

# 5

## CHAPTER

# Outcomes of Democracy

### Level - 1

### CORE SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS

### MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (MCQs)

1. Option (D) is correct

**Explanation:** Even in democracies, corruption remains a major issue, affecting governance, public trust, and economic development. Frequent stories of bribery, misuse of power, and unethical political practices remind us that no system is perfect. Many democratic countries, including India, face challenges in ensuring transparency and accountability in governance.

2. Option (B) is correct

**Explanation:** Checks and balances refer to a system where different branches of government (Legislative, Executive, and Judiciary) keep each other in check to prevent concentration of power. This ensures that no single branch becomes too powerful, thereby safeguarding democracy and preventing authoritarian rule.

3. Option (C) is correct

**Explanation:** This reflects the fundamental principle of democracy, where the government is chosen by the people, and individual freedoms and rights are protected.

4. Option (C) is correct

**Explanation:** Statement I is correct as Democracy ensures equal rights and opportunities for all citizens.

Statement II is incorrect as Democracy is a government by the people, not just a few individuals; this describes an oligarchy or autocracy.

Statement III is correct as Democracies uphold fundamental rights such as freedom of speech, religion, and expression.

Statement IV is correct as Democracy includes mechanisms to prevent the abuse of power, such as separation of powers and judicial review.

5. Option (D) is correct

**Explanation:** Statement-I is correct as democracy ensures that people have the right to choose their leaders through regular, free and fair elections.

Statement II is correct as a key democratic principle is that all citizens are equal before the law.

Statement III is incorrect as while democracy promotes human dignity, it is more of an outcome than a defining feature.

Statement IV is correct as decisions in democracy are based on majority rule.

6. Option (D) is correct.

**Explanation:** Democracy is the most popular and widely accepted form of government in the contemporary world. It ensures people's participation, free and fair elections, rule of law, and protection of rights. Most countries today follow some form of democratic governance.

7. Option (D) is correct

**Explanation:** A definite indicator of successful democratic governance is the existence of institutions that safeguard people's rights. Democracy is built on the principles of freedom, equality, and justice, and these institutions ensure that citizens' rights, such as freedom of speech, equality before the law, and fair elections, are protected and upheld.

8. Option (C) is correct

**Explanation:** Albert Camus' quote emphasises that democracy is not just about majority rule but also about protecting the rights and interests of minorities. In a true democracy, the government must ensure that minority voices are heard, their rights are protected, and they are not oppressed by the majority.

### MATCH THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

1. Option (B) is correct

**Explanation:** Right to choose rulers → Mechanisms for citizen participation and accountability

Control over rulers → Efficiency and effectiveness

Citizen participation in decision-making →

Deliberation and negotiation

Government accountability and responsiveness  
→ Transparency.

2. Option (A) is correct

**Explanation:** Advantage of a democratic government → Legitimacy

Support for democracy → Popular support

Expectations from democracy → Expectations from economic growth

Comparison between economic growth rates in democracies and dictatorships → Economic development.

## ASSERTION-REASON QUESTIONS

1. Option (A) is correct

**Explanation:** In a democratic form of government, the government is formed by conducting of free and fair elections and the functioning of the government is based on norms. Due to all these reasons, they are responsive, accountable and legitimate government.

2. Option (B) is correct

**Explanation:** Democratic systems prioritise elections and free speech.

Many democracies face challenges like electoral malpractices, political influence, and lack of transparency in decision-making.

Both statements are true but reason does not fully explain assertion as the assertion highlights the success of democracy, while the reason focuses on its shortcomings.

3. Option (B) is correct

**Explanation:** People of India have Right to Vote

and choose their ruler and they can also have control over their rulers. Wherever possible and necessary, citizens should be able to participate in decision-making and that affects them all in knowing the public opinion and drawbacks of the ruling party. Then only the government would be accountable to the citizens and responsible to their needs and expectations.

4. Option (A) is correct

**Explanation:** A democratic government derives its authority from the people through free and fair elections, making it legitimate.

Democracy often faces challenges like delays in decision-making, inefficiency, and corruption, but it remains a government chosen by the people.

Both assertion and reason are true and reason is the correct explanation of assertion because it justifies why democracy is still considered a legitimate government despite its flaws it is chosen by and accountable to the people.

## VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. Democratic reforms can be carried out by politically conscious citizens by increasing and improving the quality of political participation, i.e., active participation in the functioning of the Government.

