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DEMOCRACY

Class 09 - Social Science (Understanding Society)

Time Allowed: 1 hour and 30 minutes

Maximum Marks: 139

1. In which ancient city did the term 'democracy' originate in the fifth century BCE? [1]
 - a) Rome
 - b) Sparta
 - c) Athens
 - d) Alexandria
2. Which principle is fundamental to the presidential form of government regarding the branches of government? [1]
 - a) Legislative supremacy
 - b) Separation of powers
 - c) Unity of power
 - d) Collective responsibility
3. The ancient Indian institution of 'Sabha' and 'Samiti' represent which of the following? [1]
 - a) Colonial law-making
 - b) Modern parliamentary rules
 - c) Military councils
 - d) Early democratic traditions
4. When did Switzerland grant women the right to vote at the federal level? [1]
 - a) 1920
 - b) 1971
 - c) 1945
 - d) 1893
5. Which ancient Indian institutions functioned as early democratic bodies where power rested with the people and authority was neither centralised nor hereditary? [1]
 - a) Vajji confederacy
 - b) Sabhas and Samitis
 - c) Mahajanapadas
 - d) Panchayats
6. What is the major challenge to democracy in India regarding economic status? [1]
 - a) Gender equality
 - b) Poverty and Income Inequality
 - c) High literacy
 - d) Technological advancement
7. What is a distinguishing feature of the presidential system regarding cabinet members' political affiliation? [1]
 - a) Cabinet must be from President's party.
 - b) Cabinet may be from different parties.
 - c) All cabinet members from same party.
 - d) Cabinet from opposition parties.
8. What impact does increasing economic inequality have on policy-making in a democracy? [1]
 - a) It reduces the influence of money in election campaigns.
 - b) It ensures unbiased attention to all sections of society.
 - c) Policy may favor influential groups over weaker sections.
 - d) It leads to better representation of the poor's grievances.

9. 'Universal Adult Franchise' means: [1]
- a) Right to vote for all adults regardless of caste, creed, or gender
 - b) Only men can vote
 - c) Only educated people can vote
 - d) Voting is restricted to taxpayers
10. Which form of government is characterized by the executive deriving its authority from the legislature and remaining accountable to it? [1]
- a) Parliamentary Democracy
 - b) Absolute Monarchy
 - c) Dictatorship
 - d) Presidential Democracy
11. Which of the following is a core feature of a democracy? [1]
- a) Hereditary succession
 - b) Military rule
 - c) Rule by a single individual
 - d) Decisions made by people's representatives
12. What is one of the built-in mechanisms of democracy to ensure rulers do not go astray? [1]
- a) Executive independence from all other branches
 - b) Regular and periodical elections
 - c) Hereditary succession of power
 - d) Lifelong appointments of leaders
13. Which country is explicitly mentioned as an example of an Absolute Monarchy? [1]
- a) India
 - b) United Kingdom
 - c) USA
 - d) Saudi Arabia
14. In a Parliamentary system, the executive is responsible to: [1]
- a) The Legislature
 - b) The Military
 - c) The President only
 - d) The Judiciary
15. How do economic inequalities affect elections, particularly concerning candidates? [1]
- a) People with money have more chances of winning elections.
 - b) They make it easier for ordinary citizens to win elections.
 - c) They decrease the amount of money spent on election campaigning.
 - d) They lead to reduced corruption in public dealings.
16. India's modern democracy was significantly influenced by which historical document? [1]
- a) Magna Carta
 - b) The Treaty of Versailles
 - c) The Constitution of India
 - d) The Declaration of Independence
17. Who defined democracy as "the government of the people, by the people, for the people"? [1]
- a) Abraham Lincoln
 - b) George Washington
 - c) Thomas Jefferson
 - d) Reinhold Niebuhr
18. In a parliamentary system, who serves as the real head of the government, responsible for its day-to-day affairs? [1]

19. Which country is a primary example of a Presidential system? **[1]**
 - a) Canada
 - b) India
 - c) United Kingdom
 - d) USA
20. Which of the following was NOT listed as a major historical event that helped boost the spread of democracy? **[1]**
 - a) Collapse of the Soviet Union
 - b) Second World War
 - c) The Industrial Revolution
 - d) Decolonisation
21. Which country is given as an example of a system that combines elements of theocracy and democracy, with elected institutions and religious oversight? **[1]**
 - a) India
 - b) USA
 - c) United Kingdom
 - d) Iran
22. What distinguishes a Constitutional Monarchy from an Absolute Monarchy? **[1]**
 - a) Ceremonial vs absolute power.
 - b) Monarch holds real power.
 - c) No hereditary ruler.
 - d) No elected representatives.
23. To establish a healthy democracy, democratic values should be taught and imbibed beginning at which level? **[1]**
 - a) Only within political parties.
 - b) Grassroots level (family, friends, neighborhood).
 - c) National policy-making bodies.
 - d) Educational institutions at higher levels only.

