NCERT Archive

SOLUTIONS BOOK

CLASS 9

Social Science · Understanding Society

CHAPTER 6

Democracy

Complete Questions and Activities Solutions

In-text Questions

Questions and Activities

Contents

Class 9 Social Science · Understanding Society: India and Beyond · Chapter 6 — Democracy

6.1 **In-text Questions** — 19 questions · Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4 Q5 Q6 Q7 Q8 Q9 Q10 Q11 Q12 Q13 Q14 Q15 Q16 Q17 Q18 Q19 — 3

6.2 **Questions and Activities** — 12 questions · Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4 Q5 Q6 Q7 Q8 Q9 Q10 Q11 Q12 — 24

Every question is followed by its answer. Question numbers above are clickable and the PDF bookmarks panel lets you jump to any exercise set or question. Figures are reproduced from the NCERT textbook (© NCERT) for educational use.

NCERT ARCHIVE

6.1

CLASS 9 SOCIAL SCIENCE · CHAPTER 6

In-text Questions

Solutions · 19 questions

Directions (Questions 1–19): These are the questions that appear inside the chapter (The Big Questions, Think About It and Let's Explore), numbered in the order in which they appear. Many are open-ended; model answers based on the chapter are given, and you may add examples from your own surroundings.

QUESTION 1 *The Big Questions · p. 137*

How has the idea of democracy evolved over time and shaped our understanding of it today?

ANSWER

The democratic ethos in India did not emerge suddenly; it evolved through a long historical process, from early collective decision-making to the modern constitutional republic.

a Early democratic traditions

- Assemblies of the Vedic period such as **Sabha, Samiti and Vidhata** involved collective decision-making, and the early republican states (*gaṇas* or *saṃghas*) worked in a similar way. The king was not an independent ruler; he worked in consultation with assemblies, ministers and officers.
- A verse from the Aikyamatya Sūktam of the Ṛig Veda (Fig. 6.1) stresses collective thinking, shared discussion and unity of purpose. Consultation, consensus and shared responsibility therefore have deep roots in India's intellectual and cultural traditions.
- The **Bauddha Saṃghas**, a monastic community established by Gautama Buddha, encouraged debate and discussion; members could choose their leader and take decisions by voting.

NCERT ARCHIVE

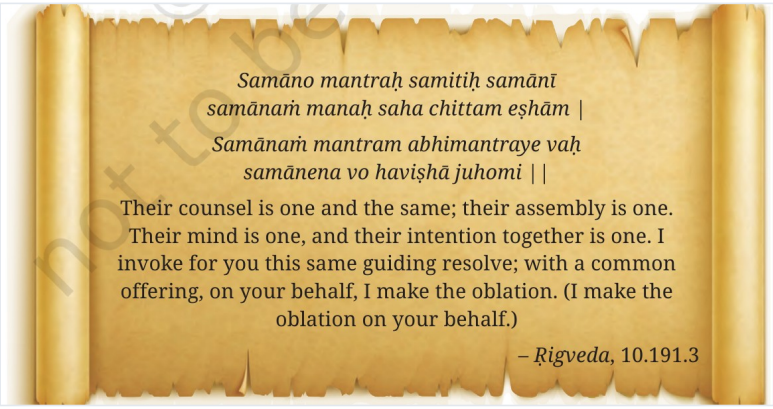


Fig. 6.1. A verse from the Aikyamatya Sūktam of the Ṛigveda

b Colonial rule and the freedom struggle

- Invasions disrupted the political and social fabric of some parts of the country. By the 19th century the British had colonised most of the subcontinent; foreign rule altered political structures and limited people's participation in governance.
- The long struggle for independence from British colonial rule revived and strengthened democratic ideas among the people.

c The Constituent Assembly and the Constitution

- The Constituent Assembly was formed in 1946 and took 2 years, 11 months and 18 days to draft the world's longest written Constitution (Fig. 6.2).
- Indigenous democratic traditions and the global spread of democratic values influenced the Constituent Assembly Debates, producing a robust, flexible, transformative and responsive constitution.
- It was adopted on 26 November 1949 and came into force on 26 January 1950. Article 368 allows lawful amendments so that the Constitution stays responsive to changing socio-political needs.



Fig. 6.2. Members of the Constituent Assembly

d How this shapes our understanding today

Democracy is understood today as a system of self-governance with institutions, rules and practices that enable people to participate in decision-making at local, state and national levels. It is not limited to elections and is guided by transparency, participation, inclusion, fairness, equality, accountability and respect for diverse opinions.

NCERT ARCHIVE

Therefore, democracy in India grew from ancient ideas of consultation, through the freedom struggle, into a constitutional system that means much more than voting.

QUESTION 2 *The Big Questions · p. 137*

What are the different forms of democracy, and how are they practised in India and other parts of the world?