2. Democracies are expected to produce Development. Development depends upon many factors, i.e., size of the population, global situation, co-operation from other countries, etc. In democracies, time is taken on discussion and reaching at a decision. So, it is slow but it is not unjust or inappropriate.

3. (i) Right to the citizens to choose their leaders and keep a check on them.

(ii) If required people can participate in decision-making either directly or through indirectly or through representatives.

(iii) It produces an accountable, responsive and legitimate government.

4. (i) It led to dissemination of information.

(ii) It served as a platform for shaping public opinion.

(iii) It led to increased awareness about social, political and economic issues.

## SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. (i) Democracy provides means to examine the process of decision making, so it is transparent.  
(ii) Democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation.  
(iii) Democracy ensures that decision-making will be based on certain norms and procedures.  
(iv) Democracy follows procedures and is accountable to the people.  
(v) Democracy is a legitimate and accountable government. (Any three)

2. (i) Democracies try to produce harmonious social life.  
(ii) Democracies can better accommodate various social divisions.  
(iii) Democracies usually develop a procedure to conduct their competition. This reduces the possibility of tensions becoming explosive or violent.  
(iv) Democracies are better able to evolve mechanisms to handle and negotiate the social differences, divisions and conflict.

- (v) Democracy is not simply rule by majority opinion.
  - (vi) Majority works with minority so that governments function to represent the general view.
  - (vii) Democracy promotes dignity and freedom of individuals.
  - (viii) Promotes equality among citizens;
  - (ix) Improves the quality of decision-making;
  - (x) Provides a method to resolve conflict.
- (Any three)
3. Democratic Governments in practice are accountable because:
- (i) It is right to expect democracy to form a government that follows procedures and is accountable to the people.
  - (ii) It is also expected that the Democratic Government develops mechanisms for citizens to take part in decision-making whenever they think it as fit.
  - (iii) The Democratic Government is accountable to the people. If it ignores the will of the people, they will not elect their ruler in the next General Election.
- (iv) The procedures and decision-making process should be transparent for Democratic Government to be accountable to the people.
- (Any three)
4. Democracy accommodates social diversities:
- (i) Democracies develop a procedure to conduct their competition. This reduces the possibility of social tensions becoming explosive or violent.
  - (ii) No society can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups. But we can certainly learn to respect these differences and can evolve a mechanism to negotiate these differences.
  - (iii) Ability to handle social differences, divisions and conflicts is thus, a definite plus point of democratic regimes.
- Example: Belgium has successfully negotiated difference among its ethnic population. This reduces the possibility of tensions.

## LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. (i) **Accountability to Citizens:** In a democracy, the government is accountable to the people. Decisions are made based on public opinion, and leaders can be replaced through elections if they fail to fulfil their responsibilities.
  - (ii) **Promotes Equality:** Democracy ensures political equality by giving every citizen the right to vote and participate in decision-making, regardless of their background, wealth, or social status.
  - (iii) **Protection of Fundamental Rights:** Democracies protect the fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals, such as freedom of speech, religion, and expression, ensuring citizens can live with dignity.
  - (iv) **Transparent Decision-Making:** Democratic governments are expected to function transparently. Policies and decisions are debated in public forums like parliaments, allowing people to understand and influence governance.
  - (v) **Encourages Peaceful Conflict Resolution:** Democracy provides a platform for addressing disagreements and conflicts through dialogue and legal means, reducing the likelihood of violence or authoritarian rule.
- In summary, democracy is better because it upholds the principles of equality, accountability, transparency, and individual freedom, ensuring the well-being of its citizens.
2. (i) In democracy people have right to choose their rulers and have control over rulers whereas in dictatorship people cannot exercise this right.
  - (ii) There are regular free and fair elections, open public debates on major policies in democracy whereas in dictatorship people don't get these rights.
  - (iii) Citizens' right to information about government and its functioning ensures accountability of government whereas this accountability is missing in dictatorship.
  - (iv) In democracy, decision making is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiations whereas in dictatorship, rulers do not bother about public opinion.
  - (v) Democratic governments attend to the needs of people as they want to be elected again. In dictatorship, rulers don't have to bother about elections.
  - (vi) Democratic governments follow norms and procedures. Citizens have rights and means to examine the process of decision making. This feature is missing in dictatorship.
  - (vii) Democratic governments accommodate various social divisions.
  - (viii) Equal political rights, freedom of speech and expression enhance dignity of citizens and transform them from the status of subject into that of a citizens.
- (Any five)



