

Class 9 - Social Science

Understanding Society India and Beyond PART-I

Political Science - Democracy

CBSE NOTES

Political Science - Democracy - Revision Guide

Revise faster with structured summaries, key points, and important ideas.



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1. Democracy defined: People's power via representatives.

Democracy is a government form where citizens elect representatives, holding power. This ensures accountability and citizen participation in governance.

2. India as the largest democracy.

India, with over 140 crore people and 96.8 crore voters, exemplifies a participatory democracy. Its model influences other democratic nations.

3. The Constitution: Guardian of rights.

Adopted on 26 November 1949, India's Constitution safeguards citizens' rights and promotes democratic principles, ensuring justice and equality.

4. Historical evolution of democratic ideas.

Indian democracy has historical roots from Vedic assemblies to modern times, showcasing citizens' collective decision-making and participation.

5. Popular sovereignty: Power from the people.

In democracy, authority originates from citizens, emphasized by the right to vote for representatives, known as Universal Adult Franchise.



6. Rule of Law: Equality and justice.

Every individual is subject to law, ensuring fair treatment and safeguarding against arbitrary actions, thus enforcing accountability.

7. Fundamental Rights: Citizens' protection.

The six Fundamental Rights defend citizens' freedoms, allowing legal action against violations and ensuring a just society.

8. Separation of Powers: Checks and balances.

Divided among legislature, executive, and judiciary, separation of powers prevents abuse by ensuring balanced governance and accountability.

9. Accountability in democracy.

Governments must answer to citizens. Mechanisms like elections and public debates encourage transparency and accountability in leadership.

10. Multi-Party System: Diverse representation.

Numerous parties contest elections, reflecting various interests, and fostering robust competition in Indian democratic politics.



11. Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups.

Article 46 emphasizes protecting the rights of weaker sections, promoting equality and fair resource distribution in society.

12. Public Interest Litigation (PIL).

PIL allows citizens to seek justice for broader societal issues, expanding access to legal remedies and enhancing democratic participation.

13. RTI Act: Empowering citizens.

The Right to Information Act, 2005 enables citizens to request information from government entities, promoting transparency in governance.

14. Constitutional Amendments: Adaptability.

Article 368 allows for amendments to the Constitution, facilitating its evolution in response to changing societal needs and values.

15. Collective decision-making in history.

Ancient Indian assemblies like Sabha and Samiti exemplified early democratic practices, emphasizing consultation and shared decision-making.



16. The role of the judiciary in democracy.

The judiciary interprets laws, safeguarding citizens' rights and ensuring laws align with constitutional values, vital for democracy.

17. Importance of active citizen engagement.

Citizen participation is critical for a thriving democracy. Awareness of rights and duties fosters accountability and governmental responsiveness.

18. Equal protection under the law.

The principle of equality ensures all individuals receive equal legal protection, fundamental to maintaining a just and fair democratic society.

19. Historical struggles for democracy.

India's independence struggle highlighted the people's desire for democratic governance, reshaping the national consciousness towards participatory rights.

20. Democratic ethos rooted in culture.

Democratic values in India trace back to ancient traditions that emphasized consensus, dialogue, and shared governance among communities.



21. Challenges in Indian democracy.

Despite its strengths, Indian democracy faces challenges, including social inequality and political corruption, requiring ongoing civic vigilance.



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