- | List I | List II |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| (A) Democracy origin | (I) Vote, Speak in Assembly |
| (B) Ancient Athens democracy | (II) Demos + Kratos |
| (C) Abraham Lincoln's definition | (III) "Government of the people, by the people, for the people" |
| (D) Widely accepted government form | (IV) Contemporary world |

- | List I | List II |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| (A) Constitutional Monarchy | (I) Divine Right Theory |
| | |

(B) Theocracy	(II) Ceremonial Head of State
(C) Absolute Monarchy	(III) Military coup
(D) Dictatorship	(IV) Religious oversight

a) A-III, B-I, C-IV, D-II

b) A-IV, B-III, C-II, D-I

c) A-II, B-IV, C-I, D-III

d) A-I, B-II, C-III, D-IV

26. Match the items in List I with those List II.

[1]

List I	List II
(A) Effect of monetary influence on elections	(I) Winston Churchill's view
(B) General public perception of democracy	(II) Difficulty in fulfilling expectations
(C) Democracy's comparative advantage	(III) Higher winning chances for wealthy
(D) Challenge in diverse nations like India	(IV) Best amongst tried forms

a) A-III, B-I, C-IV, D-II

b) A-IV, B-III, C-II, D-I

c) A-I, B-II, C-III, D-IV

d) A-III, B-IV, C-I, D-II

27. Match the items in List I with those List II.

[1]

List I	List II
(A) Reinhold Niebuhr's statement	(I) Justice and Injustice
(B) Democracy in India	(II) Representative Democracy
(C) Switzerland electoral practice	(III) Referendums, Popular Initiatives
(D) Dictator's rule	(IV) Policies not for welfare

a) A-II, B-IV, C-I, D-III

b) A-I, B-II, C-IV, D-III

c) A-III, B-I, C-II, D-IV

d) A-I, B-II, C-III, D-IV

28. Match the items in List I with those in List II.

[1]

List I	List II
(A) Issue leading to exploitation	(I) Loss of faith in institutions
(B) Impact of economic inequality	(II) Voters' importance
(C) Consequence of corruption	(III) Wealthy dominating politics
(D) Solution for healthy democracy	(IV) Policy favouring influential groups

a) A-I, B-II, C-III, D-IV

b) A-II, B-I, C-IV, D-III

c) A-IV, B-III, C-II, D-I

d) A-III, B-IV, C-I, D-II

29. **Statement I:** In a parliamentary democracy, the executive is completely independent of the legislature.

[1]

Statement II: The Prime Minister in a parliamentary system is the nominal head of the executive, while the President is the real head.

- a) Both Statement I and Statement II are true b) Both Statement I and Statement II are false
- c) Statement I is true but Statement II is false d) Statement I is false but Statement II is true
30. **Statement I:** Economic inequality in a democracy can lead to the marginalization of underprivileged voters, making policy-makers prioritize the interests of influential economic groups. [1]
- Statement II:** The increasing expenditure on election campaigns due to economic disparities always guarantees that the elected representatives genuinely represent the people's interests.
- a) Statement I is false but Statement II is true b) Both Statement I and Statement II are false
- c) Both Statement I and Statement II are true d) Statement I is true but Statement II is false
31. **Statement I:** Democracy, despite its challenges in countries like India, is still considered a better form of government due to the values of freedom, equality, and justice it represents. [1]
- Statement II:** Fulfilling public expectations in democracies with large and diverse populations, such as India, is straightforward and poses no significant challenges.
- a) Both Statement I and Statement II are true b) Both Statement I and Statement II are false
- c) Statement I is true but Statement II is false d) Statement I is false but Statement II is true
32. **Statement I:** In a presidential system, political homogeneity is essential, meaning cabinet members must belong to the President's party. [1]
- Statement II:** The President in a presidential system functions merely as a nominal authority, similar to a monarch in a constitutional monarchy.
- a) Statement I is true but Statement II is false b) Both Statement I and Statement II are false
- c) Both Statement I and Statement II are true d) Statement I is false but Statement II is true
33. **Statement I:** In a constitutional monarchy like the UK, the monarch exercises real political authority and governs the country. [1]
- Statement II:** Constitutional monarchies are examples of representative democracies where people elect their representatives.
- a) Both Statement I and Statement II are true b) Statement I is true but Statement II is false
- c) Statement I is false but Statement II is true d) Both Statement I and Statement II are false
34. **Statement I:** The term 'democracy' originated from the Greek word 'demokratia', meaning 'rule by the people', which was coined in ancient Athens. [1]

Statement II: The earliest example of democracy in Athens provided universal franchise to all residents, including women, slaves, and foreigners.

- | | |
|--|--|
| a) Both Statement I and Statement II are true | b) Statement I is false but Statement II is true |
| c) Statement I is true but Statement II is false | d) Both Statement I and Statement II are false |

35. **Statement I:** The Gupta Empire is known as the Golden Age primarily due to its highly centralized administration and lack of local self-government. [1]

Statement II: Modern Indian democracy has no historical roots in India and is entirely adopted from Western models.

- | | |
|--|--|
| a) Statement I is true but Statement II is false | b) Both Statement I and Statement II are false |
| c) Statement I is false but Statement II is true | d) Both Statement I and Statement II are true |

36. **Statement I:** Even advanced democracies may impose legal restrictions on freedoms to maintain public order and security. [1]

Statement II: The rights of minorities in a democracy should be less than those of the majority to preserve social harmony.

