

- The existence of social diversity does not threaten democracy. Political expression of social differences is possible and sometimes, quite desirable in a democratic system. In India, there are three kinds of social differences that can take the form of social divisions and inequalities. These are social differences based on gender, religion and caste.

Gender and Politics

- Gender division is a form of hierarchical social division seen everywhere, but is rarely recognised in the study of politics.
- The gender division tends to be understood as natural and unchangeable. However, it is not based on Biology but on social expectations and stereotypes.
- Boys and girls are brought up to believe that the main responsibility of women is housework and bringing up children. This is reflected in a sexual division of labour in most families.
- Women do all sorts of household work and men do all the work outside the home. It is not that men cannot do housework, when these jobs are paid for, men are ready to take up these works.
- Similarly, it is not that women do not work outside their home. They work in offices and factories. In fact, the majority of women do some sort of paid work, in addition to domestic work. But their work is not valued and does not get recognition.
- Gradually, the gender issue was raised in politics. Women in different parts of the world organised and agitated for equal rights, voting rights, enhancing their political and legal status, improving their educational and career opportunities.
- More radical women's movements aimed at equality in personal and family life as well. These movements are called feminist movements.
- Ours is still a male dominated, patriarchal society. Women face disadvantage, discrimination and oppression in various ways. The literacy rate among women is only 54 percent compared with 76 percent among men.
- Similarly, a smaller proportion of girl students go for higher studies because parents prefer to spend their resources for their boys' education, rather than spending equally on their sons and daughters.
- The proportion of women among the highly paid and valued jobs is still very small. The Equal Wages Act provides that equal wages should be paid to equal work. However, women are paid less than men, even when both do exactly the same work.
- In many parts of India, people prefer to have sons and find ways to have the girl child aborted before she is born. Such sex-selective abortion lead to a decline in the child sex-ratio.

According to the Census of 2001, in India the sex-ratio is 927 on an average.

- There are reports of various kinds of harassment, exploitation and violence against women. Urban areas have particularly become unsafe for women. They are not safe from beating, harassment and other forms of domestic violence even in their homes.

Women's Political Representation

- In India, the proportion of women in legislature has been very low, the percentage of elected women members in Lok-Sabha has never reached even 10 percent of its total strength. Their share in the state assemblies is less than 5 percent.
- One way to solve this problem is to make it legally binding to have a fair proportion of women in the elected bodies. Panchayati Raj is successful in this case. One-third of seats in local government bodies – in Panchayats and Municipalities – are now reserved for women.
- Women's organisations and activists have been demanding a similar reservation of at least one-third of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies for women. A bill with this proposal is pending before the Parliament and has not been passed.

Religion, Communalism and Politics

- The division based on religious difference is not as universal as gender, but religious diversity is fairly widespread in the world today. Many countries, including India, have in their population, followers of different religions, which are often expressed in the field of politics.
- Gandhiji used to say that religion can never be separated from politics as he believed that politics must be guided by ethics drawn from religion.
- Most of the victims of communal riots in our country are people from religious minorities, who have demanded that the government take special steps to protect them.
- Women's movement have demanded that the government should change the family laws to make them more equitable.
- All these instances involve a relationship between religion and politics.
- People should be able to express in politics their needs, interests and demands as a member of a religious community.
- Those who hold political power should sometimes be able to regulate the practice of religion so as to prevent discrimination and oppression. These political acts are not wrong as long as they treat every religion equally.

Communalism

- The problem begins when religion is seen as the basis of the nation, expressed in politics in exclusive and partisan terms, when one religion and its followers are pitted against another.

- This happens when beliefs of one religion are presented as superior to those of other religions, when the demands of one religious group are formed in opposition to another and when state power is used to establish domination of one religious group over the rest.
- This manner of using religion in politics is communal politics, which is based on the idea that religion is the principal basis of social community.
- Communalism can take various forms in politics and in everyday beliefs. These routinely involve religious prejudices, stereotypes of religious communities and belief in the superiority of one's religion over the other religions.
- A communal mind often leads to a quest for political dominance of one's own religious community.
- Political mobilisation on religious lines is another frequent form of communalism. This involves the use of sacred symbols, religious leaders emotional appeal and plain fear in order to bring the followers of one religion together in the political arena.
- Its most ugly form is communal violence, riots and massacre. India and Pakistan suffered some of the worst communal riots at the time of the partition.
- Political parties and candidates in elections make appeal to caste sentiment to muster support.
- Universal Adult Franchise and the principal of 'one person one vote', compelled political leaders to gear up to the task of mobilising and securing political support.
- No parliamentary constituency in the country has a clear majority of one single caste. So, every candidate and party needs to win the confidence of more than one caste and community to win elections.
- No party wins the votes of all the voters of a caste or community. When people say that a caste is a "vote bank" of one party, it usually means that a large proportion of the voters from the caste vote for that party.
- Many political parties may put up candidates from the same caste. Some voters have more than one candidate from their caste.
- The ruling party and the sitting M.P. or M.L.A. frequently lose elections in our country, which could not have happened, if all castes and communities were frozen in their political preferences.
- People's assessment of the performance of the government and the popularity rating of the leaders matter and are often decisive in elections.

