



Social Science

Grade IX - Political Science

Lesson 5. Democratic Rights

Solved Question Bank

Objective Type Questions

1. Which of the following statement gives the real definition of Rights?
 - a. Rights are the duties which every citizen has to perform.
 - b. Rights are the privileges enjoyed by every citizen.
 - c. Rights are the claims of a person on other fellow beings, over the society and over the government.
 - d. Right are the powers given to every citizen to check the misuse of power by the government.
2. What are the rights specifically included in the International Covenant on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights? Select the option.
 - a. Right of freedom of Religion
 - b. Right to work
 - c. Right to safe and healthy conditions, fair wages
 - d. Right to social security
3. List out the Fundamental Rights not available under the Indian Constitution from the given Rights.

a. Right to work	b. Right to adequate livelihood
c. Right to protect one's culture	d. Right to privacy
4. What procedures have to be followed regarding the detention of any person by the police? Observe the correct options.
 - i. Detained person will have to be informed of the reasons for such arrest or detention.
 - ii. No person can be deprived of his life or personal liberty.





iii. Detained person shall be produced before the nearest magistrate within a period of 24 hours of arrest.

iv. Detained person has the right to consult a lawyer or engage for his defence.

- a. (i), (ii) and (iv)
- b. (i), (iii) and (iv)
- c. (ii), (iv) and (iii)
- d. (i), (ii) and (iv)

5. Which statements are very much relevant to the Human Rights Commission? Identify and mark them.

- i. It is an Independent Commission set up by law in 1993.
- ii. It is appointed by the President and includes retired Judges.
- iii. NHRC includes all the rights granted to the citizens by the Constitution of the country.
- iv. NHRC is accountable to the court for its activity.

- a. only (iv)
- b. All (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv)
- c. only (iii)
- d. only (i), (ii) and (iii)

6. Cultural and Educational Rights are safeguarded mainly for

- a. the women
- b. the minorities
- c. the children
- d. the men

1. (c)	2. (d)	3. (d)	4. (a)	5. (d)	6. (b)
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Fill in the Blanks

7. If anyone violates our fundamental Right, we can directly approach the _____.

8. The Constitution says that no person can be deprived of his life or _____ except according to procedure established by law.

9. _____ means living without interference by other in one's affairs.

7. Supreme Court	8. Personal liberty	9. Right to freedom
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True or False

10. Civil Rights are given to the individual by the state.
 11. Part III of Indian Constitution prescribes Fundamental Rights.

10. True	11. False
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Match the columns

a. Right to Freedom	i. Freedom to propagate one's own religion
b. Right to Freedom of Religion	ii. Right to life
c. Right against exploitation	iii. Abolition of untouchability
d. Right to Equality	iv. Ban on Bonded labour

a. (ii)	b. (i)	c. (iv)	d. (iii)
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Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. **What is Guantanamo Bay? What is it known for?**

Guantanamo Bay is an area near Cuba controlled by the American Navy. It was known as a prison where the Americans kept 600 people without trial on suspicion of taking part in attack on New York on September 11, 2011.

2. **Which organisation reported about human rights violation in Guantanamo Bay?**

Amnesty International, an International human rights organisation tried to expose the violation of human rights.

3. **Mention one charge of human rights violation made by Amnesty International against the USA.**

- a. The prisoners were tortured and denied the treatment that is given to even prisoners of war as per international treaties.
- b. Prisoners were not released even after they were officially declared non-guilty.



4. How are the rulers of Saudi Arabia elected?

The country is ruled by a hereditary king and the people have no role in electing or changing their rulers.

5. How was an ethnic massacre in Kosovo put to end?

The intervention of many countries led to Milosevic's loss of power and he was tried by the International Court of Justice.

6. What can be done in a democratic country to avoid the examples of Saudi Arabia, Kosovo and Guantanamo Bay?

To have a system where minimum freedom is granted to its citizens - powerful or weak, rich or poor, majority or minority and this freedom can be enforced also.

7. What are rights?

Rights are reasonable claims of a person recognised by society and sanctioned by law.

8. How can we practice our rights?

A right is possible when we make a claim that is equally possible for others. We cannot have a right that harms or hurts others.

9. When do the rights become enforceable?

Rights become enforceable when they are recognised by the society and the law.

10. What happens if rights are not written into laws?

They remain only natural or moral rights if not recognised by laws. They cannot be enforced and citizens cannot approach courts for their application.