- | | |
|--|--|
| a) Both Statement I and Statement II are true | b) Statement I is false but Statement II is true |
| c) Both Statement I and Statement II are false | d) Statement I is true but Statement II is false |

37. **Statement I:** The concept of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" highlights the decentralized and hereditary nature of power in Vedic society. [1]

Statement II: The Mahajanapadas uniformly followed a republican system of government, with rulers always chosen through election.

- | | |
|--|--|
| a) Both Statement I and Statement II are false | b) Statement I is true but Statement II is false |
| c) Both Statement I and Statement II are true | d) Statement I is false but Statement II is true |

38. **Assertion (A):** Representative democracy is the only practical form of democracy for large, populous nations. [1]

Reason (R): Direct democracy requires all citizens to meet and make decisions collectively, which is unfeasible.

- | | |
|---|---|
| a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A. | b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A. |
| c) A is true but R is false. | d) A is false but R is true. |

39. **Assertion (A):** A democratic government requires accountability from all its organs. [1]

Reason (R): This accountability ensures functioning within the constitutional framework.

- a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A. b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true but R is false. d) A is false but R is true.
40. **Assertion (A):** Vedic society actively involved people in governance and decision-making. **Reason (R):** Power was largely centralised and hereditary during the Vedic period. [1]
- a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A. b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true but R is false. d) A is false but R is true.
41. **Assertion (A):** The Vajji confederacy was notable for its strong community rule. **Reason (R):** Decisions were made through universal agreement and fair representation. [1]
- a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A. b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true but R is false. d) A is false but R is true.
42. **Assertion (A):** A country with regular elections is always considered a true democracy. **Reason (R):** Elections alone do not guarantee a democratic government if policies disregard citizen welfare. [1]
- a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A. b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true but R is false. d) A is false but R is true.
43. What characteristics of the Vajji confederacy highlighted its unique democratic traditions in ancient India? [2]
44. Explain how the Panchayat system, in its ancient form, demonstrated democratic principles through its selection process and responsibilities. [2]
45. Differentiate between the inherent challenges faced by democracy in fulfilling public expectations and its enduring superiority as a governance model, especially in diverse nations. [2]
46. Elaborate on the measures essential for fostering a robust and functional democracy, starting from foundational societal levels. [2]
47. What is one social challenge to Indian democracy? [2]
48. Explain the concept of 'government by participation' as observed in early Indian societies, providing examples of how it manifested. [2]
49. How did ancient Indian societies foster collective leadership and decision-making before the emergence of modern democratic systems? [2]
50. Explain how significant disparities in wealth can compromise the integrity of the democratic process, particularly concerning electoral outcomes and policy prioritization. [2]
51. Explain the significance of the 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' principle in shaping the ethical foundations of early Indian governance. [2]
52. What is a central feature of military dictatorships concerning public accountability? [2]
53. Discuss how the Panchayat system, in its historical context, contributed to local self-governance and accountability within communities. [2]
54. What is the "Rule of Law"? [2]

55. Explain why early Athenian democracy, despite its innovative aspects, did not represent universal franchise. [2]
56. Explain the primary functional distinction between the formal and real heads of government in a parliamentary democracy. [2]
57. Define Democracy. [2]
58. What role did village councils, such as the Sabhas, play during the Gupta period, and how did their composition reflect local self-governance? [3]
59. State three features of a Presidential system of government. [3]
60. What is the primary characteristic of an absolute monarchy, and how does it differ from a constitutional monarchy? [3]
61. Explain the significance of elected leadership in Mahajanapadas like the Vajjis, contrasting it with hereditary rule and highlighting its impact on governance. [3]
62. What role do citizens play in the selection of the executive in a parliamentary democracy? [3]
63. Explain why citizens' informed exercise of voting rights is paramount for electing competent and ethical leadership. [3]
64. Describe the essential values upon which a democratic form of government is fundamentally based. [3]
65. Distinguish between Direct and Indirect Democracy. [3]
66. Explain how significant disparities in wealth distribution within a society can compromise the integrity of its political processes. [3]
67. Discuss the practical challenges and theoretical implications of implementing direct democracy in a large, populous nation compared to its historical application. [3]
68. **Read the given source carefully and answer the questions that follow:** [4]

The success of democracy depends on public trust in institutions and electoral processes. Problems such as corruption, misuse of authority, intimidation of voters, and administrative inefficiency can weaken democratic functioning. When citizens believe that public officials are not acting honestly, confidence in governance declines. Corruption diverts resources meant for public welfare and creates unfair advantages for certain groups. Voter intimidation and unfair practices undermine the principle of free and fair elections. To strengthen democracy, governments must ensure transparency, accountability, and equal treatment under the law. Active citizen participation, ethical leadership, and strong institutions play a crucial role in preserving democratic values and maintaining public trust.

