

(ANSWERS)

1A.) The Characteristics of democracy are:

- 1) Elected representative : The people among themselves elect representatives who would govern them.
 - 2) Civil liberties : Civil liberties such as freedom of speech, expression, etc are provided to the people.
 - 3) Independent judiciary : The judiciary is free from the control of the executive and hence results in a more democratic resolution of disputes.
 - 4) Organised opposition party : An organised opposition party is an essential part of the democracy as it keeps a check on the government.
 - 5) Rule of law : Rule of law prevails in a democracy and no one is above the law. The law is supreme and all citizens are equal in the eyes of the law.
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2A) Democracy is considered the best form of government for these reasons.

- (i) It is a more accountable form of government as it has to respond to the needs of the people.
 - (ii) Democracy improves the quality of decision- making as it is based on consultation and discussion.
 - (iii) Democracy provides a method to deal with differences and conflicts as differences are bound to occur.
 - (iv) Democracy enhances the dignity of citizens as it is based on the principle of political equality.
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3A) We can give the following arguments against democracy:

- (i) Leaders keep changing in a democracy which leads to instability.
 - (ii) Democracy is all about political competition and power play. There is no scope for morality.
 - (iii) Delays are often made because many people have to be consulted in a democracy.
 - (iv) Elected leaders do not know the best interest of the people. It leads to bad decisions.
 - (v) Democracy leads to corruption for it is based on electoral competition.
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4A) Democracy is based on consultation and discussion. A democratic decision always involves many persons, discussions and meeting. When a number of people put their heads together, they are able to point out possible mistakes in any decision. Even though this takes time but taking time over important decisions is a must. This reduces the chances of rash or irresponsible decisions. Thus, democracy improves the quality of decision making.

(ANSWERS)

5A) In a democracy, each adult citizen must have one vote and each vote must have one value. But there are many instances of denial of equal right to vote:

- (i) In Saudi Arabia women did not have the right to vote till very recently.
- (ii) Estonia has made its citizenship rules in such a way that people belonging to Russian minority find it difficult to get the right to vote.

6A). DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT

Democracy is the best form of government as the rulers are accountable to the people and have to fulfill their needs.

- > In a democratic government, people elect their rulers and have right in decision making.
- > There is freedom of expression and people enjoy political rights.

Example: India, USA.

NON-DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT

In non-democratic governments, people do not elect their rulers and have no right in decision making.

- > The rulers are not accountable to the people and their needs.
- > There is no freedom of expression and people do not enjoy fundamental rights.

Example: Saudi Arabia, Zimbabwe

7A) Democracy is based on a fundamental principle of political equality. But there are many instances of denial of equal right to vote:

- (ii) Estonia has made its citizenship rules in such a way that people belonging to Russian minority find it difficult to get the right to vote.
- (iii) In Fiji, the electoral system is such that the vote of an indigenous Fiji has more value than that of an Indian-Fijian.

8A) Democracy is undoubtedly better than other forms of government. We can give the following arguments in its favour:

- (i) Democracy improves the quality of decision making. Democracy is based on consultation and discussion.
- (ii) A democratic decision always involves many persons, discussions and meetings.
- (iii) When a number of people put their head together, they are able to point out possible mistakes in any decision.
- (iv) This takes time but there is a big advantage in taking time over important decisions.
- (v) This reduces the chances of rash or irresponsible decisions.

(ANSWERS)

9A) Democracy is accountable and responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens because:

- 1) In a democracy people have the right to choose their representatives and the people will have control over them.
 - 2) Citizens have the right to participate in decision-making that affects them all. This ensures that the working of the government is transparent.
 - 3) Everybody expect the government to be attentive to the needs and expectations of the people.
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10A) The three essential features of democracy can be listed as follows

- (i) Democracy is a form of government in which rulers are elected by the people on the principle of one person, one vote.
 - (ii) Democracy must be based on free and fair elections, where those who are currently in power have a fair chance of losing. Voters should have a choice of candidates.
 - (iii) In a democracy, the final decision-making power must rest with those elected by the people.
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11A) A democratic government must work for ensuring the participation of all people in the political process.

- >It should protect the civil liberties and basic rights of the people.
 - >It should preserve the dignity and freedom of all citizens.
 - >It should make laws for the welfare of people irrespective of differences among the people.
 - >It should keep the transparency and accountability of its work.
 - >Citizens must be made aware of their rights and duties by the government.
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12A) Democracy is a form of government in which the people have the authority to choose their governing legislation. Who people are and how authority is shared among them are core issues for democratic theory, development and constitution.

13A) There is no guarantee that mistakes cannot be made in democracy. The advantage in a democracy is that such mistakes cannot be hidden for long. There is a space for public discussion on these mistakes. And there is room for correction. Either the rulers have to change their decisions, or the rulers can be changed.

(ANSWERS)

14A)(i) A democratic government cannot do whatever it likes, simply because it has won an election.

(ii) It has to respect some basic rules. In particular it has to respect some guarantees to the minorities.

15A) Democracy is the form of government, which accommodates social diversity as it contains space for equality, a fair representation of all citizens irrespective of their caste, creed, colour, race, religion, language or place of residence. The majority always needs to work with the minority in a democracy so that governments function to represent the general view.