

Very Short Answer Questions

Q.1. What are the various methods of participation in a democracy?

Ans. The various ways of participation in a democracy are election, dharna, rallies, strikes, signature campaigns, etc.

Q.2. What are the various forms of mass media?

Ans. The various forms of mass media are TV, newspaper, magazines, etc.

Short Answer Questions

Q.1. Where is South Africa? What was its composition?

Ans. The continent of South Africa is very close to the Asian subcontinent. In the far south is located the country of South Africa. For over nearly six decades in the later part of 20th century, the country was in the news for the practice of apartheid or racial discrimination. There were several other races apart from the Africans who lived there. It included Indians and other Europeans who came here as traders, workers and settlers.

Q.2. What role does media play in a democracy?

Ans. Mass media like TV, newspapers, magazines and other agencies also play a major role in highlighting public issues and moulding public opinion.

Long Answer Questions

Q.1. What were the problems faced by people of South Africa? How did apartheid come to an end in South Africa?

Ans.

- i. In South Africa, the majority population is of blacks.
- ii. But the best land in the country was reserved for the white people, and the non-whites had to live on the worst available land.
- iii. Blacks were not allowed to vote, neither allowed to use the same hospitals, same schools, same beaches or same restaurants.
- iv. Nelson Mandela who led the struggle or movement under African National Congress, fought against apartheid.
- v. Finally they succeeded and in 1994 South Africa became a democratic country.

Q.2. How is electoral participation necessary for a democracy?

Ans.

- i. For a successful democracy, participation takes place through voting in elections.
- ii. People elect their representatives for a fixed term.
- iii. In India, this term is for 5 years.
- iv. General elections are held after every five years.
- v. Regular elections are a vital method of keeping a check on the government and upholding the virtues of exercising its power.

Q.3. What are other ways of participation in a democracy?

Ans.

- i. In addition to elections, there are several other methods by which people can exercise control over the government.
- ii. They can take an active part or keen interest in the working of or criticising the government when required.
- iii. Dharnas, rallies, strikes, signature campaigns and other forms of protests are used by people to put forward their views to make the government aware of steps to be taken for public welfare.

Q.4. How have rivers emerged as a source of conflict in recent times?

Ans.

- i. The water flowing between two states or countries can lead to a conflict.
- ii. For example, a river begins from state 'A' flows through 'B' and culminates in state 'C'. States fight over sharing of water flowing in these rivers.

- iii. In India, two states, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have been logged in a conflict over sharing of water of Kaveri River for over past 30 years.
- iv. It led to creation of a tribunal to see sharing of river water.

HOTS (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

Q.1. How does election and social movement make democracy strong?

Ans. India is the world's largest democracy. People are allowed freedom to vote, freedom of speech and freedom of assembling peacefully. All adult citizens cast their secret ballot on the basis of the principle of UAF. Freedom of assembly allows people to organise collectively into a social movement. Through these movements, people take active interest in how the country is run and are often united in their struggle for their rights. Social movements like the movement for a Lokpal Bill (2011) in India make democracy strong and flawless.

Q.2. Why do conflicts take place? Why and how are they resolved?

Ans. In any country problems may result in conflicts. There may arise a situation when two people or two groups feel that they are not being treated fairly or are being discriminated on grounds of culture, region, religion, economic background, caste, race, etc. The government has to make a sincere effort to convince the people of its impartial role in resolving conflicts. In a common style, it is the government's responsibility to bring together representatives of the two communities and bring about a compromise on the issue. Conflicts exist in every society and need to be solved amicably to maintain amity in society.

Q.3. How are equality and justice two pillars of democracy?

Ans. Equality and Justice are two different sides of the same coin and are inseparable in a democracy. Proper justice can be delivered only if all are treated equally. Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, the pioneer of Indian Constitution had waged a long struggle for getting due rights for Dalits or untouchables. Women were treated as inferior and they were denied father's property. Laws were made to abolish untouchability which is now a punishable offence. Likewise, the Hindu Marriage Act provides equal inheritance right to daughters in their father's property. Special provisions may also have to be made for the underprivileged, minorities, weaker sections, justice and equality without which democracy would remain meaningless and directionless.