Questions:

 - a. Name one factor that weakens democracy. (1)
 - b. Why are free and fair elections important? (1)
 - c. How does corruption affect democratic institutions? (2)
69. **Read the given source carefully and answer the questions that follow:** [4]

Presidential democracy is based on a clear separation of powers among the executive, legislature, and judiciary. The President serves as both the head of state and the head of government. Unlike parliamentary systems, the executive does not depend on legislative confidence for its survival. Each branch functions independently while remaining subject to constitutional checks and balances. This arrangement seeks to prevent concentration of power in

any single institution. The judiciary remains independent and ensures constitutional compliance. Countries such as the United States and Brazil follow this system. The presidential model combines executive stability with institutional safeguards designed to protect democratic principles and constitutional governance.

Questions:

- a. Who is the real executive in a presidential system? **(1)**
- b. What principle forms the basis of presidential democracy? **(1)**
- c. Why are checks and balances important in a presidential system? **(2)**

70. **Read the given source carefully and answer the questions that follow:** **[4]**

Democracy provides citizens with political equality, but economic inequalities often create obstacles to genuine democratic participation. In many societies, wealth influences access to resources, education, and political opportunities. Election campaigns require substantial financial resources, giving wealthy candidates certain advantages. Large donations may also influence political priorities. As a result, the concerns of economically weaker groups may receive less attention. Economic inequality can therefore affect representation and decision-making. While democratic institutions aim to protect the interests of all citizens, unequal distribution of wealth often limits equal participation. Reducing economic disparities, improving access to education, and strengthening accountability mechanisms are important steps toward making democracy more inclusive and responsive to public needs.

Questions:

- a. What major social problem affects democratic participation? **(1)**
- b. Why do wealthy candidates often enjoy advantages in elections? **(2)**
- c. How can economic inequality weaken democracy? **(2)**

- 71. Explain the primary difference in the source of executive power between a parliamentary and a presidential democracy. **[5]**
- 72. Discuss the various ways in which financial contributions to political campaigns can lead to a distortion of democratic principles and public policy priorities. **[5]**
- 73. Describe the main features of Democracy. **[5]**
- 74. How does a parliamentary system ensure governmental accountability to the legislative body? **[5]**
- 75. Explain why Democracy is considered the best form of government despite its challenges. **[5]**

Solution
DEMOCRACY
Class 09 - Social Science (Understanding Society)

1.
(c) Athens
Explanation:
The term 'democracy' was coined in ancient Athens in the fifth century BCE.
2.
(b) Separation of powers
Explanation:
The presidential form of government is based on the principle of separation of powers between the executive, legislature, and judiciary.
3.
(d) Early democratic traditions
Explanation:
Early democratic traditions
4.
(b) 1971
Explanation:
Switzerland granted women the right to vote at the federal level in 1971.
5.
(b) Sabhas and Samitis
Explanation:
During the Vedic period, institutions such as Sabhas and Samitis functioned as early democratic bodies where power rested with the people, and authority was neither centralised nor hereditary.
6.
(b) Poverty and Income Inequality
Explanation:
Poverty and Income Inequality
7.
(b) Cabinet may be from different parties.
Explanation:
In a presidential system, political homogeneity is not essential, meaning cabinet members can be from different political parties than the President.
8.
(c) Policy may favor influential groups over weaker sections.
Explanation:
In a democracy, increasing economic inequality often translates directly into **unequal political influence**.
 - **Concentration of Influence:** As wealth concentrates within a smaller segment of the population, affluent individuals and corporate groups gain greater access to political campaigns through funding, professional lobbying, and media ownership.
 - **Policy Bias:** Consequently, policy-making can become disproportionately skewed toward protecting or advancing the economic interests of these influential groups (e.g., through

favorable tax structures, deregulation, or subsidies), while the pressing needs and grievances of economically marginalized groups are sidelined.

9. **(a)** Right to vote for all adults regardless of caste, creed, or gender
Explanation:
Right to vote for all adults regardless of caste, creed, or gender
10. **(a)** Parliamentary Democracy
Explanation:
In a Parliamentary Democracy, the executive's authority is derived from and accountable to the legislature.
11. **(d)** Decisions made by people's representatives
Explanation:
Decisions made by people's representatives
12. **(b)** Regular and periodical elections
Explanation:
Regular and periodical elections give people the chance to remove leaders with a poor record, serving as a check on power.
13. **(d)** Saudi Arabia
Explanation:
Saudi Arabia is given as an example of an absolute monarchy, where all powers rest with the royal family.
14. **(a)** The Legislature
Explanation:
The Legislature
15. **(a)** People with money have more chances of winning elections.
Explanation:
Economic inequality directly turns elections into expensive, capital-intensive competitions. Wealthy candidates and those backed by affluent donors can easily afford massive advertising, nationwide tours, and digital campaigns, giving them a structural advantage over competitors. Because high visibility requires substantial funding, individuals with financial muscle or elite backing have a drastically higher chance of winning, while ordinary citizens are effectively priced out of the democratic process.
16. **(c)** The Constitution of India
Explanation:
The Constitution of India
17. **(a)** Abraham Lincoln
Explanation:
Former President of the United States of America, Abraham Lincoln, defined democracy in this way.
18. **(c)** The Prime Minister
Explanation:
The Prime Minister is the real head of the government in a parliamentary system, managing day-to-day affairs, while the President is the formal or nominal head.