Secular State

- Communalism was and continues to be one of the major challenges to democracy in our country. This is why the makers of our constitution chose the model of a secular state.
- There is no official religion of the Indian state; our constitution does not give a special status to any religion.
- The constitution provides to all individuals and communities freedom to profess, practice and propagate any religion, or not to follow any.
- The constitution prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion but at the same time allows the state to intervene in the matter of religion, in order to ensure equality within religious communities.
- Secularism is not just an ideology of some parties or persons. It constitutes one of the foundations of our country. This is why communalism needs to be combated.
- A secular constitution like ours, is necessary but not sufficient to combat communalism. Communal prejudices and propaganda need to be countered in everyday life and religion based mobilisation needs to be countered in the arena of politics.

Caste and Politics

- Casteism is rooted in the belief that caste is the sole basis of social community. People belonging to the same caste belong to a natural social community and have the same interest, which they do not share with anyone from another caste.
- Caste can take various forms in politics. When parties choose candidates in elections, they keep in mind the caste composition of the electorate and nominate candidates from different castes so as to muster necessary support to win elections.
- When governments are formed, political parties usually take care that representatives of different castes and tribes find a place in it.

Politics And Caste

- Politics too influences the caste system and caste identities by bringing them into the political arena. Thus, it is not politics that gets caste ridden, it is the caste that gets politicised. This takes several forms—
- Each caste group tries to become bigger by incorporating neighbouring castes or sub-castes within it, which were earlier excluded from it.
- Various caste groups are required to enter into a coalition with other castes or communities and thus, enter into a dialogue and negotiation.
- New kinds of caste groups have come up in the political arena like 'backward' and 'forward' caste groups. In some cases, many disadvantaged communities have got the space to demand their share of power. In this sense, caste politics has helped people from Dalits and OBC castes to gain better access to decision making.

Key Points of Remember

- (a) Sexual division of labour – A system in which all work inside the home is either done by the women of the family, or organised by them through the domestic helpers.
- (b) Feminist – A woman or a man who believes in equal rights and opportunities for women and men.
- (c) Patriarchy – Literally, rule by father. This concept is used to refer to a system that values men more and gives them power over women.
- (d) Family Laws – The laws that deal with family related matters such as marriage, divorce, adoption, inheritance etc. In India, different family laws apply to followers of different religion.
- (e) Urbanisation – Shift of population from rural areas to urban areas.
- (f) Occupational mobility – Shift from one occupation to another, usually when a new generation takes up occupations other than those practised by their ancestors.
- (g) Caste hierarchy – A ladder like formation in which all the caste groups are placed from the 'highest' to the 'lowest' castes.

Exercise

1

DIRECTIONS : This section contains multiple choice questions. Each question has 4 choices (1), (2), (3) and (4) out of which only one is correct. Choose the correct option.

