national income - the smallest gap among all countries listed.

**Ans 3.** (b) Attentiveness to people's needs and freedom from corruption

**Explanation:** The chapter states: "In substantive terms, it may be reasonable to expect from democracy a government that is attentive to the needs and demands of the people and is largely free of corruption. The record of democracies is not impressive on these two counts."

**Ans 4.** (c) As democracy passes one test, it produces another - showing continuous improvement

**Explanation:** The chapter explains that what is most distinctive about democracy is that its examination never gets over because as democracy passes one test, it produces another test, and as people get benefits, they ask for more and want to make democracy even better.

**Ans 5.** (c) Even food supplies

**Explanation:** The chapter mentions that in several poor countries, people are now dependent on the rich countries even for food supplies, highlighting the extent of economic dependency.

**Ans 6.** (b) Regular elections and open public debate

**Explanation:** The chapter states: "The actual performance of democracies shows a mixed record on this. Democracies have had greater success in setting up regular and free elections and in setting up conditions for open public debate."

**Ans 7.** (b) Form of government alone

**Explanation:** The chapter explicitly mentions that economic development depends on several factors: country's population size, global situation, cooperation from other countries, and economic priorities adopted. It emphasizes that form of government alone is not sufficient.

**Ans 8.** (b) 67%

**Explanation:** According to the data on "Belief in the efficacy of vote" presented in the chapter, 67% of Indians say that their vote makes a difference to the way government is run and to their own self-interest.

**Ans 9.** (b) Ask for more and want to make democracy even better

**Explanation:** The chapter explains that as people get some benefits of democracy, they ask for more and want to make democracy even better, which is why democracy's examination never gets over.

**Ans 10.** (c) The possibility of tensions becoming explosive or violent

**Explanation:** The chapter states that democracies usually develop a procedure to conduct their competition, which reduces the possibility of these tensions becoming explosive or violent.

## SECTION B - Answers to Short Answer Questions

**Ans 11.**

Two factors on which economic development depends (apart from form of government):

1. **Country's population size:** The size of population affects resource availability, labor force, and market size
2. **Global situation:** International economic conditions, trade relationships, and global market trends
3. **Cooperation from other countries:** International aid, trade agreements, and diplomatic relations
4. **Economic priorities adopted by the country:** The specific policies and development strategies chosen

(Any two of the above can be written)

**Ans 12.**

People wish to be ruled by representatives elected by them because:

1. **Legitimacy:** A government elected by the people is seen as legitimate - it is people's own government, not imposed from outside or by force
2. **Accountability:** Elected representatives are answerable to the people who elected them, making the government more responsive to citizens' needs
3. **Sense of ownership:** When people elect their rulers, they feel a sense of ownership and participation in the government, rather than being mere subjects
4. **Belief in democracy:** There is overwhelming support for democracy because people believe it is suitable for their country and that their vote makes a difference

(Any two points with explanation)

**Ans 13.**

"Democracy is responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens" means:

- **Listening to citizens:** Democratic governments are expected to pay attention to what citizens want and need
- **Acting on demands:** The government should take action based on the legitimate demands and expectations of the people
- **Mechanisms for participation:** Democracy provides ways for citizens to express their needs and have them addressed
- **Accountability:** Being responsive means the government can be questioned if it fails to meet people's needs and expectations

However, the chapter also notes that democratic governments often frustrate the needs of the

people and often ignore the demands of a majority of its population, showing that this expectation is not always met in practice.

#### Ans 14.

The principle of individual freedom and dignity gets legal and moral force in democracy through:

- **Constitutional recognition:** Democracy recognizes these principles in its constitution and legal framework, making them enforceable rights
- **Foundation of democracy:** The passion for respect and freedom are the basis of democracy itself, so these principles are central to how democracy functions
- **Democratic values:** Society develops moral consensus that these principles are necessary ingredients of democratic society
- **Legal backing for struggles:** Once recognized legally and morally, it becomes easier for marginalized groups to wage struggle against discrimination, as they have legal basis for their claims

In non-democratic setups, these principles would not have such legal basis because the very foundation is different.