19.
(d) USA
Explanation:
USA
20.
(c) The Industrial Revolution
Explanation:
The Industrial Revolution was not listed as one of the three major historical events that boosted the spread of democracy.
21.
(d) Iran
Explanation:
Iran is described as an Islamic Republic that combines elements of theocracy and democracy, with elected bodies and religious oversight.
22. **(a) Ceremonial vs absolute power.**
Explanation:
In a Constitutional Monarchy, the monarch's power is limited and mostly ceremonial, acting on the advice of elected representatives, unlike an Absolute Monarchy where the king's authority is unlimited.
23.
(b) Grassroots level (family, friends, neighborhood).
Explanation:
A healthy democracy requires democratic values to be taught and practiced from the grassroots level, starting with family, friends, and the neighborhood.
24.
(d) A-II, B-I, C-III, D-IV
Explanation:
Democracy originated from 'demos' (people) and 'kratos' (power). Ancient Athens allowed adult male citizens to vote and speak. Lincoln's definition emphasizes 'government of the people, by the people, for the people.' Democracy is a widely accepted form in the contemporary world.
25.
(c) A-II, B-IV, C-I, D-III
Explanation:
 - (A) Constitutional Monarchy → (II) Ceremonial Head of State
 - (B) Theocracy → (IV) Religious oversight
 - (C) Absolute Monarchy → (I) Divine Right Theory
 - (D) Dictatorship → (III) Military coup
26.
(d) A-III, B-IV, C-I, D-II
Explanation:
 - (A) Effect of monetary influence on elections → (III) Higher winning chances for wealthy
 - (B) General public perception of democracy → (IV) Best amongst tried forms
 - (C) Democracy's comparative advantage → (I) Winston Churchill's view
 - (D) Challenge in diverse nations like India → (II) Difficulty in fulfilling expectations

27.
(d) A-I, B-II, C-III, D-IV
Explanation:
- (A) Reinhold Niebuhr's statement → (I) Justice and Injustice
 - (B) Democracy in India → (II) Representative Democracy
 - (C) Switzerland electoral practice → (III) Referendums, Popular Initiatives
 - (D) Dictator's rule → (IV) Policies not for welfare
28.
(d) A-III, B-IV, C-I, D-II
Explanation:
- (A) Issue leading to exploitation → (III) Wealthy dominating politics
 - (B) Impact of economic inequality → (IV) Policy favouring influential groups
 - (C) Consequence of corruption → (I) Loss of faith in institutions
 - (D) Solution for healthy democracy → (II) Voters' importance
29.
(b) Both Statement I and Statement II are false
Explanation:
- Statement I is false because in a parliamentary democracy, the executive derives its authority from and remains accountable to the legislature. Statement II is false because in a parliamentary system, the President is the formal or nominal head, while the Prime Minister is the real head of the government.
30.
(d) Statement I is true but Statement II is false
Explanation:
- **Statement I is true:** Economic inequality can weaken democracy by giving wealthier individuals and groups greater influence over politics and policymaking. This may lead to the marginalization of poorer citizens and cause policymakers to focus more on the interests of influential economic groups.
 - **Statement II is false:** High election spending does **not** guarantee that elected representatives will genuinely represent the people's interests. Excessive campaign expenditure may instead increase the influence of wealthy donors and special interest groups.
31.
(c) Statement I is true but Statement II is false
Explanation:
- **Statement I is true:** Democracy is widely regarded as a desirable form of government because it upholds important values such as freedom, equality, justice, participation, and accountability, even though it faces various challenges.
 - **Statement II is false:** Meeting the expectations of citizens in a large and diverse country like India is complex and challenging due to differences in language, culture, religion, economic conditions, and regional needs.
32.
(b) Both Statement I and Statement II are false
Explanation:
- Statement I is false because political homogeneity is NOT essential in a presidential system, and cabinet members do not have to belong to the same political party. Statement II is false because the

President in a presidential system is the real executive head and directly exercises executive powers, not merely a nominal authority.

33.

(c) Statement I is false but Statement II is true

Explanation:

- **Statement I is false:** In a constitutional monarchy such as the United Kingdom, the monarch is generally the ceremonial head of state. Real political authority is exercised by the elected government, led by the Prime Minister and Parliament.
- **Statement II is true:** Constitutional monarchies function as representative democracies where citizens elect their representatives to the legislature, which forms the government and makes key political decisions.

34.

(c) Statement I is true but Statement II is false

Explanation:

- **Statement I is true:** The word "**democracy**" comes from the Greek word "**demokratia**", where *demos* means "people" and *kratos* means "rule" or "power." The term originated in ancient **Athens**.
- **Statement II is false:** Athenian democracy did **not** provide universal franchise. Voting rights were generally limited to **adult male citizens**. Women, slaves, and foreigners (metics) were excluded from political participation.

35.

(b) Both Statement I and Statement II are false

Explanation:

Statement I is false because the text explicitly states, 'Administration during the Gupta period was marked by a high degree of decentralisation and local self-government.' Statement II is false as the text concludes, 'Thus, modern Indian democracy is deeply rooted in India's own historical experience rather than being entirely adopted from other countries.'