11. Give one reason why rights are necessary in a democracy.

Citizens can express their opinion, form political parties and take part in political activities.

12. Why are some rights placed higher than the government? How?

Some rights are placed higher than the government so that it cannot violate them. They are written in the constitution and are enforceable.

13. Name the six fundamental rights provided by the Indian Constitution to Indian citizens.

The fundamental rights are:





- a. Right to Equality
- b. Right to Freedom of Religion
- c. Right to Freedom
- d. Cultural and Educational Rights
- e. Right against Exploitation
- f. Right to Constitutional Remedies

14. What does 'rule of law' mean?

It means that no person is above the law and the laws apply to all in the same manner regardless of a person's position, caste, creed, religion or gender.

15. To which sections of society government of India give reservations?

The government of India gave reservations to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes.

16. What do you mean by equality?

Equality means that all citizens are treated equally and there should be no discrimination on basis of caste, colour, creed, gender, and giving everyone an equal opportunity to achieve whatever one is capable of.

17. What do you mean by untouchability?

It is the refusal to touch people belonging to certain castes as well as any belief or social practice which looks down upon people on account of their birth with certain caste labels.

18. What does job reservation mean?

Job reservation means giving special treatment to someone in order to ensure equal opportunity.

19. What is meant by freedom of speech and expression?

It means that people are free to think differently, express their views accordingly, critics the government or activities of an association, publicise our views through magazine or newspaper.





20. How does the government restricted freedom to speech?

This freedom cannot be used to instigate violence against others. Someone can't be defamed by false and mean things.

21. "Workers in a factory can form a worker's union." Which right of freedom is represented by the statement?

Right to form associations and unions.

22. How do citizens of India exercise freedom to travel to any part of the country?

The citizens of India have single citizenship and are free to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India. This allows lakhs of citizens to migrate villages to towns and poorer regions to more prosperous regions.

23. Which fundamental right says that no person can be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law?

Right to freedom.

24. What action is mandatory after arresting or detaining a person?

The person shall be produced before nearest magistrate within a period of 24 hours of arrest.

25. Which three evils have been declared illegal by the constitution?

The evils are;

- a. Traffic in human being especially women for immoral purposes.
- b. Forced labour or *beggar* in any form.
- c. Child labour

26. What do you mean by 'traffic in human beings'?

Traffic means buying and selling of human being for immoral purposes.

27. What is *Beggar*?

Beggar practice where the worker is forced to render service to the master free of charge or at a nominal remuneration.





28. What is bonded labour?

When the practice of *beggar* takes place on a life-long basis, it is called the practice of bonded labour.

29. In what way is child labour prohibited by the Indian constitution?

The constitution prohibits child labour, i.e., no one can employ a child below the age of fourteen to work in any factory or mine or in any other hazardous work such as railways and ports.

30. In which industries children prohibited from working?

Children were prohibited from working in industries such as beedi making, fire crackers and matches, printing and dyeing.

31. What is secularism?

Secularism means that the state is concerned only with relations among human beings and not with the relation between human beings and the God. Indian secularism practices an attitude of a principled and equal distance from all religions.

32. What is meant by a 'secular state'?

It is a state which does not have an official religion. All religions are given equal status and respect.

33. What does right to freedom of religion mean?

It means that every person has the right to choose, practice and propagate any religion he or she believes in. Every religious group is free to manage its religious affairs.

34. Why are there no special guarantees for the majority?

The reason is that the working of democracy gives power to the majority.

35. The cultural and educational rights of the minorities need special protection.

What is the reason behind it?

These rights of the minorities may get neglected or undermined under the impact of the languages, culture and religion of the majority.





36. What does Right to Constitutional Remedies imply?

In case of violation of our rights by fellow citizens, private bodies or by the government, we can approach the courts and seek remedy.

37. What is writ?

It is a formal document containing an order of the court to the government issued only by High Court or the Supreme Court.

38. In which year the National Human Rights Commission was set up by law?

1993.

39. What is the main focus of NHRC?

Helping the victims secure their human rights.

40. Who appoint the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)?

The President of India appoints the NHRC.

41. Mention certain rights derived from the fundamental rights.

Freedom of press, right to information and right to education are derived from fundamental rights.

42. What does the right to education mean?

According to this right, children up to the age of 14 years are entitled for free and compulsory education under this law.

