

Understanding Secularism

C. Answer these questions in brief:

Q1 What is secularism?

Ans Secularism is a system of social organization and education where religion is not allowed to play a part in civil affairs.

Q2 How did secularism become a part of the Preamble of the Indian Constitution?

Ans Secularism is one of the most significant ideals of the Preamble. According to the constitution of India, the state will not be affected by religion. India does not have an official state religion.

Q3 When does Indian states interfere in the religious affairs of its citizens?

Ans Indian states interfere in the religious affairs of its citizens, in order to prevent the discrimination of certain group of people by another group.

Q4. Secularism is the need of the world today. Give reasons for your choice.

Ans Secularism is the need of the world today because of following reasons.

1. In order to ensure equality of all citizen and religious communities.
2. Freedom of practise of religions of your choice.

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Q Answer these following questions in details.

Q1 Under what circumstances will the Indian states interfere in religion?

Ans In order to ensure equality of all citizens and religious communities if the state has to intervene by making laws and allowing or banning certain practices, it would do so. For instance, the state can intervene in Hindu caste system and abolish the practice of untouchability.

Q2 How is secularism in the US different from that in India?

Ans In the United States of America, under no circumstance can the state interfere in religion or religion interfere in state affairs. The separation is to be strictly respected.

But in India in order to ensure equality of all citizens and religious communities if the state has to intervene by making laws and allowing or banning certain practices, it would do so.

Q3 India close to be secular country. Why?

Ans India preferred secularism over embracing one religion as the state religion because of its belief in the basic principle of equality. India is home of many religions and each has contributed in shaping the composite culture of India.

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Q4. What is the difference between freedom of religion and secularism?

Ans Freedom of religion means you have the freedom to practice any religion in a country. State will neither interfere nor allow any one to interfere in your religious life.

Secularism is a system of social organization and education where religion is not allowed to play a part in civil affairs.

Q5. List three practices Indian state follows to declare itself a secular state.

Ans The three practices Indian state follows to declare itself a secular state are :-

- Displaying national symbols and not religious symbols in government and other important public buildings.
- Avoiding restriction of the morning prayers to any one religion in all the government schools.
- Celebrating all the religions with fervour and enthusiasm in all the public offices.

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Q6. How did caste system affect secular perspective of Indian people?

Ans India's caste system, which splits up Hindus into different social groups according to their work and birth, is thought by researchers to go back some 3000 years. The system has led to the upper castes being privileged over the lower castes, which were often repressed by those higher up on the caste scale.

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## Work out

### A. Fill in the blanks with correct answers.

1. Secularism means the absence of a .....  
☒ a. state religion      b. religion      c. religious law      d. religious head
2. India is a ..... country.  
☒ a. theocratic      b. secular      c. dictatorial      d. autocratic
3. A theocratic nation follows a ..... religion.  
a. personal      b. state      c. minority      ☒ d. majority
4. In India there is intercommunity .....  
a. tolerance      ☒ b. domination      c. subjugation      d. discrimination

### B. Correct these statements. (Do yourself) H.W.

1. In India people are not allowed to change their religions.
2. In most countries only one religion is found.
3. Minority always tends to dominate.
4. Buddhism and Jainism propagated the caste system.
5. In the US, the state often interferes in religion.