36.

(d) Statement I is true but Statement II is false

Explanation:

- **Statement I is true:** Even in advanced democracies, certain freedoms may be subject to reasonable legal restrictions to protect public order, national security, public health, and the rights of others.
- **Statement II is false:** Democracy is based on the principle of **equal rights for all citizens**, including minorities. Minority rights must be protected and cannot be reduced simply because they are outnumbered by the majority.

37. (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are false

Explanation:

- **Statement I is false:** Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam means "**the world is one family**." It emphasizes universal brotherhood, harmony, and moral values, not the decentralized or hereditary nature of power in Vedic society.
- **Statement II is false:** The **Mahajanapadas** did not uniformly follow a republican system. Some were **monarchies** ruled by kings, while others, such as the Vajji confederacy, had **republican or oligarchic forms of government**. Rulers were not always chosen through elections.

38. (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Explanation:

- **Assertion (A) is true:** In large and populous countries, representative democracy is the most practical form of democracy because citizens elect representatives to make decisions on their behalf.
- **Reason (R) is true:** Direct democracy requires citizens to participate directly in decision-making, which is difficult and often impractical in nations with large populations.
- **R correctly explains A** because the impracticality of direct participation in large countries is the main reason representative democracy is adopted.

39. (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Explanation:

- **Assertion (A) is true:** In a democracy, all organs of government - the legislature, executive, and judiciary - must be accountable for their actions and decisions.
- **Reason (R) is true:** Accountability ensures that these institutions function according to the Constitution, laws, and democratic principles rather than acting arbitrarily.
- **R correctly explains A** because accountability is essential for ensuring that government organs remain within the constitutional framework and serve the public interest.

40.

(c) A is true but R is false.

Explanation:

- **Assertion (A) is true:** Vedic society had institutions such as **Sabhas** and **Samitis**, which allowed people to participate in discussions and decision-making. These bodies reflected consultative and participatory features in governance.
- **Reason (R) is false:** Power during the Vedic period was not entirely centralized and hereditary. Community assemblies played an important role in governance, indicating a degree of shared decision-making.

41. (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Explanation:

- **Assertion (A) is true:** The **Vajji confederacy** was known for its strong community-based and republican form of governance, where power was not concentrated in a single ruler.
- **Reason (R) is true:** Important decisions were taken through assemblies, discussions, consultation, and collective agreement, ensuring representation and participation in governance.
- **R correctly explains A** because the system of collective decision-making and representation was the reason the Vajji confederacy became known for strong community rule.

42.

(d) A is false but R is true.

Explanation:

- **Assertion (A) is false:** Merely holding regular elections does not automatically make a country a true democracy. A genuine democracy also requires the rule of law, protection of rights, accountability, transparency, and governance in the public interest.
- **Reason (R) is true:** Elections alone are insufficient if the government ignores citizen welfare, suppresses rights, or fails to serve the people. Democratic governance must go beyond the electoral process.

43. The Vajji confederacy was known for its distinctive democratic traditions, as it was governed by a council of representatives rather than a single ruler. Important decisions were made through discussions, debates, and collective agreement in assemblies. Members participated in governance and followed established rules and procedures. This system promoted shared authority, consultation, and public participation, making the Vajji confederacy an early example of democratic governance in ancient India.

44. In ancient India, the Panchayat system reflected democratic principles because village elders or respected members were often chosen by the community to represent local interests. These Panchayats discussed public issues, resolved disputes, managed village resources, and maintained social order. By

