

1. Here is some information about four countries. Based on this information, how would you classify each of these countries ? Write 'democratic', 'undemocratic' or 'not sure' against each of these.

- (a) Country A : People who do not accept the country's official religion do not have a right to vote.
- (b) Country B : The same party has been winning elections for the last twenty years.
- (c) Country C : Ruling party has lost in the last three elections.
- (d) Country D : There is no independent Election Commission.

**Ans.** (a) Undemocratic (b) Not sure  
(c) Democratic (d) Undemocratic

2. Here is some information about four countries. Based on this information, how would you classify each of these countries. Write 'democratic', 'undemocratic' or 'not sure' against each of these.

- (a) Country P : The parliament cannot pass a law about the army without the consent of the Chief of Army.
- (b) Country Q : The parliament cannot pass a law reducing the powers of the judiciary.
- (c) Country R : The country's leaders cannot sign any treaty with another country without taking permission from its neighbouring country.
- (d) Country S : All the major economic decisions about the country are taken by officials of the Central Bank which the ministers cannot change.

**Ans.** (a) Undemocratic (b) Democratic  
(c) Undemocratic (d) Democratic

3. Which of these is not a good argument in favour of democracy ? Why ?

- (a) People feel free and equal in a democracy.
- (b) Democracies resolve conflict in a better way than others.
- (c) Democratic government is more accountable to the people.
- (d) Democracies are more prosperous than others.

**Ans.** (d) Democracies are more prosperous than others because all democracies are not necessarily prosperous.

4. Each of these statements contains a democratic and an undemocratic element. Write out the two separate statement for each.

- (a) A minister said that some laws have to be passed by the parliament in order to confirm to the regulations decided by the World Trade Organisation.

- (b) The Election Commission ordered re-polling in a constituency where large scale rigging was reported.
- (c) Women's representation in the parliament has never reached 10 per cent. This led women organisations to demand one-third seats for women.

**Ans.**

- (a) Democratic : A minister said some laws have to be passed by parliament.  
Undemocratic : The laws are to conform to the regulations decided by the World Trade Organisation.
- (b) Democratic : The Election Commission ordered repolling in a constituency because large scale rigging was reported.  
Undemocratic : Large scale rigging occurred.
- (c) Democratic : Women's organisations demand one third seats for women.  
Undemocratic : Women's representation in the parliament has never reached 10%

5. Which of these is not a valid reason for arguing that there is a lesser possibility of famine in a democratic country ?

- (a) Opposition parties can draw attention to hunger and starvation.
- (b) Free press can report suffering from famine in different parts of the country.
- (c) Government fears its defeat in the next elections.
- (d) People are free to believe in and practice any religion.

**Ans.**

- (d) People are free to believe in and practice any religion.

6. There are 40 villages in a district where the government has made no provision for drinking water. These villagers met and considered many methods of forcing the government to respond to their need. Which of these is not a democratic method ?

- (a) Filing a case in the courts claiming that water is part of right to life.
- (b) Boycotting the next elections to give a message to all parties.
- (c) Organising public meetings against government's policies.
- (d) Paying money to government officials to get water.

**Ans.**

- (d) Paying money to government officials to get water.

7. Write a response to the following arguments against democracy :

- (a) Army is the most disciplined and corruption-free organisation in the country. Therefore army should rule the country.

- (b) Rule of the majority means the rule of ignorant people. What we need is the rule of the wise, even if they are in small numbers.
- (c) If we want religious leaders to guide us in spiritual matters, why not invite them to guide us in politics as well. The Country should be ruled by religious leaders.

- Ans.**
- (a) This would not be a democracy as real power would not be with elected representatives.
  - (b) A minority would be taking decisions for the majority which is wrong.
  - (c) The country would not give equal freedom and respect to all religion.

**8.** Are the following statements in keeping with democracy as a value? Why?

- (a) Father to daughter : I don't want to hear your opinion about your marriage. In our family children marry where the parents tell them to.
- (b) Teacher to student : Don't disturb my concentration by asking me questions in the classroom.
- (c) Employee to the officer : Our working hours must be reduced according to the law.

- Ans.**
- (a) No, as the daughter is not being given freedom of choice. She has no say in deciding who is to be her life partner.
  - (b) No, the student's right to questions and understand what is being taught is being denied to the student.
  - (c) Yes, the employee has a right to get his hours of work regulated by law.

**9.** Consider the following facts about a country and decide if you would call it a democracy.

- (a) All the citizens of the country have right to vote. Elections are held regularly.
- (b) The country took loan from international agencies. One of the conditions for giving loan was that the government would reduce its expenses on education and health.
- (c) People speak more than seven languages but education is available only in one language, the language spoken by 52 per cent people of that country.
- (d) Several organisations have given a call for peaceful demonstrations and nationwide strikes in the country to oppose these policies. Government has arrested these leaders.

- (e) The government owns the radio and television in the country. All the newspapers have to get permission from the government to publish any news about government's policies and protests.
- Ans.**
- (a) Yes, Universal Adult Franchise and people have the right to exercise their franchises regularly.
  - (b) No, it is not a completely sovereign democratic country as its policies are being dictated by an external power and not being decided by the people.
  - (c) No, the majority is being pampered at the expense of the minority.
  - (d) No, people in a democracy have a right to protest to oppose government policy which affect them adversely.
  - (e) No, because curbs on the mass media prevent people from freely expressing their views. The government does not know their problems and cannot take measures to redress them.

**STUDY**  
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