

## Very Short Answer Questions

**Q. 1. Who are Scheduled Castes?**

**Ans.** They are the castes which are treated as untouchables in the caste hierarchy of India.

**Q. 2. Describe Scheduled Tribes.**

**Ans.** Scheduled Tribes are the people or castes which reside in the forest and hilly areas and are socially discarded and economically backward.

**Q. 3. Define backward classes.**

**Ans.** Backward classes are the names given to the weaker sections of the society other than Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

**Q. 4. What is untouchability?**

**Ans.** Untouchability is the practice of exploitation and segregation followed by the upper caste Hindus against the lower caste Hindus.

**Q. 5. What is Ghettoisation?**

**Ans.** Ghettoisation is a process in which an area or locality is populated largely by members of a particular community.

**Q. 6. Name the communities which experience marginalisation in India.**

**Ans.** Adivasis, Dalits and Muslims.

## Short Answer Questions

### **Q. 1. How are Adivasis stereotyped?**

**Ans.** Adivasis are invariably portrayed in very stereotypical ways—in colourful costumes, headgear and through their dancing.

They often lead to people believing that they are of primitive background.

Adivasis are blamed for lack of advancement as they are believed to be resistant to change or new ideas.

### **Q. 2. What is Sachar Committee? Who headed it?**

**Ans.** Sachar committee was constituted by the Government of India to investigate the contemporary status of Muslims in India. The Committee came to the conclusion that on a range of social, economic and educational indicators. The situation of the Muslim community is comparable to that of other marginalised communities like scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes. Justice Rajinder Sachar headed the committee.

## Long Answer Questions

**Q. 1. Briefly describe the Adivasis.**

**Ans. (i)** 'The Original Inhabitants' is the actual meaning of Adivasis.

**(ii)** They are in close connection with forests.

**(iii)** Around 8% of India's population is of Adivasis and many of India's most important mining and industrial centres are located in Adivasi areas—Jamshedpur, Rourkela, Bokaro and Bhilai, among others.

**(iv)** Adivasis practise a range of tribal religions that are different from Islam, Hinduism and Christianity.

**(v)** They worship their ancestors, village and nature spirits.

**(vi)** They have their own languages and their own music and folk system in which they live by themselves.

**(vii)** There is often very little hierarchy in Adivasi societies.

**Q. 2. What are the reasons that make any community feel marginalised?**

**Ans.** The reasons could be: different language, different customs and attitude, financial status, different religion, education. The community may feel marginalised because people are poor, considered to be of low social status and viewed as being less human than others. Sometimes, marginalised groups are viewed with hostility and fear. This sense of difference and exclusion leads to communities not having access to opportunities and resources, and their inability to assert their rights. They experience a sense of disadvantage and powerlessness against more powerful and dominant sections of society. Social, economical, political and cultural factors work together to make any community feel so.

## Hots (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

**Q. 1. Muslims are considered to be a marginalised community in India. Give reasons.**

**Ans. (i)** Muslims are considered to be a marginalised community in India because in comparison to other communities, they have always been deprived of the benefits of socio-economic development.

**(ii)** They have been deprived of basic amenities, literacy and public employment.

**(iii)** Economic and social marginalisation is experienced by Muslims.

**(iv)** Muslims may wear a burqa, sport a long beard, wear a fez and these become ways to identify all Muslims. Because of all these, they tend to be identified differently and some people think they are not like the 'rest of us.'