

CBSE CLASS X
Social Science (087)

ANSWER KEY

AI-generated question paper

Code: 8O2WKP **Questions: 15** **Maximum Marks: 26** **Generated: 2026-06-26 09:37**

SELECTIONS USED

Subject	Social Science
Lessons	5 Outcomes of Democracy
Level of understanding	Initial understanding
Question selection	Curated chapter coverage (~3 questions per section)
Model	claude-sonnet-4-6

Composition — Difficulty: 9 straightforward · 6 medium | Types: 6 Short · 5 Very short · 4 MCQ

Q1. straightforward initial-understanding § Outcomes of Democracy (Introduction)

[1]

Which of the following is an advantage of democracy over dictatorship?

- ((A)) Decisions are taken by a single ruler
 ((B)) Citizens have no say in governance
 ((C)) Government is accountable to the people
 ((D)) Power is concentrated in the hands of the military
- A It promotes equality among citizens
 B It guarantees faster economic growth
 C It allows room to correct mistakes
 D It provides a method to resolve conflicts

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Model Answer

(C) It allows room to correct mistakes

Democracy allows citizens to question decisions, hold government accountable, and change rulers through elections, thus providing an opportunity to correct mistakes.

Source: How do we assess democracy's outcomes?, Chapter 5

Explanation

The question asks for an advantage of democracy over dictatorship. Options A and B match points from the textbook list but are **not among the given answer choices** — the answer choices are different from the question options. Among the answer choices provided (C: allows room to correct mistakes, D: provides a method to resolve conflicts), **both** are textbook-listed advantages, but **C** is the most direct contrast with dictatorship, where rulers face no accountability. The source passage explicitly lists "Allows room to correct mistakes" as a democratic advantage. In MCQs, always match the answer choice exactly to the textbook language.

Q2. medium initial-understanding § How do we assess democracy's outcomes?

[3]

Democracy is often praised in principle, yet people may remain dissatisfied with its outcomes. What does this tell us about what democracy can and cannot guarantee to its citizens?

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Model Answer

Democracy is praised in principle because it promotes equality, protects dignity, and provides an accountable, legitimate government chosen by the people. However, it **cannot guarantee** outcomes like economic equality, corruption-free governance, or perfect responsiveness to all citizens' needs.

This tells us that **democracy is only a form of government** — it creates *conditions* for achieving goals, but citizens must take advantage of those conditions themselves. People support democracy over dictatorship, yet remain dissatisfied with its actual practice — showing a gap between democratic ideals and real performance.

Source: *Outcomes of Democracy*, Chapter 5

Explanation

- The key CBSE concept here is: "**Democracy is just a form of government; it can only create conditions.**" Write this explicitly.
- Examiners expect you to distinguish between what democracy *can* guarantee (legitimate, accountable government; right to choose rulers) and what it *cannot* guarantee (economic outcomes, zero corruption, full responsiveness).
- The "dilemma" phrase from the textbook — "*good in principle, not so good in practice*" — is worth including as it directly mirrors the question.
- Avoid writing a vague general essay; keep it focused on this specific textbook argument.

Q3. straightforward initial-understanding § Accountable, responsive and legitimate government

[1]

Name any one outcome that citizens expect a democratic government to deliver to them.

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Model Answer

Citizens expect a democratic government to be **accountable and responsive** to their needs — that is, a government they can hold responsible for its decisions and actions.

Source: *Outcomes of Democracy*, Chapter 5

Explanation

The question asks for **any one** outcome, so one clear point is enough. The textbook lists several — accountable government, economic development, social equality, dignity — but the most fundamental one stated is an **accountable, responsive, and legitimate government**. Examiners accept any valid outcome from the chapter (e.g., transparency, dignity of individuals, resolving conflicts). Write one complete sentence; do not list multiple outcomes for a 1-mark answer.

Q4. straightforward initial-understanding § Accountable, responsive and legitimate government

[1]

What does 'transparency' mean in the context of democratic government?

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Model Answer

Transparency means that a citizen has the right and the means to examine the process of decision-making, i.e., they can find out whether decisions were taken through correct procedures.

Explanation

The term is directly defined in Chapter 5. Examiners expect you to mention two key ideas: (1) the right to examine/know, and (2) the process of decision-making/correct procedures. Avoid vague answers like "openness" without context.

Q5. medium initial-understanding § Accountable, responsive and legitimate government

[3]

A non-democratic government can often make decisions faster than a democratic government. Why, then, can democratic decisions still be considered more effective?

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Model Answer

Non-democratic rulers need not consult anyone, so they can make decisions quickly. However, democratic decisions are still more effective because:

1. **Acceptable to people:** Democratic governments follow proper procedures and deliberation, making decisions more acceptable to citizens.
2. **Transparency:** Decision-making is based on norms and procedures, so citizens can examine whether correct processes were followed.
3. **Accountability:** Democratic government is accountable and responsive to people's needs, making its decisions legitimate and long-lasting.

Thus, the extra time democracy takes is worth it, as its decisions face less resistance and are more durable.