### SECTION C - Answers to Short Answer Questions

#### Ans 15.

Most democracies fall short of ideal standards because of various practical challenges:

##### 1. Structural Inequalities:

- Despite formal equality, there are deep economic and social inequalities
- Those with more resources (wealth, education, connections) have better access to the political process
- This means elections don't provide truly fair chances to everyone - the wealthy and powerful have advantages

##### 2. Limited Access to Information:

- The chapter notes that democratic governments do not have a very good record when it comes to sharing information with citizens
- Without complete information, citizens cannot effectively participate in debates about policies
- Government secrecy and lack of transparency prevent every decision from being subject to public debate

##### 3. Practical Constraints:

- Not every decision can be subjected to public debate - this would make governance too slow
- Technical decisions may be difficult for all citizens to participate in meaningfully
- There are limits to how much time and resources can be devoted to public consultation
- Electoral systems may have flaws that prevent truly fair representation

The chapter concludes that while democracies fall short of these ideals, they are "much better than any non-democratic regime in these respects."

#### Ans 16.

The statement recognizes that conflicts are a natural part of diverse societies. Different approaches:

## How Democracies Handle Conflicts:

### 1. Recognition and Respect:

- Democracies acknowledge social differences openly
- They learn to respect these differences rather than suppressing them
- The aim is not to eliminate differences but to manage them peacefully

### 2. Evolving Mechanisms:

- Democracies evolve mechanisms to negotiate differences
- They develop procedures to conduct competition between different groups
- These procedures reduce the possibility of tensions becoming explosive or violent

### 3. Accommodation:

- Democracy is best suited to accommodate various social divisions
- Examples like Belgium show how democracies successfully negotiate ethnic differences
- This requires majority to work with minority and preventing permanent majorities based on birth

## How Non-Democratic Regimes Handle Conflicts:

- Non-democratic regimes often turn a blind eye to internal social differences
- They suppress conflicts rather than addressing them
- This may create appearance of peace but underlying tensions remain
- Without mechanisms for negotiation, conflicts can become violent when they surface

**Conclusion:** Democracy's ability to handle social differences, divisions and conflicts is a definite plus point, even though it doesn't eliminate conflicts permanently.

## Ans 17.

Analysis of data on support for democracy in South Asia:

### 1. Overwhelming Support for Democratic Rule:

- 94% of South Asians agree (strongly agree or agree) with the rule of leaders elected by the people
- This shows very high support for the basic principle of democracy
- Support is high across all countries: Sri Lanka (98%), Bangladesh (96%), India (95%), Nepal (94%), Pakistan (81%)

### 2. Belief in Suitability of Democracy:

- 88% of South Asians find democracy very suitable or suitable for their country
- Very few people doubt that democracy is appropriate for their specific national context
- This is remarkable because it includes countries both with and without stable democratic regimes

### 3. Preference for Democracy over Dictatorship:

- 62% in South Asia say democracy is preferable, while only 10% say sometimes dictatorship is better
- However, 28% say it doesn't matter to them, indicating some ambivalence
- Pakistan is an exception with only 37% preferring democracy
- Countries like Bangladesh (69%), India (70%), and Sri Lanka (71%) show strong preference

## What This Reveals:

- **Democracy's self-generating support:** Democracy's ability to generate its own support is itself an outcome - people support it even when they're not fully satisfied with its practice

- **Universal appeal:** Support exists in countries with and without stable democracies, showing democracy's appeal transcends immediate circumstances
- **Principle vs Practice gap:** While support for democratic principles is very high, the moderate preference figures suggest people may not always be satisfied with democratic practice
- **Legitimacy of democracy:** The data confirms that people wish to be ruled by representatives they elect, validating democracy's legitimacy claims

## SECTION D - Answer to Long Answer Question

### Ans 18.

#### Understanding the Diversity Among Democracies:

##### Common Features (What All Democracies Have):

Over a hundred countries practice democratic politics and share these common features:

- Formal constitutions that establish the framework of government
- Elections where people choose their representatives
- Multiple political parties competing for power
- Guaranteed rights of citizens enshrined in law

##### How They Differ:

Despite these commonalities, democracies are very different from each other in terms of:

