**Democracy**

**VERY SHAORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (2 MARKS)**

**1. Define Democracy**

Ans: i) “Democracy is a government of the people and for the people.” - **Abraham Lincoln**

ii) “Democracy is a government in which everyone has a share.” - **J.R seeley**

**2. What is indirect democracy?**

Ans: Indirect democracy is also known as representative democracy. The legislature which

consists of the elected representatives of the people formulates and expresses the will of

the state.

**3. What is direct democracy?**

Ans: A Direct democracy is systems of government in which people directly participate in the

activities of the state and government. The people directly express their views on the government policies.

**4. What is recall?**

Ans: A Recall means to call back the representatives will be called back by the people in case they are inefficient. Hence, this method helps the representatives in discharging their responsibilities property for fear of being called back on the ground of inefficiently.

**SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (5 MARKS)**

**1. What is direct democracy and mention its devices?**

Ans: When the people themselves directly express their will on public affairs this type of

government is called direct democracy.

**1. Referendum**: it is one of the direct democracy devices literally it means, must be referred

to the people. It is a device where by the electorate may veto a proposed legislation or bill

which the legislature has already passed. In other words, bills passed by the legislature are

the voters for their approval or disapproval.

**2. Initiative:** It is another device of direct democracy. It is a method by means of the people proposes legislation i.e they can ask the legislature to pass a particular law. For instance, in Switzerland, if 50,000 voters request the legislature to pass a law, when the proposal it submitted to the consideration of the people. It majority of the people (30,000) approve it, and then it becomes an act.

**3. Re-call:** It is another device of direct democracy. According to these methods a specific number of voters may call back on dismiss an elected officer or a member of the legislature before the expiry of his term, if he is irresponsible.

**4. Plebiscite:** Plebiscite means ascertaining public opinion on certain important issues. This is not applicable to the laws and the constitution. People’s verdict is sought on certain public problems and policies of government.

**2. What is the role of public opinion in Democracy?**

Ans: The term ‘public opinion’ was coined by philosopher John Locke in the 17th century. However, the concept itself predates Locke. Vox populi or ‘voice of the people’ is a similar Latin concept. Today, public opinion is defined in the following way: collective evaluations expressed by people on political issues, policies, institutions and individuals. It is important to understand the factors that shape public opinion as a whole. These include social class, education, region, age, gender and ethnic group. Society is not a homogenous whole. It is made of components. Each component faces different challenges in its functioning therefore, members of each component view the world differently. A state is built upon the consent of the members of society. A constitution is drafted by the collective will of the people. Just as the state and the constitution are vital organic constructs, so is the primary method of information them public opinion.

**LONGANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (10 MARKS)**

1. **What is Democracy? Explain its merits and Demerits?**

Ans. Democracy is an important and most significant form of government. The term democracy is derived from two Greek words namely ‘Demos’ and ‘Kratio. In Greek Language, the word ‘Demos’ means ‘the people’ and other word ‘Kratio’ means ‘power’. Hence democracy means the power of the people.

**Merits of Democracy:**

1**. Efficient form of Government:** In democracy, the representatives of the people will run the administration on efficient lines. As they are responsible and responsive to the people, they always make laws and implement them by consulting various administrative experts and eminent leaders. They also try to minimize the expenditure of the government by following.

2. **Upholds individual liberties:** It is only in democracy that the liberties of individuals can be guaranteed to a great extent citizens living in democracy enjoy a great amount of liberty. Their rights, liberties and freedoms are incorporated in and guaranteed by a written constitution.

3. **Political awareness:** Democracy is a largescale experiment in public education or political awareness election campaigns give education to the masses. At the time election the canvassing through press and plat form enlightens the minds of the electorate.

4. **Promotes patriotism**: Democracy promotes patriotic feelings among the people. People get several opportunities in selecting and electing their representatives to various bodies. They feel conscious and proud in participating in the working of the democratic institutions in a perfect manner.

5. **It reduces the danger of revolution:** Democracy is a government by discussion and persuasion. Democracy gives every individual and every group of people a chance to express their views on public matters. They have a right to change the government by their vote. So, there is no chance for the people to opt revolutionary methods.

**Demerits of Democracy:**

1. **Expensive Government:** Democracy is the most expensive type of government. A lot of money is spent on election propaganda. Millions of money is spent on the sessions of the national and provincial legislatures. Carlyle said “The parliament as a talking shop”. Italian dictator Mussolini correctly said that “Democracy is not suited to poor country”.

2**. Weak and instable Government:** Democracy is a weak and instable type of government. In those countries where there are multiple party systems, the coalitions fall frequently and bring instability in the government. For Ex : In India 1977 to 79 ; 1980 to 1991 ; 1996 to 1999 coalition governments failed to rule the government with stable.

3. **Government by the minority:** In practical democracy does not represent majority opinion actually democracy is said to be government by the majority. This claim on behalf of democracy is not sustainable. In every state a large number of people never exercise their vote. Besides, in most democratic states the first - past - the - post electoral system prevails (majority vote system). Under this system it often happens that the party securing a minority vote is returned to power.

4. **Discouragement to culture, civilization and intellectual development:** Democracy is the government by masses and always have conservative outlook. They show no interest in the development of literature art and architecture. In democracy intellectuals always keeps distance from elections. So many examples are in history defeat of intellectuals in direct elections.

5. **Slow decision making:** Democracy is slow decision-making government. Because it takes lot of time to take decision. Legislature process, party system, opposition parties, coalition politics plays key role in decision making in democratic governments.

**2. Discuss the essential condition for the success of democracy.**

Ans. 1**. Independent and impartial press:** An independent and impartial press acts as on important requisite of democracy. Independent press keeps the people in touch with the problems of the nation and government. It makes rational constructive and impartial criticism on various policies and programmes adopted by the government. It formulates and consolidates public opinion on several issues of national impotence. It acts as a bridge between the people and the government.

2. **Written constitution:** written constitution also the essential condition for the success of democracy. Because written constitution gives knowledge to citizens about political rights and duties and they feels confident about their citizenship.

3. **Urge and thirst for democracy**: Democracy can be successful in states in which the vast majority of the people have a genuine urge and thirst for democracy as a form of government and a way of life desire to have the principles of liberty and equality

4. **Eternal vigilance and will to act:** citizens should be active and should not remain as more silent spectators. Peoples should always present their vigilance on political leaders and government activities. Eternal vigilance of the people most important to success of democracy.

5. **Independence of Judiciary:** In democracy judiciary must be independent honest and fearless. Judiciary should not be committed. It must decide the cases on merit independent judiciary gives courage confidence and hope on justice to people in democracy.

6. **Strong opposition:** the success of parliamentary democracy depends to a great extent on the strong and effective opposition. Such an opposition will act as a check against the government by pointing out its place. In this regard the role of opposition in same advanced states like Australia, Britain and United States is liable.

7. **Regular elections:** Conducting the regular elections promotes the faith citizens in democracy. Elections act as an important means for the people express their opinion and to give their judgment upon the functioning of the party in power.

8. **Active part of local self-government:** In democracy local self-government play active role. Local self-government give training to people on political awareness and participation of government activates. So, for the success of democracy need to encourage local self-government.

9. **Division of powers:** In democracy division of powers in government organs is compulsory to success of democracy. Central government, state governments and local governments also shares powers to rule the people. So here is no chance to government become dictator government.

10. **Political Economical social justice:** In democracy freedom of political liberty economic equality and social justice is compulsory condition to success of the democracy.

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