ANSWER

Democracy does not offer a single model of government. Its features vary from country to country, depending on how citizens participate in decision-making and how political power is structured.

a Types of democracy (Fig. 6.4)

Type	Main features	Example
Direct democracy	Citizens directly participate in most decision-making processes; some features of representative democracy exist; difficult to follow in large countries	Switzerland
Representative (indirect) democracy	People elect their representatives; people do not directly govern; periodic elections; government is accountable to the people	India
Parliamentary democracy	Members of the Executive are also part of the legislature; the Executive is accountable to the legislature; people elect the legislature but not the executive	India and Canada
Presidential democracy	The Executive is independent of the legislature; the President is elected by the people and is accountable to the people	United States of America

NCERT ARCHIVE

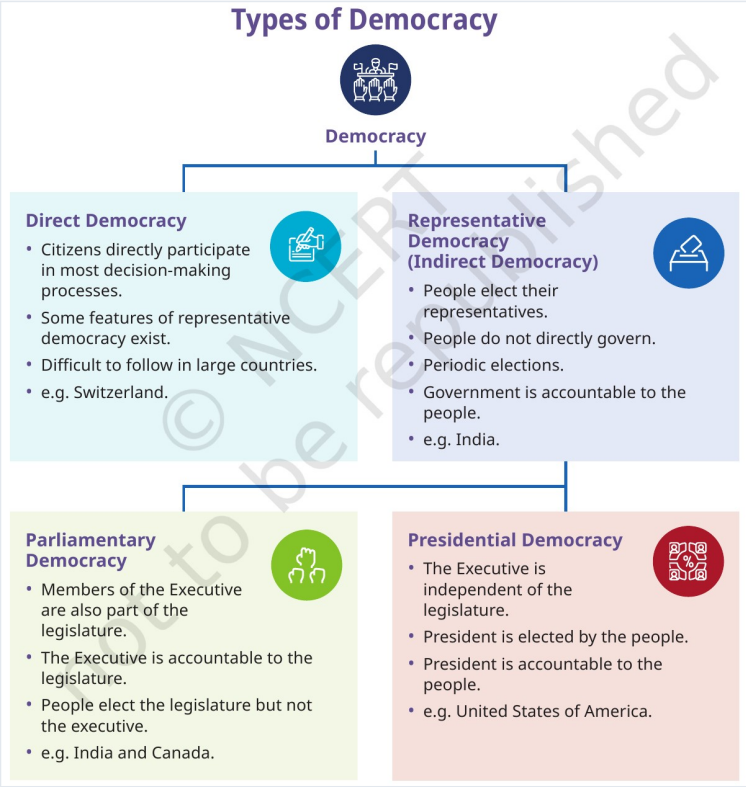


Fig. 6.4. Types of Democracy

b Democracies across the world

Country	Type of democracy	Head of State / Head of Government
India	Representative (Parliamentary); executive power with the council of ministers headed by the Prime Minister	President (Head of State), Prime Minister (Head of Government)
Canada	Representative (Parliamentary); executive power with the Prime Minister	Governor-General appointed by the Monarch (Head of State) on the advice of the Prime Minister (Head of Government)
United Kingdom	Representative (Parliamentary, with Constitutional Monarchy); executive power with the Prime Minister	Monarch (Head of State), Prime Minister (Head of Government)
Switzerland	Direct democracy; executive power with the Federal Council	The President is the Head of the Government
United States of America	Representative (Presidential); executive power with the President	The President is the Head of the Government

c Practice in India

- India is a representative, parliamentary democracy with a multi-party system, a written constitution, Fundamental Rights and Duties and federalism.
- Its constitutional framework works through three tiers: Union, State and Local governments. Autonomous District Councils (in specific north-eastern regions) and the PESA Act of 1996

© NCERT not to be republished

NCERT ARCHIVE

(Gram Sabha as the primary decision-making body in tribal areas of other states) protect tribal heritage.

- Participatory democracy adds citizens' involvement through local councils, public consultations and community-driven initiatives.

Therefore, democracies share common values but follow different systems: direct or representative, parliamentary or presidential.

QUESTION 3 *The Big Questions · p. 137*

What are the essential features of a democracy and how do they extend beyond government institutions?

ANSWER

A thriving democracy rests on certain non-negotiable principles that are upheld in India through various provisions of the Constitution.

a Essential features

Feature	What it means
Popular sovereignty	The ultimate source of power lies with the people; the state derives its authority from them. Every citizen of 18 years and above can vote by secret ballot (Universal Adult Franchise).
Rule of Law	Equality before the law and equal protection of the law; no one is above the law; disputes are resolved in courts through procedures established by law.
Fundamental Rights	Six rights safeguard the rights, freedom and dignity of citizens; they are enforceable in courts (Articles 32 and 226).
Separation of powers	The legislature makes laws, the executive implements them and the judiciary interprets them; this maintains checks and balances.
Accountability and transparency	Governments answer to citizens through elections, public debates and civil society; laws like the RTI Act, 2005 provide transparency.
Multi-party system	Several parties contest elections; the party or coalition with more than 50 per cent of seats forms the government and the largest opposing group becomes the opposition.
Rights of vulnerable groups	The government must protect all communities and distribute resources equitably, for example Article 46 for the weaker sections, SCs and STs.

NCERT ARCHIVE

b Beyond government institutions

- The spirit of democracy extends into everyday social life: civil society organisations, socio-religious and community institutions, cooperatives and trade unions often adopt democratic decision-making methods.
- The media, called the ‘fourth pillar of democracy’, and community institutions act as bridges between citizens and the State through Public Interest Litigation, campaigns and community organisations.
- The real strength of democracy lies in its citizens: their participation, awareness of duties and rights, and commitment to honesty and fairness.

Therefore, democracy works through institutions and principles, but it also lives in the everyday behaviour of responsible citizens.