##### 1. Social Situations:

- Some countries have homogeneous populations, others are highly diverse
- Example: Belgium successfully accommodates ethnic diversity, while Sri Lanka faced conflicts
- Historical patterns of subordination and domination vary

##### 2. Economic Achievements:

- Income inequality varies greatly even among democracies
- Example: In South Africa and Brazil, top 20% take over 60% of national income
- In Denmark and Hungary, distribution is much more equal
- Poverty levels differ: Bangladesh has over half population in poverty, while other democracies are more prosperous

##### 3. Cultures:

- Different cultural traditions influence how democracy functions
- Attitudes toward women's rights, caste, and social equality vary
- Historical experiences shape democratic practices

#### What Can We Expect from Every Democracy:

##### 1. Accountable and Responsive Government:

- Every democracy should produce a government accountable to citizens
- Government should be responsive to needs and expectations
- This is a basic outcome we can reasonably expect just because it is democracy

##### 2. Transparency and Procedures:

- Decision making should be based on norms and procedures
- Citizens should have the right to examine the decision-making process
- Regular, free and fair elections
- Open public debate on major policies

### **3. Legitimacy:**

- Democratic government is people's own government
- Representatives elected by the people
- Democracy's ability to generate its own support

### **4. Promotion of Dignity and Freedom:**

- Recognition of individual dignity and freedom as fundamental
- Legal and moral foundation for fighting discrimination
- Every democracy should stand superior in promoting these values

### **What Varies Based on Circumstances:**

#### **1. Economic Performance:**

- Cannot expect guaranteed economic development
- Depends on factors like population size, global situation, cooperation from other countries
- What is achieved economically will be very different across democracies

#### **2. Success in Reducing Inequality:**

- Varies greatly - compare South Africa/Brazil with Denmark/Hungary
- Depends on economic policies, historical conditions, social structures
- No democracy has perfect record on this

#### **3. Accommodation of Diversity:**

- Success depends on specific conditions being met
- Majority working with minority
- Preventing permanent majorities based on birth
- Some democracies like Belgium succeed, others like Sri Lanka face challenges

#### **4. Speed and Efficiency:**

- Democracy takes time for deliberation and negotiation
- But the quality and acceptability of decisions varies
- Different democracies balance speed with thoroughness differently

### **Key Understanding:**

The chapter emphasizes that "democracy is just a form of government. It can only create conditions for achieving something. The citizens have to take advantage of those conditions and achieve those goals." This means:

- Basic democratic features (elections, rights, constitution) can be expected from all
- But outcomes (economic development, equality, effective conflict resolution) will vary
- We should not expect democracy to address all socio-economic and political problems automatically
- The specific achievements depend on how citizens use democratic opportunities and on various contextual factors

### **Conclusion:**

While all democracies share fundamental features and we can expect certain basic outcomes (accountability, legitimacy, promotion of dignity), the actual achievements in terms of economic development, inequality reduction, and conflict resolution vary greatly based on social situations, economic contexts, and cultural factors. The key is to recognize democracy's potential while being

realistic about what it can guarantee versus what depends on specific circumstances and citizen action.

## SECTION E - Answers to Case Study Based Questions

### Ans 19.

#### (a) Why political equality doesn't automatically lead to economic equality (2 marks):

Political equality does not automatically lead to economic equality because:

- **Different spheres:** Political equality (equal voting rights) operates in the political sphere, while economic inequality exists in the economic sphere - they are governed by different mechanisms
- **Pre-existing inequalities:** Democracy begins with existing economic inequalities from history, and voting rights alone cannot redistribute wealth
- **Market forces:** Economic outcomes are largely determined by market forces, ownership of resources, skills, opportunities, and historical advantages, which voting doesn't directly affect
- **Power of wealth:** The ultra-rich have disproportionate economic power that allows them to maintain and increase their wealth even in democracies
- **Limited democratic control:** Democracy provides equal political rights but citizens have limited direct control over economic policies and their implementation
- **Influence of wealthy:** Despite political equality, wealthy groups often have more influence over policy-making through various means