43. What is RTI?

Right to information is the expanded form of RTI. RTI is the right to seek information from government offices regarding public work. This right comes under the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression.

44. What are Human Rights?

Human Rights are universal moral claims that may or may not have been recognised by law. But these rights give a right to be treated as equal by law. Every human being born anywhere has the right to live and enjoy his life and should not be tortured by any means.





45. What is the International Covenant on economic, social and cultural rights?

Or

How has the International Covenant contributed to the expansion of rights?

It is an international agreement which recognises many rights that are not directly part of the fundamental rights but are considered as a standard of human rights. For example, right to adequate food, clothing and housing.

46. Mention any one right granted to its people by the constitution of South Africa.

- a. Right to privacy, so that citizens or their homes cannot be searched, their phones cannot be tapped, their communication cannot be opened.
- b. Right to environment that is not harmful to their health or well being.

Short Answer Type Questions

1. How were prisoners tortured by the US Army in Guantanamo Bay prison?

The prisoners were being tortured in the following ways that violated the US laws.

- a. They were being denied the treatment that even prisoners of war must get as per the institutional treaties.
- b. Prisoners were not released even after they were officially declared not guilty.
- c. Prisoners have no trial before any magistrate in the US, nor could these prisoners approach courts in their own country.

2. Describe the ethnic massacre in Kosovo.

Or

What was the background of the ethnic massacre that took place in Kosovo?

- a. Kosovo was a province of Yugoslavia before it split. In this province, the Serbs were in minority and Albanians were in majority and Albanians were in majority while it was the other way round in the rest of the country.
- b. A narrow-minded Serb nationalist Milosevic had won the elections. His government was hostile to the Kosovo Albanians.





c. He wanted the Serbs to dominate the country. According to many Serbs leaders, ethnic minorities like the Albanians should either leave the country or accept the dominance of the Serbs.

3. Which three qualities are required for calling any claim a right?

The three qualities which are required for calling any claim a right are as follows.

- a. The claims should be reasonable.
- b. It has to be recognised by the society.
- c. It has to be sanctioned by the law.

4. What are rights? Why are they essential in a democracy? Give two reasons.

Rights are claims of persons recognised by society and sanctioned by law. Rights are necessary for the very sustenance of a democracy in the following manner.

- a. Rights protect minorities from the oppression of majority. They ensure that the majority cannot do whatever it likes. Rights are guarantees which can be used when things go wrong, when some citizens may wish to take away the rights of others. This happens when those in majority want to dominate those in minority. In such a situation, the government should protect the citizen's rights.
- b. Rights are necessary so that citizens can express their opinion, form political parties and take political activities.
- c. Sometimes the elected governments may not protect or may attack the rights of their citizens. That is why some rights need to be placed at higher than the government, so that the government cannot violate them.

5. What are the main features of 'Right to Equality'?

The main features of 'Right to Equality' are:

- a. The constitution says that the government shall not deny to any person in India equality before law or the equal protection of the laws. This means that the laws apply in the same manner to all, regardless of a person's status, i.e., every citizen of India is subjected to the same law e.g. from the Prime Minister to a villager. This is known as the rule of law.





- b. The government shall not discriminate against any citizen on the grounds of religion, caste, ethnicity, gender or place of birth. Every citizen shall have equal access to public places like shops, restaurants, hotels and cinema halls etc.
- c. All citizens get equal opportunity in matters relating to employment or appointment to any position in the government. No citizen shall be discriminated against or made ineligible for employment on these grounds.

6. The Government of India has provided reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes. Are these reservations against the right to equality? Explain.

- a. Such reservations are not against the right to equality. Equality does not mean giving everyone the same treatment, no matter what the need. Equality in real sense means giving everyone an equal opportunity to achieve whatever one is capable of.
- b. Sometimes, it is necessary to give special treatment to someone in order to ensure equal opportunity.
- c. This is what job reservations do. To clarify this, the constitution says that reservations of this kind are not violation of the right to equality.

7. Why has constitution made untouchability a punishable offence?

Untouchability has been made a punishable offence by the constitution because:

- a. The constitution mentions untouchability as an extreme form of social discrimination and clearly directs the government to put an end to it.
- b. It does not only mean refusal to touch a person belonging to certain castes. It is a belief or social practice which looks down upon certain caste labels.
- c. Such a practice denies such people interaction with others or access to public places as equal citizens. So constitution has declared untouchability as a punishable offence.

