

4

Elements of a Government

Lesson Plan

Contents

- ▶ An overview of what elements exist in a democratic government
- ▶ Understanding the responsibilities of citizens in electing a good government

Objectives

- ▶ To understand what the elements are that we should expect in a democratic form of government
- ▶ To learn about the significance of those elements in the country's government
- ▶ To know about the awareness we should have regarding the elements of democratic government
- ▶ To appreciate the importance of each of the elements

■ Teacher's Aids

- ▶ Pictures
- ▶ Blackboard
- ▶ Internet

■ Tips for Teacher

- ▶ Explain the need for understanding how government functions and the elements of democracy.
- ▶ Explain the significance of each of the items as you read aloud the text.
- ▶ Encourage projects: Have two groups asking each other questions about the elements of democracy.

■ Background and Reading

- ▶ Read the lesson aloud and explain, sharing the aids, etc., stopping to examine and explain the data in the pictures and maps.
- ▶ Particularly focus on the process of election—for the Lok Sabha and for the State level Assemblies.

Participation of People

- ▶ Essential for democratic working of government
- ▶ Right to elect and re-elect representatives
- ▶ Direct election of representatives to Lok Sabha
- ▶ Constituencies: several candidates in each—one who gets most votes is elected
- ▶ Party winning majority seats forms government
- ▶ If no absolute majority—form coalition of parties
- ▶ Minority—opposition
- ▶ Freedom of people to express opinions and views about government policies—media, rallies, strikes, protests [destruction of property and violence is not acceptable]
- ▶ Discrimination—examine its true nature and then respond—often perceptions can lead to violence

Constitution of India

- ▶ Laws and rules made to solve conflicts and differences
- ▶ Example—Kaveri River dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka—settled after Centre intervened to arrange fair distribution of water

Key Elements of Democracy

- ▶ People: Awareness of rights and duties
- ▶ Voters: Select wise and capable leaders
- ▶ Sound public opinion—to form and implement policies
- ▶ Prevent—intolerant groups from destroying public freedom and equality
- ▶ Citizens—disciplines and respecting decisions of the majority
- ▶ Political parties—disciplined and well organised
- ▶ Social and economic equality—without reference to caste, gender, religion

Equal Justice

- ▶ Solve disputes amicably by law
- ▶ Ban practices that constitute social evil
- ▶ Equal rights to women
- ▶ Example of apartheid in South Africa - discrimination based on race and skin colour

Assessment Corner

Oral Assignment

- Ask for answers at random from the students. Confirm right answers.
The students can write down the answers if they like.

Written Assignment

- B–D. The teacher has two options—(i) Either do these exercises orally first and then ask the students to write them down. OR (ii) Ask students to write the answers on their own. Then teacher can announce the correct answers and ask partners to cross check them.

In either case, the answers can be written as homework and teacher can check in class.

Think Tank

- G. **HOTS questions:** Discuss the questions in class and let students write the answers to E and F as homework. Teacher should assess individual work.