

CBSE CLASS 9 SOCIAL SCIENCE

Democratic Politics – I (Political Science)

CHAPTER 5: DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

ULTIMATE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS BANK WITH MODEL ANSWERS

Comprehensive Question Bank Aligned with the Latest NCERT Textbooks & CBSE Secondary School Syllabi



HIGH-VALUE DELIVERABLES INSIDE THIS EDITION:

- **Exhaustive Question Indices:** Structured 1-Mark statements, conceptual 3-Mark definitions, and high-probability 5-Mark long-form evaluative answers.
- **NCERT Landmark Case Critiques:** Global and domestic contextual analysis covering Guantanamo Bay, Saudi Arabia, ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, and Indian constitutional mechanisms.
- **The Core Six Fundamental Rights:** Detailed analysis of Equality, Freedom, Exploitation protections, Religion, Cultural/Educational rights, and Constitutional Remedies.
- **Advanced Evaluation Portals:** Competency questions, source extracts, real-world situation matrices, and robust Assertion-Reason logic models.

SECTION 1: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Q1. What are rights? Why are they essential for the smooth functioning of a democratic society?

FREQUENTLY REPEATED

Rights are reasonable claims of persons over other fellow beings, over the society, and over the government. They are recognized by society and sanctioned by law. Rights are essential for a democracy due to the following reasons:

- **Protection of the Individual:** Rights ensure that every citizen can live with dignity and is protected from exploitation, discrimination, and arbitrary actions by other individuals or the state.
- **Safeguard Against Majority Rule:** In a democracy, decisions are made by majority rule. Rights protect minorities from potential tyranny or oppression by the majority, ensuring that their voices and cultures are preserved.
- **Active Civic Participation:** For a democracy to stay healthy, citizens must have the freedom to express opinions, form associations, participate in elections, and critique government policies without fear.
- **Limiting Government Powers:** Rights establish a clear boundary that the state cannot cross, preventing a democratic executive from turning into an authoritarian regime.

EXAM BOOSTER: CORE VALUABLE CONCEPT

The Constitutional Remedy: Dr. B.R. Ambedkar called the *Right to Constitutional Remedies (Article 32)* the "heart and soul" of our Constitution. This is because a right is completely useless if there is no institutional mechanism to enforce it when violated. This right empowers citizens to approach courts directly if any of their Fundamental Rights are infringed.

Q2. Detail the five distinct dimensions of the Right to Equality as guaranteed under the Indian Constitution.

ANNUAL EXAM CLASSIC

The Right to Equality (Articles 14–18) is a core pillar of Indian democracy, containing five specific legal protections:

1. **Equality Before Law:** The government cannot deny any person equality before the law or equal protection of the laws within the territory of India. It means that the laws apply in the exact same manner to everyone, regardless of a person's status, wealth, or political position.
2. **Prohibition of Discrimination:** The state cannot discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth. Every citizen has equal access to public spaces such as shops, restaurants, hotels, and wells.
3. **Equality of Opportunity in Public Employment:** All citizens have equal opportunity in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the state, prohibiting discrimination based on social backgrounds.
4. **Abolition of Untouchability:** The practice of untouchability is officially abolished and its practice in any form is forbidden. It is a punishable offense under the law.
5. **Abolition of Titles:** The state cannot confer any titles (such as Rai Bahadur or Sir). Military and academic distinctions, however, can be awarded.

SECTION 2: PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION COLLECTION

Q3. Describe the global case studies of Guantanamo Bay and the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo to explain what happens when citizens are denied basic rights.

CBSE PAST YEAR FOCUS

The NCERT textbook highlights two landmark international examples to illustrate the dangers of a society lacking institutional rights protections:

- **Guantanamo Bay (Denial of Rights by a Foreign Government):** The US military secretly detained about 600 people from all over the world, placing them in a prison camp at Guantanamo Bay (Cuba). The prisoners were held without any official charges, without trial, and without access to lawyers or their families. Even the United Nations was blocked from intervening, demonstrating how a powerful state can violate human rights when check-and-balance systems fail.
- **Ethnic Cleansing in Kosovo (Denial of Rights by a Majoritarian Regime):** In Kosovo, a province of Serbia, the population was mostly ethnic Albanians, while Serbs were the majority in the country. A majoritarian Serb nationalist leader, Milosevic, won elections and used state power to carry out a brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing against the Albanian minority. Thousands were killed, and towns were burned, proving that simple majorities can turn into brutal tyrannies if minoritarian rights are not constitutionally protected.

SECTION 3: VERY SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (1 MARK)

Q4. What are Fundamental Rights?

A specific set of basic rights that are constitutionally guaranteed, legally binding, and protected by the judiciary against state overreach.

Q5. Which specific part of the Indian Constitution contains the Fundamental Rights?

Part III of the Indian Constitution.

