

Democracy and Diversity

Check Point 01

Q. 1. Which two black players did raise their voice against racism in 1968 Olympics?

Answer: The 1968 Olympics was held in Mexico City. Two players named Tommie Smith and John Carlos, African American athletes, had won gold and bronze respectively in 200m race. They raised their voice against racism and discrimination in the US, during the medal ceremony they stood with clenched fists upraised, head bowed wearing black socks and no shoes while the American anthem was played.

Q. 2. Name the Australian athlete who supported the protest of black players in 1968 Olympics.

Answer: The 1968 Olympics was held in Mexico City.

Two players named Tommie Smith and John Carlos raised their voice against discrimination towards blacks.

An Australian athlete named Peter Norman supported them by wearing a human rights badge on his shirt during the ceremony.

Q. 3. On which factor do most of the social differences are based upon?

Answer: the factors on which social differences are based are:

- a. an accident of birth – the family, the community or to the community one is born into
- b. Gender: male or female
- c. Religion or caste
- d. Race or creed

Q. 4. Why does 'Homogeneous' society change rapidly?

Answer: A homogeneous society is one where people belongs to the same ethnicity, there are no differences as society has similar kind of people.

This type of society is rapidly changing because of the influx of migrants. The migrants are people who shift from their origin nation or region to other countries or different region of the same country, and this activity is mainly due to work or other economic opportunities.

As these Migrants are moving to different parts of the world, they introduce their own culture and customs to these nations.

Check Point 02

Q. 1. Give the reason for the ethno-political conflict in Northern Ireland.

Answer: Northern Ireland is a Christian country but divided into Catholics and Protestants. The Catholics have a history of racial and social discrimination, they have been poorer compared to the Protestants. After the partition of the island of Ireland between Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

- Northern Ireland had Catholics in the minority. The region was and continues to be an ethnically heterogeneous society.
- Apart from this heterogeneity, inequality with the Catholic community also exists, they suffer disadvantage relative to the Protestants.
- The Catholics were discriminated in the allocation of housing, electoral system, and the labor market.
- In Northern Ireland, the Catholics are more likely to be poor compared to the Protestants. The Catholics of Northern Ireland have a history of social discrimination. As a result, both the community conflicts.

Q. 2. How did the government policy of Sri Lanka affect the interest of the minority?

Answer: Sri Lanka is an island nation, south of India. It got independence in 1948. It has a diverse population like most of the South Asian nations.

The population in the majority is Sinhala speakers, with about 74% and rest are Tamil Speakers.

When Sri Lanka recognized Sinhala as the only official language, it disregarded Tamils. They felt that they were denied equality. As a result, the relationship between the Sinhala and the Tamils strained and the Sri Lankan Tamils launched movements against the government.

Q. 3. Point out the cause when social division becomes less threatening.

Answer: Every social division is not threatening or is a danger for the society.

- a. Social division becomes less threatening when it offers advantages to the deprived communities.
- b. It is less threatening when the demands of communities are fulfilled.
- c. The social division offers chances to the people to represent their communities and hence able them to meet the expectations of their communities.

Q. 4. How the majoritarian principles was adopted by the Sri Lankan Government?

Answer: In 1956 an Act was passed in Sri Lanka that recognized Sinhala as the only official language while disregarding Tamil.

- There was a provision of protecting and fostering Buddhism.
- There was a preferential policy that favoured Sinhala in every field while alienating Sri Lankan Tamils.

Self-Assessment

Q. 1. Mention any two factors responsible two origins of social differences.

Answer: The factors responsible for the origin of social differences are :

- a. Birth:** The community, the religion, the caste in which are born.
- b. Choices:** The way people choose to live, e.g., some prefer going to temples or believe in God while some may not.
- c. Religion:** The customs or religious practice one follows.
- d. Occupation:** The work that one wants to do.

Q. 2. Name some European countries Which were once highly homogeneous, but later transformed into mixed society.

Answer: Homogeneous society means a place where there are no social differences, people are similar in their way of living.

Mixed society is one where there is diversity in people; there are social differences.

The European nations that once were homogeneous but have now diversity in their population due to the influx of migrants are Germany, Sweden.

Q. 3. On which factor, the social difference is mostly based?

Answer: The social differences are mostly based on the birth factor, but there are also other factors upon which it depends.

- a. Birth:** The community, the religion, the caste in which are born.
- b. Choices:** The way people choose to live, e.g., some prefer going to temples or believe in God while some may not.
- c. Religion:** The customs or religious practice one follows.
- d. Occupation:** The work that one wants to do.

Q. 4. What is the ethnic composition of Northern Ireland?

Answer: Northern Ireland is a Christian country but divided into Catholics and Protestants. The Catholics have a history of racial and social discrimination, they have been poorer compared to the Protestants.

Northern Ireland had Catholics in the minority, the region was and continues to be an ethnically heterogeneous society.

Apart from this heterogeneity, inequality with the Catholic community also exists, they suffer disadvantage relative to the Protestants.

Q. 5. Why did Tommie Smith and John Carlos wear black and no shoes in the medal ceremony of 1968 Olympics?

Answer: The 1968 Olympics was held in Mexico City. Two players named Tommie Smith and John Carlos, an African American athlete had won gold and bronze respectively in 200m race. They raised their voice against racism and discrimination in the US, during the medal ceremony they stood with clenched fists upraised, head bowed wearing black socks and no shoes while the American anthem was played.

They represented themselves on behalf of that population which were discriminated in the United States on the basis of creed and color.

Q. 6. In which situation, overlapping differences happen?

Answer: The overlapping of social differences creates social divisions and tensions. When the differences in society overlap each other, it gives rise to social division.

Example: In US the blacks were usually poor, homeless hence were discriminated by the White Americans. This created social division.

