

ST. ANDREWS SCOTS SCHOOL

Adjacent Navniti Apartments, I.P. Extension, Patparganj Delhi-110092

CLASS: VII

SUB: SOCIAL SCIENCE

TOPIC: CIVICS

CH-9

2026-27

UNDERSTANDING GOVERNMENTS

A. Tick(☐) the correct option.

1. Which part of the government is responsible for making laws? **Legislature**
2. In India, what is the legislature called? **Parliament**
3. What is a government where a king or queen passes power down through their family? **Monarchy**
4. The Mahabharata taught that a king must prioritize his people's welfare. This is an example which type of government? **Monarchy**
5. A government where religious laws and leaders rule the country is called a **Theocracy**.
6. What is the main purpose of e-governance? **To use technology for more efficient service delivery and transparency**
7. The right of every adult citizen to vote is called: **Universal Adult Franchise**

B. Fill in the blanks:

1. The three main functions of government are legislative, executive, and **Judiciary**.
2. The division of government into three parts is called the **separation of powers**.
3. In a democracy, the **citizens** are the true source of power.
4. The right of every adult citizen to vote is called **Universal Adult Franchise**.
5. One example of an absolute monarchy is **Saudi Arabia/France**.
6. The President and Prime Minister are part of the **executive** branch of the government.

7. **Oligarchy** is a government where a small, powerful group makes all the important decisions.

C. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements:

1. The primary purpose of a government is to ensure the safety of its citizens. **True**
2. The President and Prime Minister are part of the judiciary. **False**
3. In a direct democracy, all citizens directly make all the rules and decisions. **True**
4. India gave women the right to vote much later, after countries like Switzerland and the UK. **False**
5. In a parliamentary democracy, the executive and legislature are separate. **False**
6. The judiciary settles disagreements between people or groups. **True**
7. The Rajataranginī by Kalhaṇa provides examples of kings who respected the rights of ordinary citizens. **True**

D. Answer the following questions in brief:

1. What is a government?

A government is a group of people or a system that runs a country, state or city.

2. What are the three main functions of a government?

The three main functions of a government are Legislature, Executive and Judiciary.

3. What is the difference between a parliamentary and a presidential democracy?

Parliamentary Democracy - In this system, the leaders who run the country (the executive) are also the part of the group that makes laws, (the legislature). India is a parliamentary democracy.

Presidential Democracy - In this system, the leader (the executive) is elected directly by the people and works separately from the group that makes laws (the legislature). An example is the United States of America.

4. Name two ancient Indian examples of early republics.

Two ancient Indian examples of early republics are Vajji (Vrijji) & Lichchhavi.

5. What are two challenges that modern democracies face?

Two challenges that modern democracies face are Corruption & Wealth disparity.

6. What is the main difference between an absolute monarchy and a constitutional monarchy?

Absolute Monarchy

1. Absolute monarchy is a form of government where one person, typically a king or queen, holds absolute power.
2. The monarch is the highest and most powerful authority in the country.
3. The monarch has unlimited power and authority.
4. Example. Sultanate of Oman, the State of Qatar, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Constitutional Monarchy

1. Constitutional monarchy is a form of government in which a country is ruled by a monarch whose power is limited by a constitution.
2. The monarch is a purely ceremonial ruler or a de facto head of state.
3. The monarch shares the power with the parliament or another legislative body.
4. Example: the United Kingdom, Japan, Canada, Sweden, Belgium, Cambodia, the Netherlands, and Thailand.

7. What does universal adult franchise mean?

Universal adult franchise means the right of every adult citizen (above a certain age) to vote.

E. Answer the following questions in detail:

1. Describe the core ideas of a democracy. How do concepts like equality, freedom, and universal adult franchise contribute to the idea of 'rule of the people'?

The core ideas of democracy are :

- Equality - Every person should be treated equally and have equal chances for education and healthcare. Everyone is equal before the law.
- Freedom - Citizens have the right to make their own choices and share their thoughts.
- Fundamental Rights - People in a democracy have important basic rights, the right to equality, the right to freedom of speech, and the right against exploitation. These rights are protected.
- Representative participation - Everyone has the right to choose their leaders through elections. These elected leaders then become part of the group that makes laws.
- Independent judiciary - There is a separate system of courts and judges that works independently. This helps make sure everyone's fundamental rights are protected and that all parts of the government also follow the laws.

- Universal adult franchise: This is a big one. It means every adult citizen (above a certain age) has the right to vote.

2. Discuss the different types of democracy. Explain how a direct democracy is different from a representative democracy and give examples of each.

Direct Democracy

In this type, all citizens participate in making the rules and decisions.

Representative Democracy

This is the most common type today. Here people elect their representatives through voting (universal adult franchise). The people do not govern directly, but the government is always accountable (answerable) to the people who elected them.

3. Compare and contrast a monarchy and a dictatorship. How are the ways they hold power similar and different? Use examples from the chapter to illustrate your points.

Monarchy - A government ruled by a monarch i.e. a king or a queen. This power is usually hereditary meaning it passes down within the royal family often from parent to child.

Dictatorship - A government where one person or a small group hold all the power and there are no limits on them from a constitution or laws. In such a system power is usually gained through force or control rather than elections.

4. What is a theocracy? Explain how this form of government gets its power and how it works, using the example of Iran.

A Theocracy is a government where the country is ruled according to religious laws and religious leaders hold the highest authority. In a theocracy, the law of the state are closely linked to the teachings of a particular religion and religious leaders often guide political decisions. For example - Iran

Iran - Known as the Islamic Republic of Iran, it combines religious rules with some democratic element. The supreme leader chosen by a council of religious scholars.

6. Explain the concept of separation of powers. Describe the roles of the three main branches of government and why this separation is important.

Separation of Powers is the division of government into three main parts: the legislature, executive, and judiciary, each with a specific role.

1. Legislature : The part of the government that makes laws. In India, this is the Parliament.
2. Executive : The part of the government responsible for carrying out and enforcing laws. The President and Prime Minister are part of this.
3. Judiciary : The system of courts and judges that ensures everyone follows the laws. The Supreme Court is the highest part of this.