Q6. How many Fundamental Rights are currently guaranteed to Indian citizens?

Exactly six Fundamental Rights.

Q7. Name the Fundamental Right that was removed from the Constitution by the 44th Amendment Act in 1978.

The Right to Property.

Q8. What is meant by the legal term 'Begar'?

A form of forced labor where a worker is compelled to provide services for a master either free of cost or for nominal remuneration.

Q9. Which specific constitutional article abolishes the practice of untouchability?

Article 17 of the Indian Constitution.

Q10. What does the term 'Covenant' mean in international human rights?

A formal, binding legal agreement or treaty signed between nations to uphold specified rights standards.

Q11. Define 'Human Rights'.

Universal, moral claims inherent to all human beings by birth, regardless of nationality, gender, race, or religion, recognized globally.

Q12. What institutional body was established in India in 1993 to protect human rights?

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

Q13. Can a citizen's Fundamental Rights be restricted during a national emergency?

Yes, the President can suspend the enforcement of rights during a National Emergency, except for Articles 20 and 21.

Q14. Define the term 'Amnesty International'.

An independent, international non-governmental organization that campaigns to expose and end human rights abuses worldwide.

Q15. What are 'Writs'?

Formal legal orders issued by the Supreme Court or High Courts directing the state or individuals to perform or stop a specific action to enforce rights.

SECTION 4: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (2–3 MARKS)

Q16. Explain the three specific prohibitions built into the Right Against Exploitation.

The Right Against Exploitation (Articles 23–24) targets specific social injustices through three clear constitutional prohibitions:

- **Prohibition of Human Trafficking:** Bans the buying and selling of human beings, usually women and children, for illegal or immoral purposes.
- **Prohibition of Forced Labor (Begar):** Outlaws forcing individuals to provide uncompensated labor against their will.
- **Prohibition of Child Labor:** Bans the employment of children below the age of 14 years in factories, mines, or any hazardous occupations.

Q17. Are Fundamental Rights absolute? Explain the nature of 'Reasonable Restrictions'.

No, Fundamental Rights are not absolute; they are subject to reasonable restrictions. This means that while citizens enjoy broad liberties, the state can place limits on these rights to protect national security, public order, morality, or the rights of other citizens. For example, the freedom of speech allows you to express your ideas, but it does not give you the right to defame someone or incite violence in society. Rights must be balanced with social responsibility.



RIGHTS SPECTRUM SUMMARY

- **Right to Freedom (Articles 19–22):** Guarantees core civic liberties, including free speech, assembly, travel, residency, and protection of life.
- **Cultural and Educational Rights (Articles 29–30):** Empowers linguistic and religious minorities to protect their language, script, and establish educational centers.

SECTION 5: LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS (5 MARKS)

Q18. Explain how the Right to Freedom of Religion establishes India as a secular state, and analyze the specific limits placed on this freedom.

The Right to Freedom of Religion (Articles 25–28) guarantees religious freedom to all individuals, embedding the principle of secularism into our constitutional framework:

1. **Freedom of Conscience and Profession:** Every citizen has equal freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practice, and propagate their chosen religion without state interference.
2. **Managing Religious Affairs:** Every religious denomination has the right to establish and maintain institutions for religious and charitable purposes, manage its own internal affairs, and own property.
3. **No State Taxes for Religious Promotion:** The government cannot compel any person to pay taxes designed specifically to promote or maintain any particular religion or religious institution.
4. **Secular Public Institutions:** No religious instruction can be provided in any educational institution completely maintained by public state funds. This rule ensures that public education remains strictly neutral.
5. **Regulatory Limits Set by State:** This freedom is not absolute. The state can intervene in religious practices to protect public order, morality, and health. It also retains the power to pass social welfare laws, such as banning social evils like sati, child marriage, or untouchability, ensuring that religious practices do not override human dignity.

SECTION 6: CASE-BASED QUESTIONS

SOURCE TEXT: SECULARISM AND EQUAL CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS

"Secularism is based on the idea that the state is concerned only with relations among human beings, and not with the relation between human beings and God. A secular state is one that does not establish or promote any one religion as the country's official religion. In a secular democracy, every citizen enjoys equal political rights, and no individual can be denied public employment or basic freedoms on the ground of their faith. The government must maintain strict neutrality and extend equal respect and protection to all religions simultaneously."

Q19. Based on the source text, answer the following questions:

(i) What is the defining feature of a secular state according to the text?

A secular state is one that remains neutral on religious matters, refusing to establish or promote any single faith as the country's official religion.

(ii) How does secularism support the principle of equal citizenship rights in a democracy?

It ensures that religious identity is separated from civic status. This separation guarantees that all individuals enjoy the same political rights and access to public jobs, regardless of their personal faith.

