

Democracy in the contemporary world

Question 1: Which of the following does not lead to the spread of democracy?

- a) Struggle by the people
- b) Invasion by foreign countries
- c) End of colonialism
- d) People's desire for freedom

Answer: (b) Invasion by foreign countries

Question 2: Which of the following statements is true about today's world?

- a) Monarchy as a form of government has vanished.
- b) The relationship between different countries has become more democratic than ever before.
- c) In more and more countries rulers are being elected by the people.
- d) There are no more military dictators in the world.

Answer: (c) In more and more countries rulers are being elected by the people.

Question 3: Use one of the following statements to complete the sentence:

Democracy in the international organisations requires that ...

- a. The rich countries should have a greater say.
- b. Countries should have a say according to their military power.
- c. Countries should be treated with respect in proportion to their population.
- d. All countries in the world should be treated equally.

Answer: (d) All countries in the world should be treated equally.

Question 4: Based on the information given in this chapter, match the following countries and the path democracy has taken in that country.

COUNTRY PATH TO DEMOCRACY

- | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| a. Chile | i Freedom from British colonial rule |
| b. Nepal | ii End of military dictatorship |
| c. Poland | iii End of one party rule |
| d. Ghana | iv King agreed to give up his powers |

Answer:

| Country | Path to Democracy |
|-----------|--|
| (a) Chile | (ii) End of military dictatorship |
| (b) Nepal | (iv) King agreed to give up his powers |

| | |
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| (c) Poland | (iii) End of one party rule |
| (d) Ghana | (i) Freedom from British colonial rule |

Question 5: What are the difficulties people face in a non-democratic country?

Give answers drawing from the examples given in this chapter.

Answer: The difficulties people face in a non-democratic country are:

- No freedom to elect their rulers.
- People can't form organisation or organise protest against the rulers.
- No freedom of speech and expression.
- Don't have any say in government policies
- Civic rights are curtailed.

Question 6: Which freedoms are usually taken away when a democracy is overthrown by the military?

Answer: The freedoms which are taken away when a democracy is overthrown by the military:

- Freedom of electing their rulers.
- Freedom of speech, expression and protest against any governmental policies.
- People can't form political parties or organisations.

Question 7: Which of the following positions can contribute to democracy at the global level? Give reasons for your answer in each case.

(a) My country gives more money to international institutions. Therefore, I want to be treated with more respect and exercise more power.

Answer a: If any country gives more money to international institutions and its citizens want more respect and more power, it would not contribute to democracy at the global level. Every country and its citizens enjoy equal status whether it is a poor or a rich country. Equality is the basic principle of democracy.

(b) My country may be small or poor. But my voice must be heard with equal respect, because these decisions will affect my country.

Answer b: This position totally contribute to democracy at the global level as Democracy give equal right to every people. The wealth and size of a country doesn't matter in global democracy.

(c) Wealthy nations will have a greater say in international affairs. They cannot let their interests suffer just because they are outnumbered by poor nations.

Answer c: This position does not lead to democracy at the global level because there should be no distinction between the rich nations and the poor nations. All nations are equal in democracy.

(d) Big countries like India must have a greater say in international organisations.

Answer d: No, this position can't contribute to democracy because the sizes or the geographical area of a country can't determine the status of a nation in global democracy.

Question 8: Here are three opinions heard in a television debate on the struggle for democracy in Nepal. Which of these do you agree with and why?

Guest 1: India is a democracy. Therefore, the Indian government must support the people of Nepal who are struggling against monarchy and for democracy.

Guest 2: That is a dangerous argument. We would be in the same position as the US was in Iraq. Remember, no outside force can promote democracy.

Guest 3: But why should we bother about the internal affairs of another country? We should be worried about our business interests there, not about democracy.

Answer: We can't totally neglect our neighbours as what doing in their country must affect our behaviour also. So in my opinion Guest 1 is right in some way. We have to adopt some measures that will support the people who are struggling against monarchy and for democracy. Not by military but by some other cooperation which will not hurt the sentiments of the people. This will also help India in maintaining a good relationship with democratic country rather than a monarchical rule.