8. How can citizens exercise their freedom to hold rallies and demonstrations?

Citizens have the freedom to hold rallies and demonstrations in our country guaranteed by the constitution. But they can exercise the right in following manners.





- a. Such meetings have to be peaceful.
- b. They should not lead to public disorder or breach of peace in society.
- c. Those who participate in these activities should not carry weapons and arms.
- d. Citizens can also form associations like doctors, traders etc. But these cannot provoke others.

9. What legal procedures have to be followed by a police officer if he arrest or detain any citizen?

- a. A person who is arrested and detained will have to be informed the reasons for such arrest and detention.
- b. A person who is detained and arrested shall be produced before the nearest magistrate within a period of 24 hours of arrest.
- c. Such person has the right to engage a lawyer for his/her defence.

10. Explain the three evils declared illegal under the Right against Exploitation.

The constitution mentions three evils and declares them illegal.

- a. Traffic in human beings: Traffic here means selling and buying of human beings, usually women for immoral purposes.
- b. Beggar: Our constitution also prohibits forced labour or *beggar* in any form. It is a practice where the worker is forced to render service to the master, free of cost/charge or at nominal salary. When this takes place on life-long basis, it is called bonded labour.
- c. Child labour: The constitution also prohibits child labour. No one can employ a child below the age 14 years to work in any factory or mine or in any other hazardous work such as in the railways and at ports. Many laws have been made to prohibits such as beedi making, fire crackers and matchbox, printing and dyeing.

11. How is the Right to Equality exercised?

The Right to Equality exercised in the following manner.

- a. By prohibiting discrimination against any citizen on the grounds of religion, caste, ethnicity, gender or place of birth.





- b. Every citizen shall have access to public places like shops, restaurants, hotels and cinema halls.
- c. Giving equal opportunity to all citizens.
- d. Provide reservations for SCs, STs, OBCs, women, poor or physically handicapped in some kinds of jobs to ensure equal opportunity.

12. Mention any three constitutional provisions that make India a secular state.

In India, people follow different religions. So the constitution makers made provisions for India to be a secular country.

The constitutional provisions that make India secular are:

- a. The constitution provides to all its citizens the freedom to profess, practice and propagate any religion of their choice.
- b. There is no official religion for India. Unlike Srilanka, where Buddhism is state religion and Pakistan which has Islam as state religion.
- c. There shall be no religious instruction in the government educational institutions.

13. Why have rights been added to fundamental rights from time to time? Give a few examples.

New rights been added to fundamental rights because as time moves, societies develop or new constitution is made. So to accommodate the needs of the present generation the scope of rights has been expanded over the years.

For example:

- a. Right to education has become a fundamental right for Indian citizens.
- b. Right to property is not a fundamental right but it is a legal or constitutional right.
- c. Right to freedom of press is also another right which is an expansion of the right to freedom.

14. What does the constitution specify about the cultural and educational rights of the minorities?

The constitution specifies the cultural and educational rights of the minorities in the following ways:





- a. Any section of the citizens a distinct language or culture have a right to conserve it.
- b. Admission to any educational institution maintained by government or receiving government aid cannot be denied to any citizen on the ground of religion or language.
- c. All minorities have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.

15. How does PIL work? Mention the importance of PIL.

Under this (PIL), any citizen or group of citizens can approach the supreme court or high court for the protection of public interest against a particular law or action of the government.

Public Interest Litigation is use of litigation or legal action, which seeks to advance the cause of minority or disadvantaged groups or individuals. It raises issues of broad public concern. It is a way of using the law strategically to effect social change.

16. Mention the powers/functions of the NHRC.

The NHRC has the following powers/functions:

- a. To make independent and credible inquiry into any case of violation of human rights.
- b. It inquires into any case of abetment of such violation or negligence in controlling it by any government officer and takes other general steps to promote human rights in the country.
- c. It presents its findings and recommendations to the government or intervene in the court on behalf of the victims.
- d. It has wide ranging powers to carry out its inquiry. It can summon witnesses, question any government official, demand any official paper, visit any prison for inspection or sent its own team for on-the-spot inquiry.



Long Answer Type Questions

1. What type of government does Saudi Arabia have? What are its main features?

Saudi Arabia is a monarchy, ruled by a hereditary king and the people have no role in electing or changing their rulers.