QUESTION 4 *The Big Questions · p. 137*

What are the challenges faced by Indian democracy?

ANSWER

Like all democracies, India faces certain challenges even though it has made significant progress in representation and participation.

a Challenges named in the chapter

Challenge	Why it matters
Illiteracy	Limits awareness of rights and duties and meaningful participation.
Misinformation and fake news	Spread through social media and digital platforms; can influence public opinion, create confusion and sometimes lead to conflict.
Inequality, poverty, regionalism, gender inequality and social discrimination	Create barriers to equal participation.
Gaps in implementation of laws and policies	May reduce public trust in institutions.
Irresponsible or indifferent citizens	Damaging public property, spreading misinformation, violating public rules and indifference to public issues weaken democratic values.

NCERT ARCHIVE

b A historical challenge: the Emergency (1975–77)

- In June 1975 a National Emergency was imposed on the grounds of internal disturbance. A majority of Fundamental Rights were suspended, the press was censored and many political leaders and activists were arrested.
- The Emergency was lifted in 1977 and general elections were held; the defeat of the ruling government showed both the vulnerability and the resilience of democratic institutions.

Therefore, democracy needs constant care, awareness and active participation from both institutions and citizens.

QUESTION 5 *Think About It · p. 140*

Why is it important that the ultimate source of power rests with the people in a democracy?

ANSWER

In a democracy the state derives its authority from the people. This idea is called popular sovereignty.

a Reasons

- **Government works for the people:** a government that gets its authority from citizens must formulate policies and implement laws in their interest.
- **Power can be changed peacefully:** citizens choose governments and representatives in free and fair elections.
- **Equality:** every citizen aged 18 and above has the right to vote by secret ballot (Universal Adult Franchise), without discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.
- **Prevents misuse of power:** power does not belong permanently to a ruler or a small group.
- **Legitimacy and trust:** laws made by representatives chosen by the people build trust between the government and the people.

Therefore, when the people are the source of power, government stays answerable to them.

NCERT ARCHIVE

QUESTION 6 *Think About It · p. 140*

How does people’s participation through voting strengthen popular sovereignty?

ANSWER

Voting is the way in which citizens put popular sovereignty into practice.

a How voting strengthens it

- Citizens exercise their right to vote to elect governments and representatives, so those who govern are chosen by the people.
- Every vote counts equally, and the secret ballot lets people choose freely.
- Regular elections let citizens judge and, if needed, change the government. In 1977 the defeat of the ruling government after the Emergency showed the strength of Indian democracy.
- Wide participation, with over 96.8 crore registered voters in 2024, gives the government a strong claim to represent the people.

Therefore, voting turns the people’s authority into the choice of those who govern.

QUESTION 7 *Let’s Explore · p. 141*

The Constitution not only guarantees Fundamental Rights to citizens but also outlines their Fundamental Duties and the Directive Principles of State Policy. Discuss their significance and identify the differences among them.

ANSWER

Fundamental Rights protect citizens, Fundamental Duties remind citizens of their responsibilities, and Directive Principles guide the State.

NCERT ARCHIVE

a Differences

Point	Fundamental Rights	Fundamental Duties	Directive Principles
Who they concern	Guaranteed to citizens	Obligations of citizens	Guidelines for the State in making laws and policies
Enforceable in court?	Yes (Articles 32 and 226)	No direct enforcement	No, not enforceable in courts
Where in the Constitution	Part III	Part IV-A (Article 51A)	Part IV
Aim	Safeguard rights, freedom and dignity	Promote responsible citizenship	Promote social and economic welfare and justice
Example	Right to Equality (Articles 14–18)	Respect the Constitution; protect public property	Article 46: care for the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections

b Significance

- **Rights** are indivisible and inalienable, enforceable in courts, subject to reasonable restrictions according to procedure established by law.
- **Duties** show that democracy expects individuals to exercise their rights responsibly.
- **Directive Principles** direct governments towards equitable distribution of resources, especially for vulnerable sections.

Therefore, rights, duties and directive principles together balance freedom, responsibility and welfare.

QUESTION 8 *Let's Explore · p. 141*

The Right to Education (Article 21A) was added in 2009, ensuring free and compulsory education for children aged 6 to 14. Discuss its significance.

ANSWER

Article 21A makes free and compulsory education for children aged 6 to 14 a Fundamental Right.

a Significance

- **Enforceable right:** as a Fundamental Right it can be enforced in courts.

NCERT ARCHIVE

- **Equal opportunity:** the State provides education free of cost, so poverty does not shut children out; it helps the most vulnerable sections.
- **Informed citizens:** education builds awareness of rights and duties, which is the real strength of democracy.
- **Tackles illiteracy:** illiteracy is one of the challenges to Indian democracy.
- **Note:** Article 21A was inserted by the 86th Amendment (2002); the Right to Education Act, 2009 gave it effect.

Therefore, the Right to Education prepares every child to take part in democracy.

QUESTION 9 *Think About It · p. 142*

What do you think would happen if the same organ of the government made laws, implemented them, and enforced them? Share your thoughts with your classmates.

ANSWER

Power would be concentrated in one organ, which is exactly what the separation of powers is designed to prevent.

a Likely consequences

- **No checks and balances:** nobody could review its actions.
- **Arbitrary rules:** it could make laws for its own benefit and apply them unfairly.
- **Rights at risk:** without an independent judiciary, citizens would have no fair opportunity to defend their rights against arbitrary action.
- **Loss of accountability and trust:** the rule of law would weaken.
- School example: if one student made the rules, enforced them and judged the punishment, other students would have no protection.

