

NCERT Solutions Class 10 SST Political Science

Chapter 3 Democracy and Diversity

1. Discuss three factors that determine the outcomes of politics of social divisions.

Answer. The following factors influence the outcomes of social divisions politics:

- (i) It is dependent on how political leaders raise any community's demands.
- (ii) It is determined by how people perceive their own identities.
- (iii) It is dependent on how the government responds to the demands of various groups.

2. When does a social difference become a social division?

Answer: Social divisions are regular patterns of division in society that are associated with membership in specific social groupings, generally in terms of benefits and drawbacks, inequalities, and differences. Family experiences shape and are shaped by systemic social divisions such as generation, gender, sexuality, race/ethnicity, and social class.

A social difference is a difference between people because of their race, religion, language, or culture. When some social differences are joined by another set of social differences, it becomes a social division. In other words, when two or more social differences combine, they form a social division.

For example, in America, the difference between blacks and whites is due to their different races, which is a social difference. When the income factor is included, it becomes a social division. Blacks are more likely to be poor and homeless, whereas whites are more likely to be wealthy and educated. This divides people, making them feel as if they belong to different communities.

3. How do social divisions affect politics? Give two examples.

Answer. A lethal combination of social divisions and politics is possible. Several political parties compete for votes in a democracy. Because competition has a tendency to divide society, if they begin competing on the basis of pre-existing social divisions, those divisions may be transformed into political divisions, resulting in conflict, violence, and even country dissolution.

Example 1: The disintegration of Yugoslavia into six autonomous countries. In Yugoslavia, political parties refused to compromise with one another. Each ethno-religious group desired to rule over the other. Politics and societal conflicts don't always result in bad things, though. The political expression of social differences allows marginalized and disadvantaged social groups to air their grievances and ask the government to address them.

Example 2: Religious divisions in Northern Ireland led to ethnopolitical conflict. The country is dominated by two Christian sects: 53% Protestants and 44% Catholics. Catholics wanted Northern Ireland to join the Republic of Ireland, while Protestants wanted to stay with the United Kingdom. This resulted in years of violence, with thousands of people killed. Only in 1998 did the UK government and the Nationalists sign a peace treaty that ended all violence.

4. _____ social differences create possibilities of deep social divisions and tensions. _____ social differences do not usually lead to conflicts.

Answer.

Overlapping social differences create possibilities of deep social divisions and tensions. Cross-cutting social differences do not usually lead to conflicts.

5. In dealing with social divisions which one of the following statements is NOT correct about democracy?

- A. Due to political competition in a democracy, social divisions get reflected in politics.
- B. In a democracy, it is possible for communities to voice their grievances in a peaceful manner.
- C. Democracy is the best way to accommodate social diversity.
- D. Democracy always leads to the disintegration of society on the basis of social divisions.

Answer.

D. Democracy always leads to the disintegration of society on the basis of social divisions.

6. Consider the following three statements.

Social divisions take place when social differences overlap.

It is possible that a person can have multiple identities.

Social divisions exist in only big countries like India.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

- 1. A, B and C
- 2. A and B
- 3. B and C
- 4. Only C

Answer. 2) A and B

7. Arrange the following statements in a logical sequence and select the right answers by using the code given below.

- A. But all political expression of social divisions need not be always dangerous.
- B. Social divisions of one kind or the other exist in most countries.
- C. Parties try to win political support by appealing to social divisions.

D. Some social differences may result in social divisions.

- a) D, B, C, A
- b) D, B, A, C
- c) D, A, C, B
- d) A, B, C, D

Answer. (a) D, B, C, A

8. Among the following, which country suffered disintegration due to political fights on the basis of religious and ethnic identities?

- a. Belgium
- b. India
- c. Yugoslavia
- d. Netherlands

Answer. (c) Yugoslavia

9. Read the following passage from a famous speech by Martin Luther King Jr. in 1963. Which social division is he talking about? What are his aspirations and anxieties? Do you see a relationship between this speech and the incident in Mexico Olympics mentioned in this chapter?

“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character. Let freedom ring. And when this happens, and when we allow freedom ring—when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God’s children—black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics—will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: ‘Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!’ I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.’”

Answer: A reference is made to the prevalent racial discrimination that existed in the United States of America. Martin Luther King Jr. is pointing to the racist practices of white people toward black people. It is the cause of the social division between the two communities, he said. and desires for his country to be one where everyone is treated equally regardless of ethnicity or color. He wished for mutual respect and an end to color-based prejudice among the various communities.

The incident at the Mexico Olympics and his speech does have something in common in that they both take a position against the situation of African Americans.

