

## DEMOCRACY AND EQUALITY

A. Fill in the blanks:

1. democracy 2. Equality 3. universal adult franchise 4. caste system 5. Untouchability

B. True/False 1. c 2. d 3. e 4. b 5. a

C. Match the columns 1. False 2. True 3. True 4. True 5. True

D. Answer the question in brief:

1. What is a universal adult franchise?

Ans -- The right to vote is known as the universal adult franchise.

2. What is Midday Meal Scheme?

Ans -- The Midday Meal Scheme is a school meal program of the Government of India designed to ensure elementary education and nutrition for the children of socially disadvantaged groups in society.

3. What is Untouchability?

Ans -- Untouchability is a form of discrimination against the scheduled castes in Indian society.

4. Cite two examples of discriminatory practices against women?

Ans -- a) In some families, women are not allowed to go out to work.

b) Women are not given reservation to parliament and legislature assemblies.

5. On what grounds are the people discriminated against in India?

Ans -- In India, people are discriminated against on the basis of religion, race, caste, gender, and place of birth.

E. Answer the question in detail:

1. How are a universal adult franchise, equality before the law, and abolishment of untouchability important provisions of the Constitution of India to establish equality in the Indian society?

Ans -- **Universal adult franchise:** It provides the people with an equal chance to elect their representatives to form the government.

**Equality before the law:** means that every citizen of the country is equal in the eyes of the law.

**Abolishment of untouchability:** The Constitution of India abolishes untouchability in all its forms.

2. The results of the Midday Meal Scheme have been impressive. With reference to the benefits of the Midday Meal Scheme, justify the statement.

Ans -- a) it has increased the enrolment and attendance rates of poor children, especially girls.

b) it has addressed the classroom hunger of poor students who earlier came to school but could not concentrate on their studies due to their empty stomachs.

c) it has brought about freedom to the working mothers to continue their jobs without worrying about the lunch of their children.

d) it has contributed to fostering equality and reducing caste and class barriers by allowing the children of both upper and lower castes to eat meals together and by employing people from disadvantaged groups as cooks and assistants.

3. What type of inequality existed in the USA? How did Rosa Parks become instrumental in starting the civil rights movement? How far has the movement been successful?

Ans – 1) In the United States of America, people of African origin have been subjected to unfair treatment and discrimination.

2) Rosa Parks became instrumental in starting the civil rights movement when one day while returning from work on a bus, she refused to give up her seat to a white man. Her denial was against the norms of that time according to which African Americans were to give their seats to white people when the bus was full.

3) Her refusal started the movement called the civil rights movement. The movement led to the introduction of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which prohibited discrimination on grounds of race, religion, or national origin.

4. With the help of appropriate examples, explain how far you think equality has been achieved in Indian society.

Ans -- People are forced into unequal situations, exploited, and treated unfairly on grounds of caste, class, religion, and gender.

It is because people still consider the disadvantaged groups as inferior to them and continue to discriminate against them.

Thus, unless we change our attitude towards the disadvantaged, it is impossible to establish equality in society in absolute terms.

#### HOTS

5. Vanshika, a girl with difficulty in walking, has just joined class 7 in a new school. Despite being good at playing basketball, some of the boys in her class denied playing with her. On what grounds was Vanshika discriminated against? Explain how you would help Vanshika in gaining equal status in her class.

Ans – 1) Vanshika was discriminated against on the grounds of her gender and physical disability.

2) I would help Vanshika in gaining equal status in her class by explaining to the students that we should not discriminate against anyone on any basis.

3) We should be helpful and supportive to everyone.