NCERT ARCHIVE

b How the Constitution prevents this

Organ	Role	Check
Legislature	Makes laws	Executive power is regulated by laws and rules framed by Parliament
Executive	Implements laws	Can be reviewed by competent courts
Judiciary	Interprets laws	Can review constitutional amendments and declare a law unconstitutional

Therefore, separating the three organs keeps power in check and protects citizens.

QUESTION 10 *Let's Explore · p. 145*

The first column of the table below lists some key features of democracy in India. Fill in the second column with suitable examples from your state, town, or village. One row has been completed for you.

ANSWER

Model examples are given. Replace or add examples from your own state, town or village.

a Completed table

Features of Democracy	Examples
Popular Sovereignty	Voters aged 18 and above elect their Gram Panchayat members, MLA and MP by secret ballot.
Rule of Law	An accused person is tried in a court by procedure established by law and gets a fair chance to defend themselves; the law applies to everyone.
Separation of Powers	The State legislature makes laws, the district administration implements them and courts settle disputes and can review laws.
Fundamental Rights	Children aged 6–14 go to school under Article 21A; a person whose right is violated can approach the High Court or Supreme Court.
Accountability and Transparency	Parliamentary procedures such as **Question Hour** and the auditing of government accounts ensure accountability. Laws like the Right to Information provide transparency. *(given in the chapter)*
Multi-Party System	Several national and regional parties contest elections; the party or coalition with more than 50 per cent of seats governs and the largest other group is the opposition.

NCERT ARCHIVE

Therefore, democratic features can be seen in everyday life, not only in Parliament.

QUESTION 11 *Let's Explore · p. 148*

Select your ideal team from Fig. 6.5 and give reasons for your selection.

ANSWER

This is an opinion question. A model answer choosing Team B is given; another team can be chosen with good reasons.

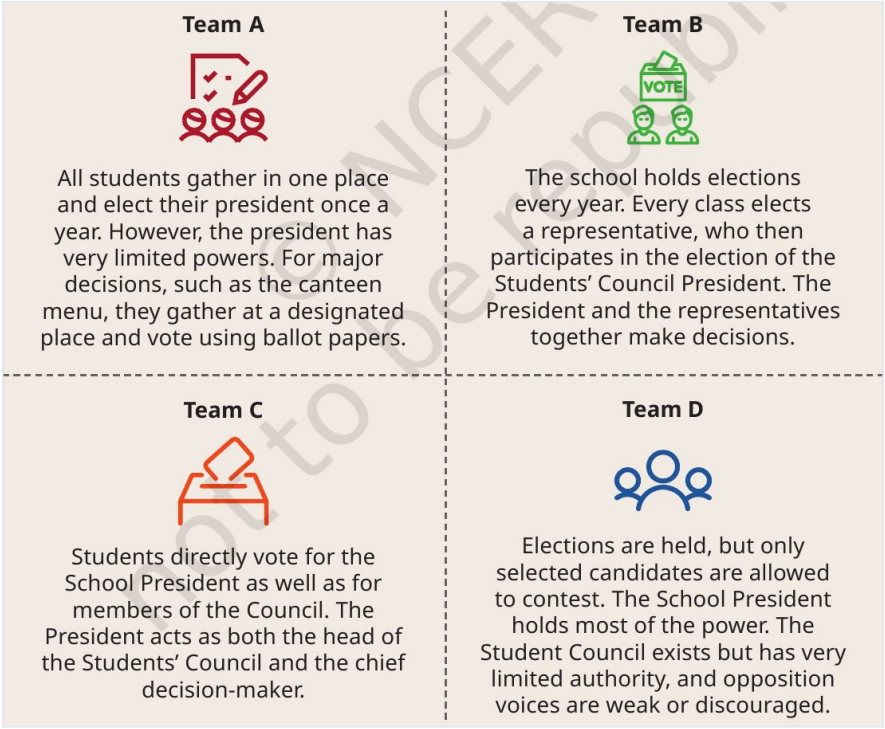


Fig. 6.5. Teams A, B, C and D at the 'Youth for Democracy' festival

© NCERT not to be republished

NCERT ARCHIVE

a What each team shows

Team	How it works	Similar to
A	All students gather, elect the president yearly and vote on major decisions using ballot papers.	Direct democracy
B	Each class elects a representative; the representatives take part in electing the President; the President and representatives decide together.	Representative democracy
C	Students directly elect the President and Council; the President is head of the Council and chief decision-maker.	Presidential democracy
D	Only selected candidates may contest; the President holds most power; the Council has little authority; opposition is weak.	Not truly democratic

b Ideal team: Team B

- Every class has a voice through its representative, which is practical for a large school; direct voting by all (Team A) is difficult in large groups.
- Power is shared: the President and representatives decide together, so no single person holds all power.
- Yearly elections keep leaders accountable.
- Team C concentrates power in one person, and Team D lacks free and fair elections and a strong opposition.

Therefore, a team that shares power and holds regular fair elections reflects democratic values best.