#### (b) Should we reject democracy because of failure to reduce inequality (2 marks):

**No, we should not reject democracy. Reasons:**

##### Reason 1: Non-democracies are no better

- The chapter explicitly states: "At the same time, there is nothing to show that non-democracies are less corrupt or more sensitive to the people"
- Non-democratic regimes also fail to reduce inequality and may make it worse
- So rejecting democracy wouldn't solve the inequality problem

##### Reason 2: Democracy provides other crucial benefits

- Even if democracy hasn't reduced economic inequality, it provides:
  - Political equality and voting rights
  - Dignity and freedom of individuals
  - Legal and moral foundation to fight discrimination
  - Accountability and transparency
  - Legitimate government
- These are valuable outcomes that non-democracies don't provide

##### Reason 3: Democracy creates conditions for change

- Democracy gives the poor a voice and legal standing to demand economic justice
- The poor can organize, protest, and vote for policies that might reduce inequality
- While democracy doesn't guarantee economic equality, it provides the tools to work toward it
- In non-democracies, the poor would have even fewer avenues to address inequality

##### Reason 4: Evaluation should be holistic

- We cannot judge democracy on just one parameter (economic equality)

- The overall package of democratic outcomes is valuable even if one specific goal remains unmet
- Democracy should be preferred for moral reasons (dignity, freedom) even if prudential reasons (economic benefits) are mixed

## Ans 20.

### (a) How long struggles help change social attitudes in democracy (2 marks):

Long struggles help change social attitudes in democracy through several mechanisms:

#### 1. Creating Awareness and Sensitivity:

- Long struggles by women have created "some sensitivity today that respect to and equal treatment of women are necessary ingredients of a democratic society"
- Persistent efforts gradually change how society views discrimination
- People begin to recognize that subordination and discrimination are wrong

#### 2. Legal and Moral Recognition:

- Struggles lead to laws and policies that embody principles of equality
- Once principles are recognized legally and morally, they become part of social values
- This gives legitimacy to demands for equal treatment

#### 3. Demonstration Effect:

- Struggles show that marginalized groups will not accept discrimination silently
- Success in some areas inspires further struggles and emboldens others
- Each victory changes what society considers acceptable

#### 4. Democratic Space:

- Democracy provides space for these struggles - freedom of speech, right to organize, right to protest
- Continued struggle keeps issues in public consciousness
- Democratic institutions (courts, legislatures) can be used to advance equality

### (b) Why recognition of principle is important even if practice doesn't match (2 marks):

Recognition of the principle of equality is important despite gaps in practice because:

#### 1. Provides Legal Basis for Action:

- The chapter states: "Once the principle is recognised, it becomes easier for women to wage a struggle against what is now unacceptable legally and morally"
- With legal recognition, discrimination can be challenged in courts
- Victims have legal recourse to seek justice
- Without this recognition, there would be no legal basis to fight discrimination

#### 2. Moral Force:

- "In a non-democratic set up, this unacceptability would not have legal basis because the principle of individual freedom and dignity would not have the legal and moral force there"
- Recognition gives moral authority to those fighting discrimination
- Society acknowledges that discrimination is wrong, even if it still occurs
- This moral recognition is essential for long-term change

#### 3. Foundation for Progress:

- Recognizing the principle is the first step toward implementing it in practice
- It sets the direction for social change
- While practice may lag, the recognized principle serves as a goal to work toward
- Each instance of discrimination can now be called out as violating accepted principles

#### **4. Enables Measurement and Accountability:**

- With a recognized principle, we can measure how far practice falls short
- Government and society can be held accountable for violations
- Progress can be tracked over time
- The gap between principle and practice becomes visible and discussable

#### **5. Empowers the Marginalized:**

- "Perhaps, it is the recognition that makes ordinary citizens value their democratic rights"
- When principles are recognized, marginalized groups feel empowered
- They know they have rights even if those rights are not always respected
- This changes their status from mere subjects to citizens with legitimate claims

**Key Insight:** The chapter emphasizes that there are still "instances of caste-based inequalities and atrocities, but these lack the moral and legal foundations" because of democratic recognition of equality. This shows that even imperfect implementation is better than having no recognition at all, as it delegitimizes discrimination and provides tools to fight it.

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