- involving local people in decision-making and administration, the system encouraged participation, collective responsibility, and self-governance at the grassroots level.
45. Democracy encounters difficulties in immediately resolving all societal issues, particularly in nations with vast, diverse populations and significant socio-economic complexities. However, it remains a superior form of government due to the fundamental values it upholds: freedom, equality, and justice. Despite its challenges, democracy provides the framework within which these crucial values can be pursued and ultimately realized in society, requiring continuous effort to strengthen it.
 46. Establishing a healthy democracy requires instilling correct democratic values from the grassroots, beginning within families, among friends, and in neighborhoods. Furthermore, pervasive corruption in public dealings must be eradicated, and governments that are truly responsive to community needs must be elected. Citizens also bear the responsibility of exercising their voting rights judiciously to select representatives who possess integrity, commitment, and ability to govern effectively.
 47. One major social challenge to India's democracy is casteism. People are often treated unequally based on their caste, leading to discrimination and social division. It influences elections, access to opportunities, and social relations. Caste-based politics sometimes weakens national unity and prevents the growth of true equality and justice in society.
 48. 'Government by participation' in early India meant citizens directly co-shared power rather than relying on absolute royal decrees. This manifested through Vedic assemblies like the **Samiti**, where ordinary folks debated tribal policies, and **Gana-Sanghas** (republics), where clan representatives voted on state matters in the Santhagara. At the grassroots, autonomous village assemblies managed local resources, taxation, and justice, making governance a collaborative civic duty.
 49. Ancient Indian societies, such as the Vedic period, utilized institutions like Sabhas and Samitis for shared decision-making. Authority was not centralized or hereditary but based on participatory governance. The Mahajanapadas, particularly republics like the Vajjis, chose rulers through election and relied on collective discussions. The Panchayat system, composed of five respected elders selected by the community, also served as a democratic framework for local administration, dispute resolution, and justice, ensuring that leadership was accountable to the people.
 50. Significant wealth disparities empower the affluent to exert undue influence over politics, leading to policies that favor powerful economic groups. This can result in the neglect of the concerns of less privileged sections of society. Financially powerful individuals often have an advantage in elections due to their ability to fund extensive campaigns, thereby potentially distorting public representation and undermining the principle of equality in political participation.
 51. The principle of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam,' meaning 'the world is one family,' formed the moral bedrock of the Aryan democracy during the Vedic period. This concept emphasized the brotherhood of mankind, suggesting an inherent interconnectedness and shared responsibility among all people. In a governance context, it likely promoted inclusive decision-making and a sense of collective welfare, ensuring that political actions were guided by a broad ethical framework of belonging and mutual respect rather than narrow self-interest or exclusive power.
 52. A central feature of military dictatorships regarding public accountability is its absence. The government is not accountable to the people and disregards public opinion. Power is concentrated in the hands of military leaders, and political opposition is suppressed, leading to limited freedom of speech and a lack of mechanisms for public criticism or accountability of government policies.
 53. Historically, the traditional Panchayat system acted as a decentralized village council, ensuring local self-governance through a panel of respected elders (Panchas). It fostered community accountability by resolving agrarian, social, and civil disputes locally through mutual consensus and customary laws. This autonomous structure minimized reliance on distant royal courts, making administration highly accessible, responsive, and directly accountable to the village collective.
 54. The "Rule of Law" is the principle that all people are equal before the law and must follow the same legal rules. No person, including government officials or rulers, is above the law. It ensures fairness, justice, and equal treatment for every citizen in a democratic society.
 55. Early Athenian democracy was limited because voting rights were restricted to adult male citizens. Women, slaves, and foreigners were explicitly excluded from participating in the democratic process, meaning a significant portion of the population lacked political voice and representation.

56. In a parliamentary democracy, the formal head of the executive (e.g., President or Monarch) primarily represents the State and performs ceremonial duties. In contrast, the real head of the government (e.g., Prime Minister) is responsible for the actual administration, implementation of policies, and day-to-day management of governmental affairs, exercising substantive political power.
57. Democracy is a form of government in which the rulers are elected by the people through free and fair elections. In a democracy, citizens have the right to participate in decision-making either directly or through their elected representatives, ensuring equality, freedom, and accountability in governance.
58. During the Gupta period, village councils, notably the Sabhas, were instrumental in managing local affairs and administering justice. These councils were composed of local landowners and merchants, chosen by their respective communities. Their independent functioning in making decisions that impacted daily life demonstrated a high degree of local self-governance and decentralization. This structure facilitated community participation in governmental processes and ensured that local issues were handled by those directly affected and elected by the local population.
59.
 - The President is the Head of State and Head of Government.
 - The President is elected independently of the legislature.
 - The executive is not responsible to the legislature for its policies.
60. The primary characteristic of an absolute monarchy is that the monarch holds complete political power and makes decisions without significant legal or constitutional restrictions. In contrast, a constitutional monarchy limits the monarch's powers through a constitution and democratic institutions. In such a system, elected representatives and a government usually exercise most governing authority, while the monarch performs mainly ceremonial duties. Thus, the key difference lies in the extent of the monarch's power and the role of constitutional laws.
61. In some Mahajanapadas, particularly the Vajjis, leaders were chosen through elections rather than inheriting their positions. This departure from hereditary rule signified a system where governance was founded on collective decision-making, with debates and discussions playing a crucial role. This electoral process ensured that leaders were selected by the community, fostering a more participatory form of governance where the people had a direct influence on who held power and how decisions were made within the state.
62. In a parliamentary democracy, citizens play an indirect but crucial role in selecting the executive. They vote in elections to choose their representatives in the legislature or parliament. The political party or coalition that gains a majority of seats usually forms the government, and its leader becomes the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister then selects the Council of Ministers. Thus, through their votes, citizens influence the formation of the executive and help determine who governs the country.
63. The informed exercise of voting rights is essential because it helps citizens choose capable, honest, and responsible leaders. When voters carefully evaluate candidates based on their qualifications, policies, and integrity, they are more likely to elect representatives who work for public welfare. Informed voting strengthens democracy by promoting accountability and good governance. It also reduces the chances of electing unsuitable leaders influenced by false promises, misinformation, or personal interests, ensuring better decision-making for society and the nation.
64. A democratic form of government is fundamentally based on values such as equality, liberty, justice, and participation. It ensures that all citizens have equal rights and opportunities, regardless of their background. Democracy protects individual freedoms, including freedom of speech and expression, while upholding the rule of law and fairness. It also encourages citizens to take part in decision-making through elections and public discussions. These values help create a government that is accountable, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of the people.
65. In Direct Democracy, citizens participate directly in decision-making (e.g., ancient Greek city-states). In Indirect (Representative) Democracy, citizens elect representatives who make laws and decisions on their behalf (e.g., India, USA).
66. Significant disparities in wealth allow affluent individuals or groups to exert undue influence on politics. This financial leverage often translates into prioritising their interests over those of the less privileged, leading to policies that may exacerbate existing inequalities. Furthermore, large financial contributions to election campaigns can create implicit obligations for elected officials, potentially undermining their commitment to the broader public good. Such dynamics can also facilitate corruption and inefficiency,

eroding public trust in democratic institutions as the political system appears to serve a select few rather than all citizens equitably.