1. In India, seats are reserved for women in _____.
(1) Panchayati Raj bodies
(2) Lok Sabha
(3) Cabinets
(4) State Legislative Assemblies.
2. According to 2001 census, child sex ratio in India is _____.
(1) 850 (2) 800
(3) 925 (4) 927
3. Women's organisation and activists have demanded a reservation of at least _____ of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies for women.
(1) One fourth (2) One third
(3) One fifth (4) One sixth
4. Which of these works are taken up by men when they are paid?
(1) Fetch water (2) Washing clothes
(3) Cleaning utensils (4) Cook in a hotel
5. Which of these occupations were not considered suitable for women in earlier days?
(1) domestic helper (2) scientists
(3) tailoring (4) cooking
6. According to 2001 census, literacy rate among women in India is _____ percent.
(1) 56 (2) 58
(3) 52 (4) 54
7. Which of these countries does not come under the Scandinavian countries?
(1) Denmark (2) Norway
(3) Sweden (4) Finland
8. Among which of these countries is the participation of women in the public life the lowest.
(1) South Asia (2) Latin America
(3) Africa (4) Scandinavia
9. In which of these regions of the world is the percentage of women in national parliament the highest?
(1) Pacific (2) Europe
(3) Nordic countries (4) Arab States
10. Which of these countries is a secular state?
(1) Sri Lanka (2) Nepal
(3) Pakistan (4) India
11. In which of these countries was communalism not the cause of violence in the past?
(1) India and Pakistan (2) France and Germany
(3) China and Tibet (4) Israel and Palestine
12. When we speak of gender division, we usually refer to
(1) Unequal child sex ratio
(2) Biological difference between men and women
(3) Absence of voting rights for women in democracies
(4) Unequal roles assigned by the society to men and women
13. Social divisions based on _____ are peculiar in India.
(1) gender (2) race
(3) caste (4) religion
14. Which among the following statements about India's constitution is wrong?
(1) It provides to all individuals freedom to profess any religion.
(2) It ensures equality of citizens within religious communities.
(3) It gives official status to one religion.
(4) It prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion.
15. Which of these matters does not come under the family laws?
(1) Taxation (2) Marriage
(3) Divorce (4) Inheritance
16. Which of these reasons is not the cause for occupational mobility?
(1) Large scale urbanisation
(2) Economic development
(3) Growth of literacy and education
(4) Attraction to city life
17. Who did not work to eradicate caste inequalities?
(1) Gandhiji (2) Vallabhbhai Patel
(3) B. R. Ambedkar (4) Jyotiba Phule
18. Status of Buddhism has been adopted by _____.
(1) Nepal (2) Pakistan
(3) India (4) Sri Lanka
19. According to 2001 census, the percentage of Christians in India was
(1) 1.9 (2) 0.8
(3) 5.2 (4) 2.3
20. A communal mind often leads to a quest for _____ dominance of one's own religious community.
(1) social (2) economical
(3) religious (4) political
21. Women's movement has argued that _____ laws of all religions discriminate against women.
(1) legal (2) social
(3) family (4) gender
22. _____ used to say that religion can never be separated from politics
(1) B. R. Ambedkar (2) Nehruji
(3) Jyotiba Phule (4) Gandhiji
23. Communalism involves the use of sacred _____.
(1) books (2) theories
(3) flags (4) symbols
24. The scheduled castes, commonly known as _____, include those that were previously regarded as outcasts in Hindu society.
(1) Dalits (2) Harijans
(3) Adivasis (4) Atheists
25. In some situations, expression of _____ differences in politics gives many disadvantaged communities, the space to demand their share of power.
(1) gender (2) religious
(3) communal (4) caste

Exercise

2

Matching Based MCQ

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 1 to 5) : Match Column-I with Column-II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the columns.

1. **Column I** **Column II**
- A. Parents prefer to spend their resources for their boy's education rather than spending on their girls. (p) Secular state
- B. The ruling party and the sitting M.P. or M.L.A. frequently lose elections in our country. (q) Politics in caste
- C. The Constitution of India does not give a special status to any religion (r) Gender discrimination
- D. "Backward" and "Forward" caste groups have come up in the political arena. (s) Caste in politics
- (1) $A \rightarrow (p); B \rightarrow (q); C \rightarrow (r); D \rightarrow (s)$
 (2) $A \rightarrow (q); B \rightarrow (s); C \rightarrow (p); D \rightarrow (r)$
 (3) $A \rightarrow (r); B \rightarrow (s); C \rightarrow (p); D \rightarrow (q)$
 (4) $A \rightarrow (s); B \rightarrow (r); C \rightarrow (q); D \rightarrow (p)$

2. **Column I** **Column II**
- A. A person who thinks that caste is the principal basis of community (p) Feminist
- B. A person who does not discriminate others on the basis of religious beliefs. (q) Communalist
- C. A person who says that religion is the principal basis of community (r) Secularist
- D. A person who believes in equal rights and opportunities for women and men (s) Castiest
- (1) $A \rightarrow (s); B \rightarrow (r); C \rightarrow (q); D \rightarrow (p)$
 (2) $A \rightarrow (r); B \rightarrow (s); C \rightarrow (p); D \rightarrow (q)$
 (3) $A \rightarrow (q); B \rightarrow (p); C \rightarrow (r); D \rightarrow (s)$
 (4) $A \rightarrow (r); B \rightarrow (q); C \rightarrow (s); D \rightarrow (p)$

