



INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
SENIOR SECTION
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
CLASS: IX : DEMOCRATIC POLITICS



TOPIC/CHAPTER- 2: WHAT IS DEMOCRACY? WHY DEMOCRACY?

WORKSHEET NO.: 5

Summary

WHAT IS DEMOCRACY? WHY DEMOCRACY?

The rulers are elected by the people. People have a say in the decision making of the Government. There are fundamental rights in it. A democratic government is a better government because it is a more accountable form of government. Democracy improves the quality of decision making. Democracy provides a method to deal with differences and conflicts. Democracy enhances the dignity of citizens. A democratic government rules within limits set by constitutional law and citizens' rights'. The most common form of democracy is 'representative democracy'.

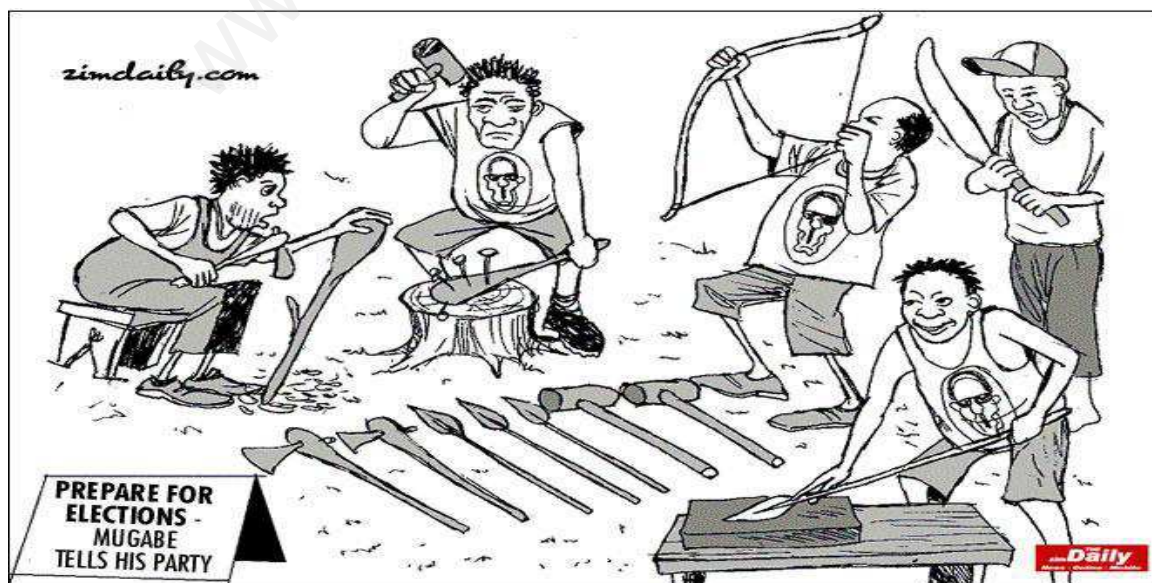
What are its demerits? Leaders keep changing in a democracy. This leads to instability. Democracy is all about political competition and power play. There is no scope for morality. So many people have to be consulted in a democracy that it leads to delays.

Elected leaders do not know the best interest of the people. It leads to bad decisions. Ordinary people don't know what is good for them; they should not decide anything. Democracy leads to corruption for it is based on electoral competition.

China and Mexico are not democracies. In China the elections do not offer any choice to the people. They have to vote for the ruling party (Communist Party) and the candidates approved by it. In Mexico the (PRI) the ruling party ensures that its candidates are not defeated.

In Zimbabwe elections are always won by ZANU-PF (Robert Mugabe) uses unfair means to remain in power.