67. Implementing direct democracy in a large, populous nation faces significant practical challenges. Historically, direct democracy was feasible in small states like ancient Athens where the adult male citizenry could assemble to make decisions. However, in contemporary nations with populations in the hundreds of millions, it is impossible for all citizens to gather physically, manage diverse occupations, or effectively participate in every decision. The logistical complexities and potential for chaos in large-scale direct deliberation render it impractical. Such nations typically adopt representative democracy, where citizens elect representatives to make decisions on their behalf, balancing popular sovereignty with governmental efficiency and scale.
68. a. Corruption is one factor that weakens democracy. It reduces public trust, creates unfair advantages, and affects the effective functioning of government institutions.
b. Free and fair elections ensure that citizens can choose their representatives without pressure, intimidation, or manipulation. They are essential for maintaining legitimacy and accountability in democratic governance.
c. Corruption weakens democratic institutions by reducing transparency and accountability. Public resources may be misused, trust in government declines, and citizens become less confident that institutions are serving the public interest fairly and honestly.
69. a. The President is the real executive in a presidential system. The President directly exercises executive authority and leads the government.
b. Presidential democracy is based on the principle of separation of powers. The executive, legislature, and judiciary function independently of one another.
c. Checks and balances prevent excessive concentration of power. They ensure that each branch can monitor and limit the actions of the others, thereby protecting constitutional governance and democratic values.
70. a. Economic inequality is a major problem affecting democratic participation. Differences in wealth can influence political opportunities, access to education, and representation in public life.
b. Wealthy candidates often have greater access to campaign funds, publicity, and organisational resources. These advantages can increase their visibility and improve their chances of electoral success.
c. Economic inequality may reduce equal participation in politics. Wealthier groups can exert greater influence on decision-making, while weaker sections may struggle to have their concerns addressed. This can reduce fairness and weaken public confidence in democratic institutions.
71. The primary difference between a parliamentary and a presidential democracy lies in how the executive derives its power. In a parliamentary democracy, the executive emerges from the legislature. The Prime Minister and Council of Ministers are usually members of the legislature and remain in office only as long as they enjoy the confidence of the majority. In contrast, in a presidential democracy, the President is elected separately from the legislature, often directly by the people or through an electoral system. The President serves as both the head of state and government and has a fixed tenure. Thus, the executive in a parliamentary system depends on legislative support, whereas in a presidential system it derives authority independently of the legislature.
72. Financial contributions to political campaigns can distort democratic principles by giving wealthy individuals, corporations, or interest groups greater influence over the political process. Candidates often depend on campaign funds for advertising, outreach, and election activities, which may make them more responsive to major donors than to ordinary citizens. This can create unequal political influence and weaken the democratic ideal of equal representation. Donors may expect favorable policies, contracts, or regulatory decisions in return for their support, causing public policy priorities to shift toward private interests. As a result, issues affecting the broader population may receive less attention, reducing public trust in government and democratic institutions.
73. Democracy is a system of government based on the participation and consent of the people. One of its main features is that rulers are elected by citizens through regular elections. These elections must be free and fair, giving people a genuine choice among candidates and political parties. Democracy also follows the principle of universal adult franchise, where every adult citizen has the right to vote and each

vote has equal value. Another important feature is the rule of law, which means both citizens and government officials are bound by the Constitution and laws of the country. An independent judiciary safeguards citizens' rights, settles disputes fairly, and ensures that laws are applied impartially without political interference.

74. In a parliamentary system, governmental accountability is ensured because the executive branch is drawn from and remains responsible to the legislature. The Prime Minister and Council of Ministers must regularly answer questions, participate in debates, and justify their policies and decisions before the parliament. Members of the legislature can scrutinize government actions through discussions, committees, and question sessions. The government must maintain the confidence of the majority in the legislature to remain in power. If it loses this support, a vote of no confidence can force the government to resign or seek fresh elections. This continuous oversight promotes transparency, responsibility, and responsiveness in governance.
75. Democracy is Considered the Best Form of Government because:
- i. **Accountability:** In a democracy, leaders are accountable to the people and must answer for their actions through elections and public opinion.
 - ii. **Better Decision-Making:** Democratic decisions are taken after discussion, consultation, and debate, which improves the quality of decision-making.
 - iii. **Peaceful Conflict Resolution:** Democracy provides peaceful methods such as elections, discussions, and laws to resolve social and political conflicts.
 - iv. **Dignity and Equality:** It respects the dignity of citizens by treating everyone equally and giving equal rights and opportunities.
 - v. **Ability to Correct Mistakes:** Democracy allows governments to correct mistakes through public criticism, judicial review, and regular elections.

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