3. Democracy can better accommodate various social divisions:
  - (i) Accommodation of social diversity in democracy helps the citizens to lead a peaceful and harmonious life. For example, Belgium successfully negotiated differences among ethnic populations.
  - (ii) Democracies usually develop a procedure to accommodate competition amongst various social groups.
  - (iii) Democracies are better able to evolve mechanism to handle and negotiate the social differences, divisions and conflicts.
  - (iv) Majority works with minority so that governments function to represent general view.
  - (v) It is tried that rule of majority doesn't become rule of majority community in terms of religion, race or language etc.
  - (vi) Every citizen gets a chance of being in majority at some point of time. (Any five)
4. The outcomes of democracy will be assessed on following points:
  - (i) It promote equality among its citizens.
  - (ii) It enhances the dignity of the individual.
  - (iii) It improve the quality of decision – making.
  - (iv) It provide a method to resolve conflicts.
  - (v) It allow room to correct mistakes.
  - (vi) It is accountable to its citizens.
  - (vii) It accommodate social diversity.
  - (viii) It respects civil and human rights.

(Any five)
5.
  - (i) Decision making is based on deliberation and negotiation for better decision making.
  - (ii) Follows norms and procedures.
  - (iii) Citizens provided rights and means to examine the process of decision making.
  - (iv) Open public debates on major policies.
  - (v) Government is attentive to the needs of people.
  - (vi) People have right to choose their representatives through regular, free and fair elections.
  - (vii) People have control over the rulers.

(Any five)
6. Over a hundred countries of the world today claim and practice some kind of democratic politics.
  - (i) Promotes equality.
  - (ii) Enhances the dignity.
  - (iii) Improves the quality of decision making.
  - (iv) Provides methods to resolve conflicts.
  - (v) Reduction of inequality and poverty.
  - (vi) Accommodation of social diversity.

(Any five)
7.
  - (i) Promotes political equality by supporting universal adult franchise.
  - (ii) Enhances the dignity of individuals by recognising them as citizens not subjects.
  - (iii) Improves the quality of decision making through debate and discussion.
  - (iv) Provides a method to resolve conflicts through an independent and unbiased judiciary.
  - (v) We find growing inequalities in democracies the world over. A small number of the ultra-rich enjoy a highly disproportionate share of wealth and incomes.
  - (vi) Their share in the total income has been increasing. Those at the bottom of the society has been declining. Sometimes they find it difficult to meet their basic needs of life.
  - (vii) The Central and State governments have taken many steps to reduce disparity through different welfare schemes of the central and state government.
  - (viii) Reservation has also helped to uplift the marginalised sections. (Any five)
8.
  - (i) Democracy gives freedom to people to select their government without any domination or pressure unlike other form of government.
  - (ii) Democracies have had greater success in setting up regular and free elections and in setting up conditions for open public debate.
  - (iii) Democratic government develops mechanisms for citizens to hold government accountable and mechanisms for citizens to take part in decision-making. Promotes equality among citizens.
  - (iv) Democratic government enhances the dignity of the individual.
  - (v) Democratic government improves the quality of decision-making.
  - (vi) Democratic government provides a method to resolve conflicts.
  - (vii) Democracy provides a framework for political stability, accountability, and transparency.
  - (viii) Democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and discussion.
  - (ix) Regular, free, and fair elections are the feature of democracy. (Any five)
9.
  - (i) Democracy is an important form of government that allows for the participation of citizens in decision-making.
  - (ii) Democracy provides a framework for political stability, accountability, and transparency.
  - (iii) Democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and discussion.
  - (iv) Regular, free, and fair elections are the feature of democracy.

- (v) Open public debate on major policies and legislations.
- (vi) Democracy gives it citizens the Right to Information about the government and its functioning.
- (vii) Democracies are based on political equality.
- (viii) All individuals have equal weight in electing representatives.

- (ix) Governments function to represent the general view of minority and majority.
- (x) Democracy has strengthened the claims of the disadvantaged.
- (xi) Democracy tries to accommodate social difference.
- (xii) Democracy tries to deal with societal problems such as poverty, inequality, corruption, and discrimination. (Any five)

## Level - 2 ADVANCED COMPETENCY FOCUSED QUESTIONS

### MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (MCQs)

1. Option (C) is correct

**Explanation:** A democratic government is accountable to the people, meaning leaders must justify their actions and decisions. It is also responsive, as it is expected to act according to the needs, interests, and demands of the citizens. Hence, democracy allows people to participate, question, and influence the functioning of the government.