3. **Column I** **Column II**
- A. Literacy rate among women (p) One-third
- B. Male-female ratio (q) 76%
- C. Seats reserved for women in Panchayat (r) 54%
- D. Literacy rate among men (s) 92%

- (1) $A \rightarrow (p); B \rightarrow (q); C \rightarrow (r); D \rightarrow (s)$
 (2) $A \rightarrow (r); B \rightarrow (s); C \rightarrow (p); D \rightarrow (q)$
 (3) $A \rightarrow (r); B \rightarrow (q); C \rightarrow (p); D \rightarrow (s)$
 (4) $A \rightarrow (q); B \rightarrow (s); C \rightarrow (p); D \rightarrow (r)$
4. **Column I** **Column II**
- A. Equal status to Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians (p) Communalism
- B. Use of sacred symbols, religious leaders, emotional appeal etc. (q) Secularism
- C. The concept of "vote-bank" in elections (r) Gender division
- D. Duty of women to do domestic chores (s) Casteism
- (1) $A \rightarrow (r); B \rightarrow (s); C \rightarrow (p); D \rightarrow (q)$
 (2) $A \rightarrow (s); B \rightarrow (r); C \rightarrow (q); D \rightarrow (p)$
 (3) $A \rightarrow (p); B \rightarrow (q); C \rightarrow (r); D \rightarrow (s)$
 (4) $A \rightarrow (q); B \rightarrow (p); C \rightarrow (s); D \rightarrow (r)$
5. **Column-I** **Column-II**
- A. Shift of population from rural to urban areas (p) Patriarchy
- B. Caste groups are placed from the 'highest' to the 'lowest' (q) Family laws
- C. Laws that deal with marriage, divorce, adoption, inheritance etc. (r) Caste hierarchy
- D. Values men more and gives them power over women (s) Urbanisation
- (1) $A \rightarrow (r); B \rightarrow (s); C \rightarrow (q); D \rightarrow (p)$
 (2) $A \rightarrow (s); B \rightarrow (r); C \rightarrow (p); D \rightarrow (q)$
 (3) $A \rightarrow (q); B \rightarrow (p); C \rightarrow (r); D \rightarrow (s)$
 (4) $A \rightarrow (s); B \rightarrow (r); C \rightarrow (q); D \rightarrow (p)$

Passage Based MCQ

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 6 to 13) : Read the passage(s) given below and answer the questions that follow.

PASSAGE - 1

The result of the sexual division of labour is that although women constitute half of the humanity, their role in public life, especially politics, is minimal in most of the societies. Earlier, only men were allowed to participate in public affairs, vote and contest for public offices. Gradually, the gender issue was raised in politics. Women in different parts of the world, organised and agitated for equal rights; extension of voting rights to women; enhancing the political and legal status of women and improving their educational career opportunities. More radical women's movements aimed at equality in personal and family life as well. These movements are called Feminist movements.

6. In which of the following spheres, only women were allowed in earlier days.
 - (1) vote (2) teach
 - (3) cook (4) drive
7. Which of the following works were not done by women in villages?
 - (1) fetch water (2) teach children
 - (3) collect fuel (4) work in fields
8. Which of these never contributed to improve women's role in public life?
 - (1) Feminist movement
 - (2) Patriarchal movement
 - (3) Radical women's movement
 - (4) Political gender mobilisation

PASSAGE - 2

Communal politics is based on the idea that religion is the principal basis of social community. Communalism involves thinking along the following lines. The followers of a particular religion must belong to one community. Their fundamental interests are the same. Any difference that they may have is irrelevant or trivial for community life. It also follows that people who follow different religions cannot belong to the same social community. If the followers of different religion have some commonalities, these are superficial and immaterial. Their interests are bound to be different and involve a conflict. In its extreme form, communalism leads to the belief that people belonging to different religions cannot live as equal citizens within one nation. Either one of them has to dominate the rest or they have to form different nations.