NCERT ARCHIVE

QUESTION 12 *Let's Explore · p. 149*

Work in pairs or small groups. Choose any two of India's neighbouring countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, or Sri Lanka) and find out the following:
• Does the country hold regular elections?
• Who chooses the Head of the Government?
• Is there more than one political party?
• How much freedom do citizens have to express their opinions and criticise the government?
How would you describe this system? Give reasons for your answer. Democratic or Partially democratic or Non-democratic

ANSWER

This is a research activity. A model answer for Sri Lanka and Bhutan is given; political situations change, so check recent sources for your own choice.

a Model findings

Question	Sri Lanka	Bhutan
Regular elections?	Yes. The President and Parliament are elected by voters at regular intervals.	Yes. National Assembly elections are held every five years.
Who chooses the Head of the Government?	The President, who is Head of State and Government, is elected directly by the people; the President appoints the Prime Minister and ministers.	The King, as Head of State, nominates the leader of the majority party in the National Assembly as Prime Minister.
More than one party?	Yes, many parties contest elections.	Yes, but parties need government approval to form and compete in two rounds of elections.
Freedom of opinion	Citizens can generally debate and criticise the government, though concerns about limits are sometimes raised.	The Constitution guarantees expression, but space for criticism is more limited; independent indexes have rated it 'Partly Free'.
Description	**Democratic**: regular, competitive elections and open party competition.	**Partially democratic**: elected government and parties, but a monarch with an important role and limits on freedoms.

Therefore, regular elections, choice of government, party competition and freedom of expression show how democratic a system is.

NCERT ARCHIVE

QUESTION 13 *Think About It · p. 150*

Based on the given facts and figures, imagine the strength of Indian democracy.

ANSWER

India's democracy stands out for its scale, depth and inclusiveness.

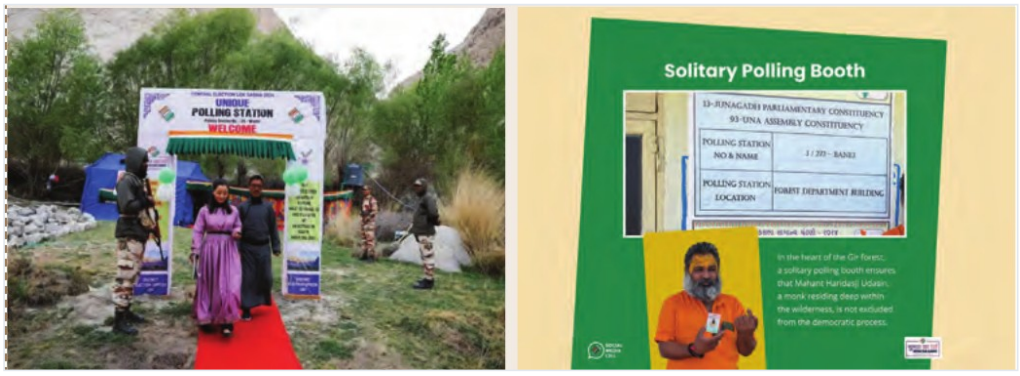


Fig. 6.6. Unique Polling Stations

a What the facts show

Fact	What it shows
Over 96.8 crore registered voters in 2024	An unparalleled exercise in public participation; more people vote than the population of many countries.
A Member of Parliament represents about 25 lakh people (2019)	The enormous scale of democratic representation.
Elections in 22 scheduled languages; election symbols	Inclusive: even citizens who cannot read can vote independently.
Over one million polling stations, even for a single voter	Strong organisation: no voter is left out, even in remote areas (Fig. 6.6).
Over 2,800 registered political parties	Social and regional diversity; many viewpoints compete peacefully.

Therefore, the strength of Indian democracy lies in the sustained participation of its diverse people and the institutional capacity to hold nationwide elections.

NCERT ARCHIVE

QUESTION 14 *Let's Explore · p. 152*

A democratic system seeks to promote participation, ensure fairness, limit the concentration of power, and resolve disagreements peacefully. Identify examples from the above case study that reflect these features.

ANSWER

The two Gram Panchayats in the case study show democracy working beyond elections.



Fig. 6.7. Gram Panchayat meeting (Representative image)

a Examples

Feature	Example from the case study
Promote participation	Jethipura held effective Gram Sabhas, Special Gram Sabhas and Mahila Sabhas; South Manubankul promotes women's participation in decision-making.
Ensure fairness	Adequate quorum with participation of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women; action on education, sanitation and welfare of women and children; facilities for health and livelihoods.
Limit concentration of power	Decisions are taken in Gram Sabhas open to the people, and proper records are maintained, so power is shared and accountable.
Resolve disagreements peacefully	Gram Sabhas, Special Gram Sabhas and community programmes give villagers a forum to discuss issues and decide together (implied).

Therefore, such cases show that democracy is not limited to voting during elections.

NCERT ARCHIVE

QUESTION 15 *Let's Explore · p. 153*

India continues to work towards more inclusive institutions. Discuss in class about the advantages of increased representation of women in the legislature.

ANSWER

Indian women got the right to vote in 1950 without a long struggle, but the right to vote does not automatically ensure equal participation.