In India, the Dalits were treated as Untouchables because they were born lower caste compared to rest. They were poor, had no homes, were not allowed to perform decent work. This created a social division in the society, which deep-rooted and India is still struggling to overcome this division.

Q. 7. Is political expression of social division normal in a democracy?

Answer: Yes it is common in any democracy. In a democracy, political competition is inevitable. In almost every country social division in politics exists.

Any country where the population exists in wide diversity, a social division exists in politics, because it is natural that these parties would make different promises and fulfill different demands of the various communities. Many a times these parties support any one community to gain their vote.

Q. 8. Which university installed statues of the US athletes?

Answer: The 1968 Olympics was held in Mexico City. Two players named Tommie Smith and John Carlos, an African American athletes had won gold and bronze respectively in 200m race. They raised their voice against racism and discrimination in the US, during the medal ceremony they stood with clenched fists upraised, head bowed wearing black socks and no shoes while the American anthem was played.

To honor this courage of the athletes the San Jones State University installed a 20ft sculpture of Tommie Smith and John Carlos.

Q. 9. Was there any other option left for African-American athletes apart from raising their voice against discrimination?

Answer: They could have opted to walk away with the greet and medal they received simply, but the two athletes showed the courage to represent the discrimination faced by the black community in their country.

They were criticized by their home state, their medals were taken back, but their action gained international attention towards the discrimination.

Later to honor this courage of the athletes, the San Jones State University installed a 20ft sculpture of Tommie Smith and John Carlos.

Q. 10. How did the Australian athlete portray his support?

Answer: The 1968 Olympics was held in Mexico City.

Two players named Tommie Smith and John Carlos raised their voice against discrimination towards blacks.

An Australian athlete named Peter Norman supported them by wearing a human rights badge on his shirt during the ceremony.

Norman suffered criticism for his action; he was barred from Olympics by his own team. But his action was recognized and it gained international attention towards the discrimination.

Q. 11. How is the political expression of social divisions in a democracy beneficial?

Answer: A democracy is where plea and petition of every person irrespective of caste and community are recognized.

There are many benefits of democracy, one being that it breaches social division:

- a. Many depressed class people raise their voices; they get to express themselves before the government.
- b. The government frames policies to eradicate discrimination and determines the needs of these people.
- c. The government does not entertain any demand that increases social division.

Q. 12. Taking the example of Carlos, Smith, and Norman, explain how social difference divides similar people from one another, but also unite very different people.

Answer: The 1968 Olympics was held in Mexico City. Two players named Tommie Smith and John Carlos, an African American athletes, had won gold and bronze respectively in 200m race.

They raised their voice against racism and discrimination in the US, during the medal ceremony they stood with clenched fists upraised, head bowed wearing black socks and no shoes while the American anthem was played. Though both belonged to America yet, they were discriminated by their own country.

An Australian athlete named Peter Norman supported them by wearing a human rights badge on his shirt during the ceremony to show his support against discrimination.

Q. 13. How do class and religion overlap with each other in Northern Ireland?

Answer: Northern Ireland is a Christian country but divided into Catholics and Protestants. The Catholics have a history of racial and social discrimination, they have been poorer compared to the Protestants.

Northern Ireland had Catholics in the minority, the region was and continues to be an ethnically heterogeneous society.

Apart from this heterogeneity, inequality with the Catholic community also exists, they suffer disadvantage relative to the Protestants.

Q. 14. What are the major sects of Christianity in Northern Ireland?

Answer: Northern Ireland is a Christian country but divided into Catholics and Protestants. The Catholics have a history of racial and social discrimination, they have been poorer compared to the Protestants.

After the partition of the island of Ireland between Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland has Catholics in the minority.

Q. 15. Who are Dalits? How are they repressed in our society?

Answer: The Dalits are mostly poor, landless, they are recognized as a lower caste people in our society.

a. Pre-Independence and post-independence have a long history of discrimination done towards the Dalits; they are treated as untouchables.

b. They are considered to be so 'impure' that it is considered that their mere touch severely pollutes members of all other castes.

c. They are not allowed to enter in some of the temples by the priests.

d. Prohibited from eating with other members of other castes.

e. Prohibited from marrying other upper caste members.

f. Bonded labor.

- g.** Their occupation is decided by their caste.
- h.** Untouchability does not offer equal opportunity to these people and thus hinders the progress of society.
- i.** The untouchables are treated in an unfair manner, and many times their entry at certain places like temples, etc. are also denied.
- j.** Treating them in such a way is a disrespect towards the Constitution which focuses on communal harmony and brotherhood.
- k. Example:** The manual scavenging is done by only the lower caste people.

Q. 16. What are the chief outcomes of the social division in the country in the context of democracy and election?

Answer: Democracy is established in a country when people of that nation is treated equally, and they elect their leader by casting a vote.

Though democracy is the best form of government for any nation yet, it has many demerits too.

- a.** In a democracy, the political parties compete against each other, and most of the times this competition gives rise to hastiness among the parties.
- b.** The competition against each other divides society.
- c.** Many times these parties support any one community to gain their vote, while this leads to communalism between the communities.
- d.** Sometimes the people of a specific community cast their vote to the candidate of their own community even without knowing his identity.
- e.** Communities raise demands which are against the constitutional means and sometimes their demands are at the cost of other communities.

These are a social division that occurs in a democratic nation.

Q. 17. How is democracy helping in breaching social division?

Answer: A democracy is where plea and petition of every person irrespective of caste and community are recognized.

There are many benefits of democracy, one being that it breaches social division:

- a.** Many depressed class people raise their voices; they get to express themselves before the government.
- b.** The government frames policies to eradicate discrimination and determines the needs of these people.
- c.** The government does not entertain any demand that increases social division.