2. Option (B) is correct

**Explanation:** While democracy provides political equality, it does not always guarantee economic equality. In many democratic countries, wealth remains concentrated in the hands of a few, and poverty persists despite government policies. This indicates that economic inequalities can continue even under democratic rule.

3. Option (B) is correct

**Explanation:** Democracy emphasises deliberation (thoughtful discussion) and negotiation

(compromise among different interests) before decisions are made. This ensures that policies are inclusive and reflect public opinion, even if the process is slower than in non-democratic systems.

4. Option (B) is correct

**Explanation:** Democracy ensures that every individual is treated equally, regardless of caste, gender, religion, or background. It protects fundamental rights, promotes freedom of expression, and respects the dignity of all citizens, which is a core principle of democratic governance.

5. Option (C) is correct

**Explanation:** Democracy is preferred globally because it provides equal rights, freedom, accountability, and public participation. Despite its limitations, people view it as the most fair, representative, and legitimate form of government compared to authoritarian or non-democratic systems.

### ASSERTION-REASON QUESTIONS

1. Option (A) is correct

**Explanation:** Assertion is true because a democratic government is accountable because it is elected by the people and must answer to them for its actions.

Reason is also true because elections, debates, and public participation are key features of democracy that make it more accountable than other forms of government.

Both assertion and reason are true and the reason correctly explains why democracy is more accountable.

2. Option (D) is correct

**Explanation:** Assertion is false. While democracy promotes political equality (one person, one vote), it does not guarantee economic equality. In fact, many democracies struggle with issues like poverty, unemployment, and unequal wealth distribution.

Reason is true. It is a fact that in most democracies, economic disparities continue, with the rich often growing richer while the poor struggle.

3. Option (A) is correct

**Explanation:** Assertion is true. Democracy improves the quality of decision-making because it involves various perspectives and is less likely to be arbitrary.

Reason is also true. Decisions in a democracy are made through deliberation and consultation, which ensures that diverse views are considered. Both assertion and reason are true and the reason correctly explains the assertion.

4. Option (A) is correct

**Explanation:** Assertion is true. Democracy upholds human dignity and allows individuals to express themselves freely and equally.

Reason is also true. By providing equal rights and constitutional protection (like freedom of speech, equality before law, right to life, etc.), democracy ensures individual dignity and freedom.

Both the assertion and reason are true and the reason is the correct explanation of assertion.

## VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. Democracy takes more time in decision-making because:
  - (i) **Deliberation and Debate:** Decisions in a democracy are made after extensive discussions and consultations among various stakeholders to ensure that diverse viewpoints are considered.
  - (ii) **Public Participation:** Democracy involves the participation of people and their representatives, which means decisions must go through procedures like voting, debates in legislatures, and consensus-building, making the process slower.
2. Two examples that show how democracy enhances the dignity and freedom of individuals are:
  - (i) **Equal Rights for Women:** In a democracy, women have the right to vote, contest elections, and participate equally in public life, which promotes their dignity and freedom.
  - (ii) **Abolition of Caste-Based Discrimination:** In democratic countries like India, the Constitution prohibits discrimination based on caste, ensuring that even marginalised communities are treated with respect and equality.
3. Democracy provides a better quality of life than other forms of government in the following ways:
  - (i) **Political and Civil Freedom:** People enjoy freedom of speech, expression, and the right to choose their leaders, which promotes a sense of empowerment and dignity.
  - (ii) **Equal Legal Rights and Participation:** Democracy ensures that all citizens are equal before the law and have the right to participate in decision-making, leading to greater social and political equality.
4. The ways in which a democratic government ensures accountability to its citizens are:
  - (i) **Regular Elections:** Democratic governments are elected by the people through free and fair elections. Leaders must face the public regularly, making them accountable for their actions and decisions.
  - (ii) **Freedom of Press and Expression:** Citizens in a democracy have the right to question the government through media, protests, and public forums. This transparency ensures that the government cannot act arbitrarily.
5. People often feel dissatisfied with the working of democracy due to the following reasons:
  - (i) **Slow Decision-Making:** Democratic processes involve deliberation, debate, and consensus-building, which often leads to delays in decision-making and implementation of policies.
  - (ii) **Unfulfilled Promises:** Elected leaders and political parties sometimes fail to deliver on their promises, leading to frustration and loss of trust among the citizens.

## SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. Democratic decision-making is better than other forms of government in the following ways:
  - (i) **Inclusive Process:** Democracy involves deliberation and negotiation, allowing multiple viewpoints to be heard before a decision is made. This ensures that the interests of different sections of society are considered.
  - (ii) **Public Participation:** Democratic governments encourage active citizen participation through elections, public debates, and consultation, making the decisions more people-oriented and legitimate.
  - (iii) **Accountability:** In a democracy, the government is accountable to the people, and its decisions can be questioned and reviewed by the public, media, and judiciary, which leads to more responsible and transparent governance.
2. Democracy cannot guarantee economic development, but it ensures political equality in the following ways:
  - (i) **One Person, One Vote:** Democracy is based on the principle of political equality, where every citizen, regardless of economic status, has one vote of equal value in elections.
  - (ii) **Equal Rights and Freedoms:** All citizens in a democracy enjoy equal political rights, such as freedom of expression, association, and participation, ensuring that no one is politically excluded.
  - (iii) **Government Accountability to All:** Democratic governments are answerable to all citizens, not just the wealthy or powerful, ensuring that everyone has a voice in decision-making—even if economic outcomes vary.
3. Democracies ensure accountability and responsiveness in the following ways:
  - (i) **Regular Free and Fair Elections:** Democratic governments are elected by the people through periodic elections, making leaders accountable to the voters for their actions and policies.



- (ii) **Public Participation and Debate:** Democracies encourage citizen involvement through debates, protests, and consultations, allowing the government to respond to public needs and concerns.
  - (iii) **Freedom of Expression and Media:** A free press and active civil society in democracies highlight government failures and help hold leaders responsible for their decisions, ensuring transparency and corrective action.
4. Democracy is considered a better form of government in upholding individual dignity and freedom due to the following reasons:
- (i) **Equal Political Rights:** Democracy provides equal rights to all citizens, such as the right to vote, contest elections, and express opinions freely, which promotes individual self-respect and dignity.
  - (ii) **Legal Protection and Freedoms:** Democratic governments ensure fundamental rights like freedom of speech, religion, and equality before law, protecting individuals from discrimination and oppression.
  - (iii) **Respect for Individual Choices:** In a democracy, people are free to make personal, social, and political choices without fear, ensuring their freedom and autonomy in everyday life.
5. Democracies often fail to meet high public expectations due to the following limitations of democratic outcomes:
- (i) **Slow and Delayed Decision-Making:** Since democracy involves consultation, debate, and consensus, it often leads to slow implementation of decisions, especially in urgent situations.
  - (ii) **Persistence of Inequality and Social Divisions:** Despite being based on political equality, democracies sometimes fail to reduce economic inequality, caste discrimination, or gender bias, which disappoints people.
  - (iii) **Unfulfilled Promises by Political Leaders:** Many democratic governments fail to deliver on electoral promises, leading to public dissatisfaction and mistrust in the system.

## CASE BASED QUESTIONS

1. (i) No society can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups. But we can certainly learn to respect these differences and we can also evolve mechanisms to negotiate the differences.
  - (ii) It is necessary to understand that Democracy is not simply rule by majority opinion as in case of Sri Lanka. The majority always needs to work with minority so that governments function to represent the general view. Majority and minority opinions are not permanent.
  - (iii) Rule by majority means that in case of every decision or in case of every election, different persons and groups may and can form a majority. Democracy remains democracy as long as every citizen has a chance of being in majority at some point of time. If someone is barred from being in majority on the basis of birth, then the democratic rule ceases to be accommodative for that person or group.
2. (i) People of India have the right to vote and choose their ruler and they can also have control over their rulers. Wherever possible and necessary, citizens should can participate in decision making and that affects them all in knowing the public opinion and drawbacks of the ruling party.
  - (ii) Transparency in governance is promoted by the Right to Information, which allows citizens to access government information and examine the decision-making process.
  - (iii) Decisions in a democracy are more acceptable to the people because they are taken after following due processes, ensuring that the decision-making is transparent and accountable.
3. (i) Citizens still prefer democracy because it ensures freedom of choice, participation in decision-making, and the right to express opinions and criticise the government, which makes it more legitimate and trustworthy than other forms of government.
  - (ii) Civil society and youth groups are demanding transparency, accountability, and fair distribution of resources, thereby actively contributing to strengthening democratic values and improving governance.
  - (iii) (1) **Political Equality and Freedom of Expression:** Citizens enjoy the right to vote, freedom to express views, and criticise the government—which ensures that everyone has a voice and strengthens accountability in governance.
  - (2) **Public Participation and Responsiveness:** The active role of civil society and youth in demanding reforms shows that democracy is responsive to the needs of the people, making it a legitimate and participatory system.

## LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. Democracy stands much superior to any other form of government in promoting dignity and freedom of the citizens due to the following outcomes:
  - (i) **Political Equality:** Democracy is based on the principle of one person, one vote, and one value, ensuring equal political rights for all, regardless of caste, class, gender, or religion.
  - (ii) **Freedom and Dignity of Individuals:** Citizens in a democracy enjoy fundamental rights and freedoms, such as freedom of speech, religion, and expression, which help individuals live with dignity and self-respect.
  - (iii) **Accountable and Responsive Government:** Democratic governments are elected by the people and are answerable to them. People can question the government, demand transparency, and hold leaders responsible for their actions.
  - (iv) **Accommodation of Social Diversity:** Democracies try to resolve conflicts through dialogue, ensuring peaceful coexistence of different social, religious, and linguistic groups. This makes democracy more inclusive.
  - (v) **Public Participation and Empowerment:** Democracy provides space for active participation of citizens in decision-making through elections, protests, and civil society activities, empowering people to shape public policies.
2. This statement highlights a key limitation of democratic outcomes. While democracy promotes equal political rights, it may fall short in delivering social and economic justice.
  - (i) **Political Equality is Ensured:** Every citizen in a democracy has the right to vote, contest elections, and express opinions freely. This creates a sense of equality in political participation, regardless of one's economic status.
  - (ii) **Economic Inequalities Persist:** Democracies often fail to bridge the gap between the rich and poor. In many countries, the wealthy continue to gain more power, while the poor struggle for basic needs like food, healthcare, and education.
  - (iii) **Unequal Access to Opportunities:** While the law treats everyone equally, in practice, marginalised sections (like women, Dalits, or Adivasis) may not have equal access to jobs, education, or justice, due to poverty and social discrimination.
  - (iv) **Public Services are Uneven:** Basic facilities like healthcare, sanitation, and education are often of better quality in urban and wealthy areas than in rural or backward regions, which reflects economic and social disparity.
  - (v) **Democracy Promotes Awareness and Reforms:** Despite these inequalities, democracy allows space for civil society, media, and public movements to raise voices against injustice, demand welfare schemes, and push governments to act.
3. "Democratic governments are expected to be accountable, legitimate and responsive to the needs of the people." Democracy fulfils these expectations in the following ways:
  - (i) **Accountability to the People:** In a democracy, the government is elected by the citizens and is answerable to them. If people are not satisfied with the government's performance, they can vote it out in the next election.
  - (ii) **Legitimacy of Rule:** Democratic governments are formed through free and fair elections, ensuring they have the consent of the governed. This makes the authority of a democratic government legitimate in the eyes of the people.
  - (iii) **Responsiveness to Public Needs:** Democracies are expected to listen to public opinion, address grievances, and implement policies that benefit the majority, especially in areas like health, education, and employment.
  - (iv) **Rule of Law and Constitutional Framework:** Democracy operates within a constitutional framework which upholds rights, justice, and equality. Citizens can approach courts and institutions if their rights are violated.
  - (v) **Freedom of Expression and Media:** A democratic system ensures freedom of speech and an independent media, allowing people to criticise the government and raise demands, which makes the system more responsive and transparent.
4. This statement reflects the mixed outcomes of democracy. While democracy has many strengths, it also faces several challenges in delivering effective governance.

**Strengths of Democratic Governments:**

  - (i) **Ensures Political Equality:** Democracy is based on the principle of "one person, one vote", ensuring equal political rights and



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participation for all citizens, regardless of their background.

- (ii) **Promotes Accountability and Transparency:** Democratic governments are accountable to the people. Citizens can question leaders, protest peacefully, and vote them out if they fail to perform.
- (iii) **Upholds Individual Freedom and Dignity:** Democracies respect fundamental rights such as freedom of speech, religion, and expression, allowing people to live with dignity and self-respect.

#### **Limitations of Democratic Governments:**

- (i) **Slow and Deliberate Decision-Making:** Democracy relies on debate, discussion, and consensus, which often results in delays in decision-making and slower implementation of policies.
- (ii) **Fails to Eliminate Economic Inequality:** While political equality is ensured, many democracies fail to address economic and social inequalities. The rich may influence policies, and the poor may continue to suffer due to lack of access to quality services.



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