Fig. 6.8. Women and the right to vote: the Indian experience

a Advantages

- Women's concerns such as health, sanitation, education and livelihoods get attention, as in the 'women-friendly' South Manubankul Gram Panchayat.
- Fair representation of half the population makes institutions more inclusive and responsive.
- Empowerment of women starts with active participation in decision-making institutions.
- Greater representation helps reduce the social prejudices that are barriers to women's participation.

b Steps already taken

- Article 243(d) and Article 243(t) provide not less than one-third reservation for women in Panchayats and Municipalities.
- 21 States and 2 Union Territories have 50% reservation in Panchayati Raj Institutions; as of 2023, 17 States and 1 Union Territory have 50% in Urban Local Bodies.

Therefore, more women in decision-making makes democracy fairer and stronger.

NCERT ARCHIVE

QUESTION 16 *Think About It · p. 154*

Explore and discuss the contributions of eminent Indian leaders who worked towards strengthening grassroots democracy.

ANSWER

The chapter names Chaudhary Charan Singh and Babu Jagjivan Ram, who emerged from rural backgrounds and advocated the rights of the rural poor and marginalised sections. Other leaders are added below.

Leader	Contribution
Chaudhary Charan Singh	Advocated the rights of farmers and the rural poor; later served as Prime Minister.
Babu Jagjivan Ram	Advocated the rights of the rural poor and marginalised sections; long-serving Union minister.
Mahatma Gandhi	Promoted *Gram Swaraj*, the idea of self-governing villages.
Balwantrai Mehta	His committee (1957) recommended the three-tier Panchayati Raj system.
Jayaprakash Narayan	Known as Lok Nayak; led mass movements of students and citizens in Bihar and Gujarat.

Therefore, these leaders show that strong villages and active local participation are the base of a strong democracy.

QUESTION 17 *Let's Explore · p. 155*

In small groups, identify two or three examples of information shared on social media that you believe may be misleading or false. Discuss what made you question their reliability and how such information can influence people's opinions. Reflect on why access to accurate and authentic information is important in a democracy.

ANSWER

These are illustrative kinds of misleading posts; use real examples from your group discussion.

NCERT ARCHIVE

a Examples and reasons for doubt

Example	Why it is doubtful	Possible influence
A forwarded message promising a free phone or recharge if shared with many people	Too good to be true; unknown source; asks for personal details	Cheats people and spreads rumours
An old or edited video presented as a recent event	No date or reliable source; not reported by trusted news outlets	Creates fear or anger and can lead to conflict
A message with wrong information about voting or a ‘miracle cure’	No named expert or official source; emotional language	Misleads voters or harms health

b Why accurate information matters

- Authentic information lets citizens form informed opinions, understand how democracy works and contribute positively.
- Misinformation can influence public opinion, create confusion and sometimes lead to conflict.
- Check the source, date and other reliable reports before sharing.

Therefore, verified information is essential for informed choices in a democracy.

QUESTION 18 *Let’s Explore · p. 156*

Observe Fig 6.9 and explore the various other digital and non-digital ways through which you can participate in a democracy.

ANSWER

Fig. 6.9 shows five ways for youth to take part; further digital and non-digital ways are added below.

NCERT ARCHIVE

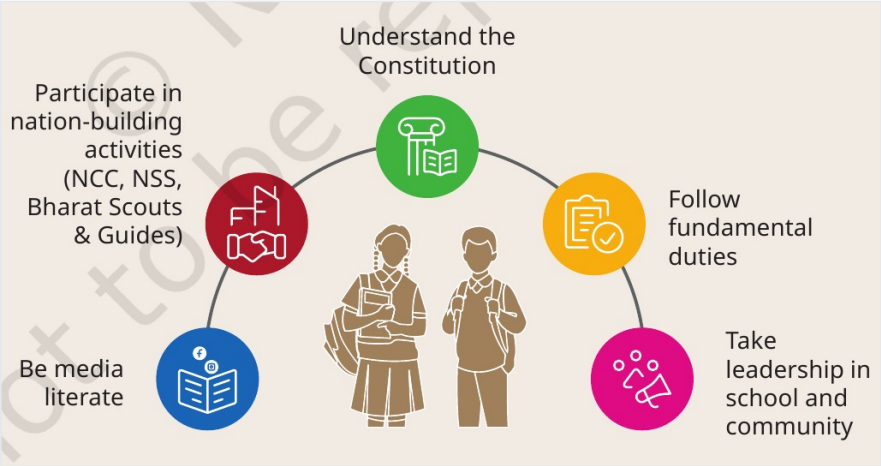


Fig. 6.9. Youth and Democracy

a Ways of participating

Type	Ways
Shown in Fig. 6.9	Understand the Constitution; follow fundamental duties; take leadership in school and community; be media literate; participate in nation-building activities (NCC, NSS, Bharat Scouts and Guides).
Digital	Check the electoral roll and register to vote on the Election Commission's online portal when 18; verify news before sharing; use official government websites to seek information; discuss issues respectfully online.
Non-digital	Vote when eligible; attend Gram Sabha or ward meetings; contest school council elections; read newspapers; join cleanliness or tree-plantation drives.

Therefore, participation includes voting, awareness, responsible media use and community service.

QUESTION 19 *Think, Discuss, Act · p. 157*

Think: How do your actions as a student contribute to your school community and to democracy in a larger context?
Discuss: Talk to your classmates about a social or community issue that you care about. How can you, as a student, make a difference?
Act: Choose one activity to fulfil your civic responsibility this month. Reflect on how your actions contribute to strengthening democracy and community spirit.

ANSWER

Model answers are given; replace them with your own.