The main features of this type of government are:

- The king selects the legislature, the executive and also appoints the judges and can change any of their decisions.
- Citizens cannot form political parties or any political organization.
- Media cannot report anything that the monarch does not like.
- There is no freedom of religion. Every citizen is required to be a muslim. Non-muslim residents can follow their religion in private but not in public.
- Women are subjected to many public restrictions. The testimony of one man is considered equal to that of two women.

2. What are fundamental rights? How many fundamental rights are mentioned in our constitution? Why are they important?

In India, like in other democracies in the world, some rights are mentioned in the constitution. These rights are fundamental to our life and therefore they are fundamental to our life and therefore they are given a special status. They are called fundamental rights.

Six fundamental rights are:

- Right to equality
- Right to Freedom
- Right to Freedom of Religion
- Right against Exploitation
- Right to Constitution Remedies
- Cultural and Educational Rights

The fundamental rights are important as:

- Fundamental rights are an important basic feature of the Indian constitution.



- b. The preamble of the constitution takes about securing for all its citizens equality, liberty and justice. Fundamental rights put these into effect.
- c. They provide the security to the minorities in the country.
- d. They keep a check on the government.

3. Describe any Freedom granted to the citizens of India under the Right to Freedom.

Or

What is rights to Freedom? Mention different rights that come under it.

Everybody wants to live in freedom which means absence of constraints. We want to live in a society but we want to be free and do not want to be dictated by anyone. So the constitution of India has given to its citizens the following rights:

- a. Right to freedom of speech and expression.
- b. Right to assemble in a peaceful manner.
- c. Right to form association and unions.
- d. Right to move freely throughout the country.
- e. Right to reside in any part of the country.
- f. Right to practice any profession or carry out any occupation, trade or business.

These freedoms are not unlimited licences to do anything we want. The government has/can impose certain restrictions on these freedoms of the citizens under certain conditions for the good of the society.

4. Explain briefly the Right to Constitutional remedies. How this right could be enforced?

- a. The fundamental rights in the constitution are important because they are enforceable. We have the right to seek the enforcement of their rights. This is called the Right to Constitutional Remedies. This itself is a fundamental right. This right was rightly called the heart and soul of the constitution by Dr BR Ambedkar. It makes other rights effective.





- b. Sometime our rights may be violated by fellow citizens, private bodies or by the government. When any of our rights is violated we can seek remedy through the supreme court or high court of a state.
- c. The supreme court and high court have the power to issue directions, orders or writs for the enforcement of fundamental rights. They can also award compensation on the victims and punishment to the violators.

5. What is the role of International Covenant in the expansion of rights?

International Covenant has also contributed to the expansion of rights. It binds the signatory countries to provide some rights to the citizens. International Covenant on economic, social and cultural rights recognises many rights that are not directly a part of the fundamental rights in the India Constitution. This includes:

- a. Right to work, opportunity to everyone to earn livelihood by working.
- b. Right to safe and healthy working conditions with fair wages that can provide a decent standard of living for workers and their families.
- c. Right to adequate standard of living including adequate food, clothing and housing.
- d. Right to social security and insurance.
- e. Right to health, medical care during illness, special care for women during childcare and prevention of epidemics.
- f. Right to education, free and compulsory primary education, equal access to higher education.

Thus International covenants play a significant role in expanding the scope of rights.

6. Explain how the scope of rights has expanded in recent times.

The scope of rights has expanded in the following ways.

- a. The court judgements have helped in expanding the scope or rights in the following ways.
 - i. Certain rights like right to freedom of press, right to information and right to education are derived from the fundamental rights.
 - ii. The government is responsible for providing free and compulsory education to all children up to the age of 14 years.





- iii. The Supreme Court has expanded the meaning of right to life to include the right to food also.
 - b. The parliament has enacted a law giving the right to information to the citizens. This is under the freedom of thought and expression.
 - c. Constitution provides certain rights which are not fundamental e.g. right to property.
 - d. Right to vote is a constitutional right.
 - e. Human rights that are universal moral claims also help in expansion of rights.
 - f. International movements also help in expansion of rights.
 - g. International covenants also contribute to expansion of rights.
 - h. Last, but not the least sometimes new rights are guaranteed under the constitution as a result of the struggle of the people e.g. the constitution of South Africa guaranteed its citizens the following rights.
 - i. Right to privacy.
 - ii. Right to environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being.
 - iii. Right to have access to adequate housing.
 - iv. Right to access to health care services, sufficient food and water and medical treatment in an emergency.
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