

# Democracy

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## IV. Long Answer Type Questions:

Q1. What are the key elements of a democracy?

Ans. 1:- The key elements of a democracy are as follows:

(i) **Formal Equality:-**

- (a) Equality is the pre-condition that ensures justice for all the people of a society or country.
- (b) In democracy, everybody is given an equal status.
- (c) No discrimination is done on the basis of caste, religion, colour, race, etc.

(ii) **Universal Adult Franchise:-**

- (a) It is an essential feature of a democracy.
- (b) It means that all adults in the country have the power to vote.
- (c) No government can claim itself to be a democratic government without allowing all eligible adults to vote.

(iii) **Elections:-**

- (a) Regular elections are an essential feature of democracy.
- (b) The election commission of India is an autonomous constitutional authority which conducts elections in India.
- (c) Elections are held at periodic intervals after every five years.

(iv) **Political Parties:-**

- (a) A political party is an organisation of people who have similar views or a set of beliefs on political issues.
- (b) They aim to contest and win elections and capture political power so that they can form a government.
- (c) To win the elections, political parties need to win the support of the people.

(v) **Coalition Government:-**

- (a) If no single party wins a clear majority, two or more parties may join together to obtain majority.
- (b) That is, their collective strength in the assembly would provide the required majority to form a government.
- (c) This type of government is called a coalition government.

Q2. What is the role of elections in a democracy? Explain.

Ans. 2:-

- (i) Regular elections are an essential feature of democracy.
- (ii) The election commission of India is an autonomous constitutional authority which conducts elections in India.
- (iii) Elections are held at periodic intervals after every five years.
- (iv) Through voting in elections, people elect leaders to represent them who form the government.
- (v) Regular elections restrict the power of the government and increase people's participation in a democracy.

Q3. Discuss the role of political parties as a democratic institution.

Ans. 3:-

- (i) A political party is an organisation of people who have similar views or a set of beliefs on political issues.
- (ii) They aim to contest and win elections and capture political power so that they can form a government.
- (iii) To win the elections, political parties need to win the support of the people.
- (iv) If any party wins more than half of the seats in the legislature, it can form a government.
- (v) The party that forms the government is called the ruling party and

other parties are known as the opposition parties.

**V. Match the following:**

Column A	Column B
1. Monarchy 2. Democracy 3. Regular Elections 4. Origin of Democracy 5. Political Party	1. Royal Family 2. Equality 3. Feature of Democracy 4. Ancient Greece 5. People with similar views on political issues