NCERT ARCHIVE

a Think

Following school rules, respecting others' views, voting in student council elections and keeping the school clean show civic responsibility. The same habits (obeying laws, respecting rights, taking part) make democracy strong in the larger society.

b Discuss

Example issue: waste on the school road. As students we can raise awareness, form a cleanliness group, speak to the teacher or Gram Sabha or ward committee, and set an example.

c Act

Activity (this month)	Reflection
Organise a class cleanliness drive and a poster campaign against littering	Shows responsibility towards public property and community spirit; participation of everyone strengthens democratic values.

Therefore, small everyday actions of informed students strengthen democracy and community spirit.

NCERT ARCHIVE

CLASS 9 SOCIAL SCIENCE · CHAPTER 6

6.2 Questions and Activities

Solutions · 12 questions

Directions (Questions 1–12): These are the Questions and activities at the end of the chapter (pages 158–159). Answer each in your own words using the points given.

QUESTION 1

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow:
A school cabinet was responsible for planning a Republic Day celebration, and members had different opinions on which activities to include. After a discussion, they decided to vote, and the activities supported by the majority were selected.
a. Which democratic values are reflected in this situation?
b. How does voting help resolve differences of opinion?
c. Why is the majority decision important in a democracy?
d. Mention responsibilities of elected representatives after a decision is made.

ANSWER

The passage shows a small democratic process at work in a school.

a Democratic values

- **Participation and freedom of expression:** every member could give an opinion.
- **Deliberation and respect for diverse opinions:** they discussed before deciding.
- **Equality and fairness:** every member's vote counted equally.
- **Peaceful resolution of disagreement** by voting.

b How voting helps

When discussion does not produce agreement, voting gives a fair and peaceful way to decide. Every opinion is counted equally, and the decision is taken by procedure, not by force or personal influence.

NCERT ARCHIVE

c Why the majority decision matters

A group cannot always be unanimous, yet decisions are needed. The majority view reflects the will of most people, gives the decision legitimacy and lets the group act. Minority members are heard and can persuade others next time.

d Responsibilities of elected representatives

- Implement the decision honestly and as planned.
- Respect it even if they personally disagreed.
- Include and inform everyone, including those who lost the vote.
- Be accountable and transparent in using resources and report back.

Therefore, discussion, voting and responsible implementation make decisions fair and accepted.

QUESTION 2

How would democracy be affected if citizens stopped following laws and civic responsibilities? Explain with an example.

ANSWER

Democracy depends on citizens who follow laws and fulfil civic responsibilities, not only on institutions.

a Effects

- The rule of law would weaken, and rights of others would be violated.
- Damage to public property and violation of public rules weaken democratic values, and indifference harms the health of a democracy.
- Misinformation would spread and trust in institutions would fall.
- Governments could not function and deliver services effectively.

b Example

If people in a town ignore traffic rules, damage public property during protests and spread rumours, roads become unsafe, public money goes into repairs instead of schools or hospitals, and people lose trust in the system.

NCERT ARCHIVE

Therefore, a democracy needs responsible citizens as well as strong institutions.

QUESTION 3

Which situation best reflects the idea of popular sovereignty and why?
a. A law is passed without public discussion
b. Citizens vote to choose their representatives
c. A court gives a final judgment
d. A minister takes an independent decision

ANSWER

Correct option: (b) Citizens vote to choose their representatives.

a Reason

Popular sovereignty means the ultimate source of power lies with the people and the state derives its authority from them. By voting, citizens elect governments and representatives.

Option	Why it is (not) correct
a	Not correct: the people have no say.
b	**Correct:** the people choose those who govern.
c	Not correct: a judgment is a judicial function.
d	Not correct: it shows executive authority, not the people’s authority.

Therefore, the answer is (b).

NCERT ARCHIVE

QUESTION 4

The Rule of Law is violated when:
a. Laws are applied equally to all
b. Courts review government actions
c. Powerful individuals are treated above the law
d. Citizens challenge laws through legal means

ANSWER

Correct option: (c) Powerful individuals are treated above the law.

a **Reason**

The Rule of Law ensures equality before the law and equal protection of the law, and establishes that no one is above the law.

Option	Why it is (not) a violation
a	Not a violation: equal application is the rule of law.
b	Not a violation: review keeps power in check.
c	**Violation:** it puts some people above the law.
d	Not a violation: challenging laws through legal means is a legitimate right.

Therefore, the answer is (c).

QUESTION 5

Why is the Rule of Law essential for protecting democracy?

ANSWER

The Rule of Law is a fundamental principle of any democratic society.

a **Reasons**

- It ensures equality before the law and equal protection of the law; no one is above the law.
- Disputes are resolved in courts through procedures established by law, not by force or personal influence.
- It prevents misuse of power and protects people’s rights.

NCERT ARCHIVE

- No citizen can be punished without following the procedure established by law, and everyone gets a fair opportunity to defend themselves (Article 21).
- It promotes justice, accountability and trust in the democratic system.

Therefore, without the Rule of Law, rights would be unprotected and power could be misused.

QUESTION 6

Is voting alone enough to make a country democratic? Support your answer with examples from the chapter.