9. Communal politics is based on the idea that _____ is the principal basis of social community.
 - (1) gender (2) caste
 - (3) religion (4) community
10. If the followers of different religion have some commonalities, these are superficial and _____.
 - (1) hypothetical (2) theoretical
 - (3) genuine (4) immaterial
11. Which of the following thinking does not involve communalism?
 - (1) Commonalities between the followers of different religion.
 - (2) Followers of a particular religion must belong to one community.
 - (3) Fundamental interests should be same.
 - (4) Any difference is irrelevant for community life.
12. Which of the following is not a common expression of communalism in everyday beliefs?
 - (1) Religious prejudices
 - (2) Caste distinctions
 - (3) Stereotypes of religious communities
 - (4) Belief in the superiority of one's religion over other religion.
13. Which of these conflicts were based on communalism?
 - (1) Between U.S.A. and Iraq
 - (2) Between China and Japan
 - (3) Between India and Pakistan
 - (4) Between France and Germany

Assertion Reason Based MCQ

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 14 to 23) : Following questions consist of two statements, one labelled as the '**Assertion**' and the other as '**Reason**'. You are to examine these two statements carefully and select the answer to these items using the code given below.

Code :

- (1) Both A and R are individually true and R is the correct explanation of A .
- (2) Both A and R are individually true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (3) A is true but R is false
- (4) A is false but R is true.

14. **Assertion :** Gandhiji used to say that religion can never be separated from politics.
Reason : What he meant by religion was not any particular religion but moral values that inform all religions.
15. **Assertion :** Political parties and candidates in elections make appeal to caste sentiments to muster support.
Reason : The focus on caste in politics can sometimes give an impression that elections are all about caste and nothing else.
16. **Assertion :** The literacy rate among women is only 58% compared to 72% among men.
Reason : The Equal Wages Act provides that equal wages should be paid for equal work.
17. **Assertion :** In most families, women do all household works.
Reason : Men cannot do the household works so they are done by women.
18. **Assertion :** Communal politics is based on the idea that religion is the principal basis of social community.
Reason : Political mobilisation on religious lines is another frequent form of communalism.
19. **Assertion :** No parliamentary constituency in the country has a clear majority of one single caste.
Reason : So every candidate and party needs to win the confidence of more than one caste and community to win elections.
20. **Assertion :** The percentage of elected women members in Lok Sabha has never reached even 5 percent of its total strength.
Reason : In the government, cabinets are largely all male, even when a woman becomes the Chief Minister or Prime Minister.
21. **Assertion :** Women's movement has argued that family laws of all religions discriminate against women.
Reason : So they have demanded that the government should change these laws to make them more equitable.
22. **Assertion :** India and Pakistan suffered some of the worst communal riots at the time of partition.
Reason : The neighbouring countries of India, such as Sri Lanka, Nepal and Pakistan have also opted for secularism.
23. **Assertion :** According to 2001 census, the sex-ratio is 927.
Reason : There are reports of various kinds of harassment, exploitation and violence against women.

Correct Definition Based MCQ

24. Which of the following is the correct definition of 'secular state'?
- A state created on the basis of communal ethics in order to upgrade the religious sentiments.
 - A state where a particular official religion is chosen to give it a special status.
 - A state where ideology of a particular political party is adopted for all.
 - A state with no official religion and freedom to profess, practice or propagate any religion.
25. Which of the following is the correct definition of 'Urbanisation'?
- Development of infrastructure in the urban areas.
 - Plantation of new factories and industries in urban areas.
 - Shift of population from rural to urban areas.
 - Shift of population from urban to rural areas.

Feature Based MCQ

26. On the basis of the following features, identify the correct option:
- Riots between India and Pakistan at the time of partition.
 - Use of sacred symbols.
 - Religious propaganda by the leader.
 - Political dominance of one's own religious community.
- Casteism
 - Secularism
 - Feminism
 - Communalism
27. On the basis of the following features, identify the correct option:
- In all areas of work, women are paid less, even when both do exactly the same work.
 - Parents prefer to have sons and abort the girl child.
 - Girls do not have access to higher education.
 - Women are unsafe even in their homes.
- Feminism
 - Communalism
 - Gender discrimination
 - Secularism
28. On the basis of the following features, identify the correct option:
- Candidates in elections make appeals to caste sentiments to muster support.
 - Political parties favour some castes and are seen as their representatives.
 - Preference to the representatives of a particular caste in the government.
 - Caste composition of the electorate is needed to win support
- Communalism
 - Casteism
 - Secularism
 - Feminism

Statement Based MCQ

29. With reference to a secular state, consider the following statements:
- The constitution of India prohibits discrimination on the grounds of religion.
 - The constitution provides to all individuals and communities freedom to profess, practise and propagate any religion.
- Which of these statement(s) is/are correct?
- (a) only
 - (b) only
 - Both (a) and (b)
 - Neither (a) nor (b)

