

## Lesson-4

### Understanding Democracy

#### A. Fill in the blanks with the correct answer:

1. Citizens have the power to remove an elected representative by \_\_\_\_\_  
(a) Shouting slogans                      (b) **Not voting for him/her in the next elections**  
(c) Not voting at all                      (d) asking the president to remove him/her
  2. Direct democracy means \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) People get elected themselves      (b) everyone rules  
(c) **a simple majority vote is taken**      (d) there is no need for the public to be asked.
  3. The rule of Maurya's is an example of \_\_\_\_\_  
(a) **Hereditary kingship.**              (b) Direct democracy  
(c) Dictatorship                      (d) Representative democracy.
  4. In our country, our government is formed for a period of \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) four years                      (b) **five years**                      (c) six years      (d) three years.
  5. Hereditary selection of a successor is a feature of a \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Dictatorship      (b) democracy                      (c) **monarchy**      (d) all modern governments
- B. List one feature each for each one of these.
1. Monarchy- in Monarchy, the Monarch enjoyed the supreme power to make decisions on any matter regarding the country.
  2. Dictatorship- in this form of government the country is governed by one person or political entity.
  3. Democracy- in democracy people have the ultimate power, and it effectively means the rule of the people.
- C. Write T for true and F for false.
1. Dictatorship is when power is taken illegally and forcibly. **T**
  2. India has a monarchical form of government. **F**
  3. Suffragettes fought for the rights of women. **T**

4. Religion does not cause conflicts between different groups. **F**
5. India was a democracy ever during the British rule. **F**

**D. Answer these questions in brief:**

1. How did Abraham Lincoln define democracy?

**Ans.1** Lincoln defined democracy as a 'government by the people, of the people and for the people.

2. Why is direct democracy difficult to practice today?

**Ans.2** Direct democracy is difficult to practice today because the population has increased; and cities and villages have become larger.

3. Why do you think dictatorship is not a suitable form of governing the country?

**Ans.3** Dictatorship is not a suitable form of governing the country because in dictatorship the people don't form the government and the government does not work for the benefits of the people. People have to follow all the rules and regulations of the dictator.

4. Who were Suffragettes?

**Ans.4** In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many women's groups started to campaign for women's rights. They wore the colours purple, white and green and made banners, badges and sashes with the words 'Votes for Women' displayed on them. They were called Suffragettes.

5. Give one advantage and one disadvantage of public protest?

**Ans.5** **Advantage-** the people can express their views and problems to the government if they are not happy with the decision of the government.

**Disadvantage-** the protest can sometimes become violent and lead to the death of many people and also damage to public property.

6. Why are equality and justice important for a democracy?

**Ans.6** Equality and justice are important in a democracy because equality and justice are the ideals set by the constitution India should strive to achieve.

**E. Answer these questions in detail:**

1. List two differences between monarchy and democracy?

**Ans.1** 1 Monarchy – in a monarchy the country is ruled by a king or queen and he is the supreme power and does not have to consult anyone to make any decisions. Kingship is hereditary.

**Democracy-** In democracy the people elect the government by a system of voting. The government is elected for five years so the post is not hereditary.

**2. Why did women had to fight to get their right to vote? How did the suffrage movement shape up?**

**Ans.2** Many years ago in ancient time's women were not considered equal to men and were not allowed to take important decisions regarding the country matters so they were not allowed to vote. The woman **suffrage movement** actually began in 1848, when a women's rights convention took place in America. Thus, over time women began to realize that in order to bring some changes, they needed to win the right to vote.

**3. In a democracy, people can protest against the government. In what ways can they do this?**

**Ans.3** In a democracy people can express their views in many forms like shouting slogans, organizing strikes or by conducting signature campaigns or people may organize strikes, hartals, dharnas, rallies etc.

**4. Participation of people is a key feature of democracy. How?**

**Ans.4** A democratic government is formed after people participate in elections. Democracy works well only if the people take interest in the working and functioning of the government. People participate in elections and elect their representatives who govern the country on behalf of the people.

**5. What role has India's history played in making it a democracy?**

**Ans.5** Many different monarchs ruled over India for a long time till the British came and established their rule over India. After gaining Independence from the British, leaders in India chose democracy as the best way to empower the people and develop the country.

**6 Write a short note on elements of democracy of India?**

**Ans.6** There are some elements which are present in every democratic form of government. Some of them are Participation of people, voting, Resolution of conflicts, Equality and Justice and role of media. All these elements are very important to run a democratic government smoothly. People participate by voting and the government resolves the conflicts and equality and justice goes together. Role of the media is also important nowadays.