ANSWER

No. Voting is essential, but democracy is not limited to elections.

a Support from the chapter

- Democracy involves institutions, rules and practices that enable participation at local, state and national levels.
- It also needs the Rule of Law, Fundamental Rights, separation of powers, accountability and transparency (RTI, Question Hour) and a multi-party system.
- During the Emergency (1975–77), Fundamental Rights were suspended and the press was censored, which strained democracy.
- In Team D (Fig. 6.5), elections are held but only selected candidates contest and the opposition is weak; this is not truly democratic.
- Women got the vote in 1950, yet social prejudices still limit their representation.
- Grassroots examples (Jethipura, South Manubankul) show participation beyond voting.

Therefore, voting alone is not enough; free, fair and accountable institutions and active citizens are needed.

NCERT ARCHIVE

QUESTION 7

Social media allows people to express opinions freely.
a. How can this strengthen democracy?
b. How can it weaken democracy if used irresponsibly?

ANSWER

Social media is a powerful tool that can help or harm democracy, depending on how it is used.

a How it can strengthen democracy

- It acts as a voice of the masses and raises issues concerning the public.
- It helps people stay informed and contribute to the resolution of issues through appropriate mechanisms.
- It allows public debate in which citizens can evaluate the government.

b How it can weaken democracy

- Fake news can influence public opinion, create confusion and sometimes lead to conflict.
- Misinformation reduces trust and distorts informed choices.
- Irresponsible use can violate others' rights and public rules.

Therefore, responsible, media-literate use of social media strengthens democracy.

QUESTION 8

Write a paragraph on what democracy means to you as a young citizen.

ANSWER

Democracy means that I and every other citizen have a voice and equal rights, and that power belongs to the people. Even before I can vote, I practise democracy by listening to others, following rules, taking part in school decisions and respecting different opinions. It also means responsibilities: being well informed, avoiding misinformation, protecting public property and standing up for fairness. When I turn 18 I will vote, and until then I will help my school and community work in a fair and responsible way.

This is a model paragraph; write it in your own words.

NCERT ARCHIVE

Therefore, democracy for a young citizen means rights, responsibilities and active participation.

QUESTION 9

Conduct a model parliament session or Gram Sabha in class on local issues—cleanliness, responsibilities towards public property, or school safety.

ANSWER

This is a class activity. A plan, roles and a sample outcome are given.

a Roles

Role	Responsibility
Presiding officer (Speaker or Sarpanch)	Conducts the session fairly and keeps order
Government or panchayat members	Present proposals on the chosen issue
Opposition or villagers	Ask questions and raise objections
Secretary	Records the quorum, discussion and decisions

b Procedure

- Choose one issue and check the quorum (minimum number of members present).
- Hold a short question session, then a discussion in which every member can speak.
- Vote on proposals; the one with majority support is adopted.
- Record the resolution and plan follow-up.

c Sample resolutions

Issue	Possible resolution
Cleanliness	Separate dustbins; weekly cleanliness monitors
Public property	Pledge not to damage property; report damage to the teacher
School safety	Fire and safety drills; road-safety rules near the gate; anti-bullying group

NCERT ARCHIVE

Therefore, the activity teaches participation, discussion, voting and accountability.

QUESTION 10

Choose any one democratic institution in India (such as Parliament, Election Commission, Judiciary, or Panchayat). Prepare a short note explaining:
a. Its role in democracy
b. How it ensures accountability and participation.

ANSWER

Institution chosen: Parliament of India.

a Role in democracy

- Parliament, the legislature, makes laws and represents the people through elected Members of Parliament; it can amend the Constitution, subject to review by the judiciary.
- Its democratic values are representation, deliberation and dissent.

b Accountability and participation

- **Participation:** citizens elect Members of Parliament by Universal Adult Franchise; debates reflect diverse voices, including the opposition.
- **Accountability:** Question Hour lets members question the government; the Executive is accountable to the legislature; government accounts are audited and examined.
- Laws such as the RTI Act, 2005 were debated in Parliament and refined through consultations.

Therefore, Parliament makes government answerable to the people through their representatives.

NCERT ARCHIVE

QUESTION 11

What role does the Constitution play in strengthening democracy in India?

ANSWER

The Constitution of India, adopted on 26 November 1949 and in force from 26 January 1950, guides democratic principles.



Fig. 6.3. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution of India

a Role

- It guarantees and protects Fundamental Rights and ensures no discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.
- It provides Universal Adult Franchise and encourages participation at national, state and local levels.
- It establishes the separation of powers, the Rule of Law and democratic institutions that uphold liberty, equality, justice and fraternity.
- It protects vulnerable groups (Article 46), tribal heritage (ADCs, PESA) and balances Union, State and Local governments.
- It remains flexible through amendments under Article 368.

Therefore, the Constitution is the foundation that protects and strengthens Indian democracy.

NCERT ARCHIVE

QUESTION 12

What challenges do you think democracy in India faces today?

ANSWER

The chapter names several challenges; each can be tackled by institutions and citizens together.

Challenge	What can be done
Illiteracy	Education, including the Right to Education
Misinformation and fake news	Media literacy; verifying before sharing
Inequality, poverty and regionalism	Equitable distribution of resources; inclusive development
Gender inequality and social discrimination	Reservation for women; equal opportunity
Gaps in implementation of laws	Transparency (RTI) and accountability
Citizen indifference	Civic responsibility; NSS, NCC and community participation

Therefore, informed and responsible citizens are the key to meeting the challenges of democracy.

NCERT ARCHIVE