

NCERT QUESTIONS WITH SOLUTIONS

1. What is the meaning of democracy? What is the difference between direct democracy and representative democracy?

Ans. Democracy is a form of government where the people have the authority to choose their governing legislation. In simple terms, it means that the citizens of a country take part in decision-making either directly or through representatives. The word 'democracy' comes from two Greek words — demos meaning 'people', and kratos meaning 'rule' or 'power'; so 'democracy' means the 'rule of the people'.

Direct and representative are part of democratic government, and they mainly differ on the process of decision making.

Direct Democracy:

In a direct democracy, all citizens have the opportunity to participate directly in the decision-making process. People vote on laws and policies themselves rather than electing representatives to do it for them.

This system works best in smaller communities or groups, where everyone can be involved in every decision.

Example: Switzerland

Advantages: It makes citizens more active towards their duty and responsibilities. Keeps a direct check on the functioning of the government.

Representative Democracy:

In a representative democracy, citizens elect representatives who make decisions and create laws on their behalf. These representatives are chosen through elections.

This system is used in larger countries where it is not practical for every citizen to participate directly in the decision-making process.

Example: India, USA, UK, Germany etc.

Advantages: It allows citizens to elect experts or leaders who make informed decisions on their behalf. It promotes stability by reducing the complexity and time required for decision-making compared to direct democracy.

2. Recall the three organs of government. What are their different roles?

Ans. The three organs of government are: Legislature, Executive and Judiciary.

Their different roles are as follows:

- **Legislature:** It is responsible for making laws. It is where representatives debate and pass laws for the country.
- **Executive:** The executive is responsible for implementing and enforcing laws. It consists of the government officials and the head of the state (like the Prime Minister or President) who ensure that laws are carried out.
- **Judiciary:** The judiciary interprets the laws and ensures they are followed. It settles disputes and protects the rights of citizens by ensuring laws are applied fairly.

All the three organs of the government work together for smooth functioning of the society. They also keep a checks and balances on each other.

3. Why do we need three tiers of government?

Ans. The three tiers of government – Central, state and local – are necessary to effectively govern a vast and diverse country like India. Each tier has its own responsibilities, ensuring better administration and representation at different levels.

- **Central Government:** The central government takes decisions which are important at national level like foreign affairs, defence, management of railways. This requires huge resources and expertise, may not be possible for state government.

- **State Government:** The state government look after the state specific matters such as health, education, and agriculture, tailoring decisions to local needs.
- **Local Government:** Whereas the local government takes care of local issues like garbage and sanitation, primary health etc. It encourages participation of people and strengthens the grassroot democracy.

This division allows for better administration, ensures people's needs are met at different levels, and promotes democracy by involving people in governance at all tiers.