SECTION 7: ASSERTION AND REASON QUESTIONS

STANDARD EVALUATION DIRECTIONS

Evaluate the statements and select the correct option:

- A:** Both Assertion and Reason are true, and Reason is the correct explanation of Assertion.
- B:** Both Assertion and Reason are true, but Reason is not the correct explanation of Assertion.
- C:** Assertion is true, but Reason is false.
- D:** Assertion is false, but Reason is true.

Q20. Assertion (A): The Right to Constitutional Remedies is recognized as the most critical Fundamental Right in the Indian Constitution.

Reason (R): This right empowers citizens to approach the High Courts or the Supreme Court directly to enforce their rights if any of their other Fundamental Rights are violated by the state.

Answer: A

Explanation: Both statements are true, and the reason correctly explains that Article 32 is vital because it provides the legal mechanism to defend and enforce all other constitutional protections.

SECTION 8: COMPETENCY-BASED QUESTIONS

Q21. Why did the creators of the Constitution design the Right to Equality to allow for reservations in public employment, rather than mandating a system of absolute formal equality? Analyze the difference.

The framers recognized that true equality cannot exist in a deeply unequal society if the law treats everyone identically without considering historical disadvantages:

- **Formal Equality vs. Substantive Equality:** Formal equality means treating everyone the same way. However, if groups have faced centuries of social discrimination (like Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes), they cannot compete fairly with privileged sections.
- **The Levelling Principle:** The Constitution allows for reservations to create a level playing field, ensuring that disadvantaged groups have a real opportunity to access public employment and representation. This approach views equality not as treating everyone identically, but as ensuring equal opportunity for all.

SECTION 9: SOURCE AND SITUATION-BASED QUESTIONS

Q22. Suppose a private company refuses to hire a qualified candidate for a position solely because of their regional origin or linguistic background. Does this action violate a Fundamental Right? Explain the scope of protections against discrimination.

This action violates the principle of non-discrimination, but its legal enforcement depends on the context:

- **Constitutional Framework:** Fundamental Rights, including Article 16 (equality of opportunity in public employment), are primarily designed to protect citizens from actions taken by the state, not private businesses.
- **Statutory Framework:** While a citizen cannot file a constitutional writ petition directly against a private employer, this discrimination violates broader national integration goals. It can be addressed through regular labor laws and anti-discrimination statutes passed by Parliament to regulate private hiring practices.

SECTION 10: MOST IMPORTANT EXAM QUESTIONS

★ **HIGHEST PROBABILITY QUESTION:** Detail the six clusters of liberties guaranteed under the Right to Freedom (Article 19) of the Indian Constitution, along with their social significance.

Article 19 of the Indian Constitution guarantees all citizens six basic democratic freedoms:

1. **Freedom of Speech and Expression:** The right to express one's opinions, ideas, and critiques freely through speech, writing, printing, or art. This freedom is essential for a transparent democracy.
2. **Freedom of Peaceful Assembly:** The right to gather peacefully without arms to discuss issues, hold meetings, or conduct rallies.
3. **Freedom to Form Associations and Unions:** Empowers citizens to establish political parties, non-governmental organizations, trade unions, or cooperative societies.
4. **Freedom of Movement:** The right to travel freely across the entire territory of India without arbitrary state restrictions.
5. **Freedom of Residence:** The right to reside and settle in any part of the country, supporting national integration.
6. **Freedom of Profession:** The right to practice any profession or carry on any occupation, trade, or business of one's choice.

SECTION 11: CHAPTER QUICK REVISION

INSTANT REVISION SUMMARIES

- **Rights:** Reasonable, legally recognized claims made by individuals on society and the state.
- **Ambedkar's Heart and Soul Core:** Article 32, the Right to Constitutional Remedies, which guarantees enforcement of rights.
- **Untouchability:** Abolished under Article 17, making any form of caste-based exclusion a punishable offense.
- **NHRC:** An independent statutory commission set up in 1993 to investigate human rights violations across India.

SECTION 12: COMMON MISTAKES STUDENTS MAKE

COMMON EXAM ERRORS TO AVOID:

1. **Confusing Human Rights and Fundamental Rights:** Human rights are universal moral claims recognized globally by all human beings. Fundamental Rights are a specific subset of rights built directly into a country's constitution and legally protected by that nation's courts. Make sure to keep this distinction clear in your short-answer responses.
2. **Assuming Rights Have No Limits:** Students often mistakenly write that the freedom of speech allows citizens to say absolutely anything. Remember that all freedoms are subject to *reasonable restrictions* designed to protect public safety, national security, and the rights of others.

SECTION 13: LAST-MINUTE REVISION SHEET

THE ULTIMATE DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS REVISION GUIDE

Core Structural Rule: Fundamental Rights protect individual liberty by preventing government overreach, ensuring the state operates within limits set by the Constitution.

The Remedies Rule: If a citizen's Fundamental Rights are violated, they have the right to approach the Supreme Court or High Courts directly to seek legal writs for their enforcement.