30. Consider the following statements:
- A bill regarding the reservation of at least one-third of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies for women was passed in 2010.
 - Parents prefer to have sons and have the girl child aborted. This has led to a decline in child sex-ratio.
 - New kinds of caste groups are always suppressed in the political arena.
 - Caste politics has helped people from Dalit and OBC castes to gain better access to decision making.
- Which of these statement(s) is/are correct?
- (a), (b) and (c)
 - (a) and (b)
 - (b) and (d)
 - (a) and (c)
31. Consider the following statements on the basis of communalism. Communal politics is based on the belief that—
- Followers of a particular religion constitute one community.
 - State power cannot be used to establish the domination of one religious group over others.
 - One religion is superior to that of the others.
 - People belonging to different religions can live together happily as equal citizens.
- Which of these statement(s) is/are correct?
- (a), (b) and (c)
 - (b) and (d)
 - (a) and (c)
 - (a) and (d)
32. With reference to the sexual division of labour, consider the following statements:
- Women should not work outside their home because those works are only meant for men.
 - Earlier, only men were allowed to participate in public affairs, vote and contest elections.
- Which of these statements is/are correct.
- (a) only
 - (b) only
 - Both (a) and (b)
 - Neither (a) nor (b)
33. Consider the following statements:
- The Equal Wages Act provides that equal wages should be paid for equal work to both men and women.
 - The literacy rate among women is only 52 percent as compared to 78 percent among men.
- Which of these statement(s) is/are correct?
- (a) only
 - (b) only
 - Both (a) and (b)
 - Neither (a) nor (b)
34. Consider the following statements:
- Family laws of all religions discriminate against women.
 - Most of the victims of communal riots in our country are people from religious minorities.
 - Gandhiji used to say that religion can never be separated from politics.
 - Communal politics is based on the idea that caste is the principal basis of social community.
- Which of these statement(s) is/are correct?
- (a), (b) and (c)
 - (a) and (b)
 - (b) and (d)
 - (a) and (c)
35. Consider the following statements:
- A communal mind of ten leads to take revenge from the majority community.
 - Democratic state was the outcome of communalism.
- Which of these statement(s) is/are correct?
- (a) only
 - (b) only
 - Both (a) and (b)
 - Neither (a) nor (b)

Hints

SOLUTIONS

Exercise 1

1. (1) One third of seats are reserved for women in Panchayats and Local bodies.
2. (4) 3. (2) 4. (4)
5. (2) Women were not allowed to educate themselves.
6. (4)
7. (1) Scandinavian is the name of a peninsula around the Arctic region which consists of Finland, Sweden and Norway.
8. (1) 9. (3)
10. (4) The Constitution does not give a special status to any religion. There is no official religion.
11. (2) The First World War was fought between France and Germany in 1913 due to economic reasons.
12. (4) 13. (3)
14. (3) There is no official religion in India. All the individuals and communities have freedom to profess, practice and propagate any religion.
15. (1) 16. (4)
17. (2) He worked for the integration of princely states in India after independence.
18. (4) 19. (4) 20. (4) 21. (3)
22. (4) 23. (4) 24. (1) 25. (4)

Exercise 2

1. (3) 2. (1) 3. (2) 4. (4)
5. (4) 6. (3)
7. (2) In those days, women were illiterate.
8. (2) It is a male oriented group.
9. (3) 10. (4) 11. (1) 12. (2)

13. (3) India and Pakistan have suffered some of the worst communal riots at the time of partition which has continued till date in some other form.
14. (1) Gandhiji believed that politics must be guided by ethics drawn from religion.
15. (2) Some political parties are known to favour some castes and are seen as their representatives.
16. (4) Literacy rate among women is only 54% as compared to 70% among men.
17. (3) Men can do the household work when they are paid as cook in a hotel, tailor or washerman.
18. (2) Communalism leads to the belief that people belonging to different religions cannot live as equal citizens within one nation.
19. (1)
20. (4) The percentage of elected women members in the Lok Sabha has never reached even 10 percent of its total strength.
21. (1)
22. (3) None of the neighbouring countries of India have opted for secularism.
23. (2) It is because parents prefer to have sons and have the girl child aborted before she is born.
24. (4) 25. (3) 26. (4) 27. (3)
28. (2) 29. (3)
30. (3) A bill regarding the reservation of women is still pending in the Parliament to be passed. New kinds of caste groups are always encouraged in the political arena.
31. (3) 32. (3) 33. (1) 34. (1)
35. (4) A communal mind often leads to a quest for political dominance of one's own religious community. Democratic state has evolved to eradicate communalism to some extent.