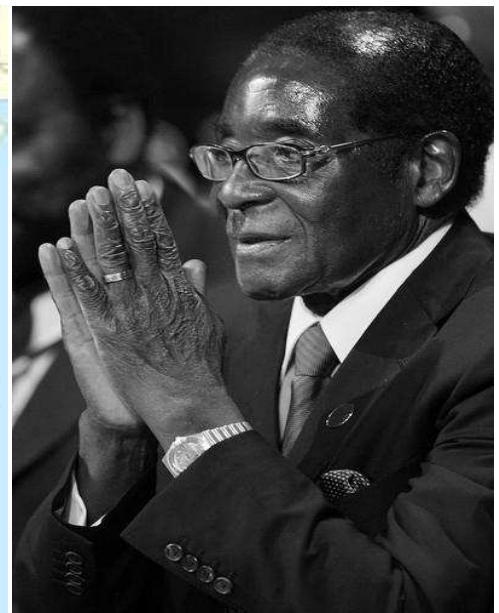


Sr. No	Questions	Mks
1.	<p>Differentiate between Democratic and Non- Democratic Government?</p> <p><u>Democratic Government:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is a form of Government in which the rulers are elected by the people. 2. People have a say in the decision making of the Government. 3. There are fundamental rights in it. 4. There is dignity of human beings in it. <p><u>Non- Democratic Government:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is a form of Government in which rulers are not elected by the people. 2. People have no say in the decision making of the Government. 3. There are only fundamental duties in it. 4. There is no dignity of human beings in it. 	3
2.	<p>Define Democracy. Examine the features of democracy. OR Whose rule is democracy considered to be? (Sept 2013)</p> <p><u>A simple definition:</u> "Democracy is a form of government in which the rulers are elected by the people".</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The first feature, in a democracy the final decision making power must rest with those elected by the people. 2. The second feature, a democracy must be based on a free and fair election where those currently in power have a fair chance of losing. 3. The third feature of democracy, in a democracy, each adult citizen must have one vote and each vote must have one value. 4. The final feature of democracy, a democratic government rules within the limits set by constitutional laws and citizens' rights. 	5
3	<p>Point out the features of elections held in China. OR Which party was ruling in China in 2002? Mention its two features. (Sept 2013) OR Is China a democratic country? Give two arguments in favour of your answer. (Sept 2014)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In China, elections are regularly after every five years for electing the country's parliament, called QuanguoRenminDaibiaoDahui (National People's Congress). 2. The National People's Congress has the power to appoint the President of the country. 3. It has nearly 3,000 members elected from all over China. Some members are elected by the army. 4. Before contesting elections, a candidate needs the approval of the Chinese Communist Party or eight smaller parties allied to it were allowed to contest elections held in 2002-'03. 5. The government is always formed by the Communist Party. 	5
4.	<p>Critically evaluate the defects of the elections held in Mexico.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Since its independence in 1930, Mexico holds elections after every six years to elect its President. The country has never been under a military or a dictator. 2. Until 2000 every election was won by a party called PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party). Opposition parties did contest elections, but never managed to win because PRI uses many dirty tricks to win elections. 3. All those who were employed in government offices had to attend its party meetings. Teachers 	5

	<p>of government schools used to force parents to vote for the PRI.</p> <p>4. Media largely ignored the activities of opposition political parties except to criticise them. Sometimes the polling booths were shifted from one place to another in the last minute, which made it difficult for people to cast their votes.</p> <p>5. The PRI spent a large sum of money in the campaign for its candidates.</p>	
5.	<p>Give a brief account of Robert Mugabe and his rule in Zimbabwe.</p> <p>1. Robert Mugabe, the leader of ZANU-PF has been ruling the country since independence in 1980. Elections have been held regularly and always won by ZANU-PF.</p> <p>2. President Mugabe is popular but also uses unfair practices in elections. Over the years his government has changed the constitution several times to increase the powers of the President and make him less accountable.</p> <p>3. Opposition party workers are harassed and their meeting disrupted. Public protests and demonstrations against the government are declared illegal. There is a law that limits the right to criticize the President.</p> <p>4. Television and radio are controlled by the government and give only the ruling party's version. There are independent newspapers but the government harasses those journalists who go against it.</p> <p>5. The government has ignored some court judgments that went against it and has pressurized judges.</p>	5
6	<p>"The popular approval of the rulers is necessary in a democracy, but it is not sufficient". Justify the statement with suitable example. OR A democratic government rules within limits set by constitutional law and citizens' rights'. Critically analyze the statement with an example.</p> <p>1. Example: President Mugabe is popular but also uses unfair practices in elections. Over the years his government has changed the constitution several times to increase the powers of the President and make him less accountable.</p> <p>2. Popular governments can be undemocratic. Popular leaders can be autocratic. To have access to democracy, it is important to look before and after the elections.</p> <p>3. There should be sufficient room for normal political activity, including political opposition, in the period before elections. This requires that the state should respect some basic rights of the citizen. They should have freedom of public opinions, to form associations, to protest and take other political actions.</p> <p>4. Everyone should be equal in the eyes of law. These rights must be protected by an independent judiciary obeyed by everyone.</p> <p>5. A democratic government cannot do whatever it likes, simply because it has won an election. It has to respect some basic rules.</p>	5
7.	<p>Discuss the arguments against democracy. OR Write any 3 major hindrances in the successful working of Democracy. (CBSE Summative Assessment- I Sept 2010) (3 marks)</p> <p>1. Leaders keep changing in a democracy. This leads to instability.</p> <p>2. Democracy is all about political competition and power play. There is no scope for morality.</p> <p>3. So many people have to be consulted in a democracy that it leads to delays.</p> <p>4. Elected leaders do not know the best interest of the people. It leads to bad decisions. Ordinary people don't know what is good for them; they should not decide anything.</p> <p>5. Democracy leads to corruption for it is based on electoral competition.</p>	5
8	<p>Why Democracy? OR Analyse the arguments in favour of Democracy. OR Is India a democratic country? Write any three arguments in favour of your answer. (3 marks) (Sept 2011)</p> <p>1. A democratic government is a better government because it is a more accountable form of</p>	5

Note: Write the answers of Qs. 2, 7, 8 & 9 in your note book.

Robert Mugabe

[illegible]