**WHAT IS DEMOCRACY ? WHY DEMOCRACY ?**

**VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS:**

1. **Define the term democracy ?**

**Ans**: Democracy is a form of government in which the rulers are elected by the people.

1. **When did General Parvez Musharraf become President of Pakistan ?**

**Ans**: In 2002

1. **Which Pakistani General led a military coup in October 1999 ?**

**Ans**: General Pervez Musharraf

1. **Which party always forms the government in China ?**

**Ans**: The Communist Party of Chinese

1. **When did Mexico get independence ?**

**Ans**: In 1930

1. **Name the famous political party of Mexico.**

**Ans**: The famous political party of Mexico is Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI).

1. **What is the legal framework order ?**

**Ans**: It was an order passed in 2002 by General Pervez Musharraf in Pakistan. It aimed at giving extensive power to military and dismissed provincial legislative assemblies.

1. **What is the name of Chinese Parliament ?**

**Ans**: The name of the Chinese Parliament is **National People’s Congress** (‘Quanguo Renmin Daibiao Dahui’ in Chinese Mandarin language).

1. **What is the most common form of democracy in our times ?**

**Ans**: Representative democracy

**SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS:**

1. **Can you say that every government that holds an election is not a democracy ? Justify.**

**Ans**:

1. It is true that every government that holds an election is not a democracy.
2. In many dictatorships and monarchies, there are formally elected parliaments and governments but the real power is with those who are not elected.
3. For instance, Pakistan under General Parvez Musharraf elected their representatives to the national and provincial assemblies but the power to take final decision rested with army officials and with General Musharraf.

Hence, this could not be called a democracy.

1. **In which way is the right to vote denied in Saudi Arabia and Fiji ?**

**Ans**:

1. In Saudi Arabia women do not have the right to vote.
2. In Fiji, the electoral system is such that the vote of an indigenous Fiji has more value than that of an Indian Fijian. In both the countries, the right to vote is denied as there is no political equality.
3. In a democracy, each adult citizen must have one vote and each vote must have one value.
4. **Write a short note on ‘Democracy is based on consultation and discussion’.**

**Ans**:

1. Consultation and discussion help democracy prosper. A democratic decision always involves many persons, discussions and meetings.
2. When a number of people put their heads together, they are able to point out possible mistakes in any decision.
3. This reduces the chances of rash or irresponsible decisions.

Thus, democracy improves the quality of decision-making.

1. **Why is Democracy considered the best form of government ? Give three reasons.**

**Ans**:

1. Democracy is more accountable form of government.
2. It improves the quality of decision-making. It enhances the dignity of citizens.
3. It allows us to correct its own mistakes.

Hence, democracy is considered the best form of government.

1. **Explain any three differences between democratic country and non-democratic country ?**

**Ans**: **In a Democratic Country –**

1. Each adult citizen has a vote.
2. Each vote has one value.
3. Free and fair elections are held.

**In a non-democratic country –**

1. Election does not offer a choice and fair opportunity.
2. Rulers are not elected by the people.
3. The rulers have unlimited power.
4. **Explain the features of democracy.**

**Ans**:

1. According to a democracy, rulers elected by the people take all the major decisions.
2. Elections offer a choice and fair opportunity to the people to change the current rulers.
3. This choice and opportunity is available to all the people on an equal basis.
4. **Why Zimbabwe not considered a democratic country ?**

**Ans**:

1. Zimbabwe is ruled by ZANU – PF, the party that led the freedom struggle.
2. Its leader, Robert Mugabe has been ruling the country since independence.
3. Elections are held regularly but always won by the ZANU – PF.
4. President Mugabe uses unfair means in the elections.
5. He has changed the constitution several times to increase the power of the president.
6. Radio and TV are controlled by the government
7. **How does democracy in a country enhance the dignity of an individual ? State three points.**

**Ans**:

1. Democracy is based on the principle of political equality on recognizing that the poorest and the least educated have the same status as the rich and the educated.
2. People are not subjects of a ruler instead they are the rulers themselves.
3. Even when they make mistakes, they are responsible for their conduct.

**LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS:**

1. **Explain the major political changes that took place recently in Pakistan ?** [2010 (T-1)]

**Ans**:

1. In Pakistan, General Parvez Musharraf took many decisions on his own after he overthrew the democratic government. He led a military coup in October 1999.
2. He initially declared himself as the ‘Chief Executive’ of the country and later the ‘President’
3. In a referendum in 2002, using malpractices and fraud, he extended his term as President for five more years.
4. He granted himself the power to dismiss the national and provincial assemblies through a ‘**Legal Framework Order**’ in August 2002.
5. Even though Pakistan elected representatives, those representatives did not have the power to make any decisions.
6. Clearly, such a practice was not democratic as Musharraf was not elected ‘by the people’ but had the power to make decisions.
7. **With reference to Zimbabwe, describe how Robert Mugabe misused his powers.**

**Ans**:

1. Robert Mugabe, leader of ZANU – PF ruled Zimbabwe since its independence from the White minority rule in 1980.
2. ZANU – PF led the freedom struggle.
3. Robert Mugabe used unfair methods to win elections.
4. Opposition party was harassed and public protest and demonstrations against the government were declared illegal.
5. There was a law that limited the right to criticize the President.
6. Until 2017, when he was forced out of office, he implemented many undemocratic and autocratic methods.
7. **Enumerate the arguments given against democracy.**

**Ans**:

1. **Unstable**: Different leaders are elected after a certain time interval.
2. **Lack of morality**: Democracy involves political competition and power play.
3. **Delay**: Due to many people involved.
4. **Bad decisions**: Elected leaders are unaware of the best interests of people.
5. **Corruption**: Due to electoral competition.
6. **Decision**: Ordinary people should not decide for themselves because they do not know what is good for them.

**OR,**

1. Leaders keep changing in a democracy. This leads to instability.
2. Democracy is all about political competition and power play. There is no scope for morality.
3. So many people have to be consulted in a democracy that it leads to delay.
4. Elected leaders do not know the best interest of the people. It leads to bad decisions.
5. Democracy leads to corruption for it is based on electoral competition.
6. Ordinary people don’t know what is good for them; they should not decide anything.
7. **List the advantages of democracy.**

**Ans**:

1. **More accountable**: Leaders need to respond to the needs of the people. Due to this, an independent and democratic country, like India has responded better to food scarcity than China.
2. **Provides method to deal with differences and conflicts**: In a socially diverse country like India, difference and conflicts are likely to occur. Only when one knows that no one is a permanent winner or loser, we can peacefully resole clashes.
3. **Improved quality of decision making**: Due to consultation and discussion in a democracy and involvement of many people it is easier to point out mistakes in any decision.
4. **Enhancement of dignity of citizens**: Since everyone is treated equally and each person in a democracy is ruler himself, people are responsible for their own conduct.
5. **Correction of mistakes**: In a democracy, mistakes cannot be hidden for wrong but are publically discussed and corrected.

**OR,**

1. A democratic government is better government because it is more accountable and responsive.
2. Democracy improves the quality of decision-making because a democratic decision always involves many persons, discussions and meetings.
3. Democracy provides a method to deal with differences and conflicts.
4. Democracy enhances the dignity of citizens.
5. Democracy allows us to correct its own mistakes.
6. **Give any four reasons why democracies resolve conflict in a better way than other forms of governments.**

**Ans**: **Democracies resolve conflict in a better way due to the following reasons:**

1. It improves the quality of decision making. It has scope for consultation and discussion.
2. In a democracy conflicts are not solved by brutal force but by peaceful solutions.
3. Even when people/associations/government make mistakes for a democracy allows them to correct their mistakes.
4. Democracy provides a forum for consultation and discussions to resolve conflicts.