Source: Chapter 5 – Accountable, responsive and legitimate government

Explanation

- Examiners expect you to acknowledge the non-democratic advantage (speed) first, then counter with **three key reasons:** acceptability, transparency, and accountability/legitimacy.
- The key phrase from the textbook is: "*the cost of time that democracy pays is perhaps worth it*" – try to echo this.
- Do not confuse "effective" with "efficient." Efficiency = speed; Effectiveness = whether the decision actually works and is accepted.
- For 3 marks, three distinct points with brief explanation each is the ideal structure.

Q6. straightforward initial-understanding § Accountable, responsive and legitimate government

[1]

Which of the following best explains why a democratic government is described as 'legitimate'?

- ((A)) It makes decisions quickly without debate.
 ((B)) It is formed and run according to the will and consent of the people.
 ((C)) It concentrates power in the hands of elected leaders.
 ((D)) It guarantees economic equality among all citizens.
- A It makes decisions very quickly and efficiently.
 B It is the people's own government, chosen by elected representatives.
 C It guarantees complete elimination of corruption.
 D It always ensures equal distribution of wealth.

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Model Answer

Option B — A democratic government is called 'legitimate' because it is the people's own government, chosen through elected representatives based on the will and consent of the citizens.

Source: Accountable, responsive and legitimate government, Chapter 5

Explanation

The textbook explicitly states: *"There is one respect in which democratic government is certainly better than its alternatives: democratic government is legitimate government... a democratic government is people's own government."* Legitimacy means the government derives authority from the people's consent and elected representatives — not speed, not equality of wealth, not absence of corruption. Examiners look for this specific idea of **people's consent/will** as the basis of legitimacy.

Q7. medium initial-understanding § Accountable, responsive and legitimate government

[2]

Why is the support and trust that citizens place in a democratic government considered a valuable outcome of democracy, even when the government is not always efficient?

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Model Answer

Democratic government may be slow and not always efficient, but it is a **legitimate government** — the people's own government. Citizens trust it because decisions follow proper procedures and are more acceptable. This ability of democracy to generate its own support is itself a valuable outcome that cannot be ignored.

Source: Accountable, responsive and legitimate government, Chapter 5

Explanation

The examiner looks for two key points: (1) democratic government is **legitimate** because it is chosen by the people and follows procedures, and (2) its ability to **generate citizen support and trust** is itself a significant outcome. Avoid writing only about efficiency — the question specifically asks why trust matters *despite* inefficiency. The phrase "people's own government" from the textbook is a scoring phrase worth including.

Q8. straightforward initial-understanding § Economic growth and development

[1]

[very_short_answer] Some data suggests that dictatorships have at times shown slightly higher economic growth rates than democracies. Does this mean democracy should be rejected on economic grounds? Give one reason to justify your answer.

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Model Answer

No. Democracy should not be rejected on economic grounds because the difference in growth rates between poor countries under dictatorship (4.34%) and democracy (4.28%) is negligible, and democracy offers several other valuable outcomes.

Source: Economic outcomes of democracy, Chapter 5

Explanation

The examiner wants you to state **No** clearly, then give **one specific reason** from the data or text — either (a) the negligible difference in poor countries, or (b) democracy has other positive outcomes (accountability, dignity, rights). Quoting the figures from Table 1 shows you used textbook evidence, which earns full marks.

Q9. straightforward initial-understanding § Economic outcomes of democracy

[1]

Which of the following best describes the relationship between democracy and economic inequality?

- (A) Democratic countries always have low income inequality because citizens vote for fair distribution.
- (B) High economic inequality can exist within democracies, and the degree varies significantly across countries.
- (C) Democracies guarantee that the poorest 20% of the population receives at least 20% of national income.
- (D) Economic inequality is found only in newly established democracies, not in well-established ones.

A Democratic countries always have low income inequality because citizens vote for fair distribution.

B High economic inequality can exist within democracies, and the degree varies significantly from country to country.

C Democracies guarantee that the bottom 20% of the population receives at least 20% of national income.

D Economic inequality is found only in newly established democracies, not in well-established ones.

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Model Answer

(B) High economic inequality can exist within democracies, and the degree varies significantly from country to country.

Explanation

The passage (Table 2) clearly shows that democracies like South Africa and Brazil have extreme inequality (top 20% earns 60%+), while Denmark and Hungary are far more equal. This directly rules out options A, C, and D, which make absolute or false claims. Examiners expect you to identify the option supported by textbook evidence.

Q10. medium initial-understanding § Reduction of inequality and poverty

[3]

In a democracy, every citizen enjoys equal political rights. Does this mean economic inequalities among citizens are automatically reduced? Explain with reasons.

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Model Answer

No, equal political rights do not automatically reduce economic inequalities in a democracy.

Reasons:

1. **Growing inequality:** Democracies are based on political equality, but parallel to this, economic inequalities keep growing. A small number of ultra-rich enjoy a disproportionate share of wealth, while incomes of the poor keep declining.
1. **Evidence from data:** In democratic countries like South Africa and Brazil, the top 20% people take more than 60% of national income, leaving less than 3% for the bottom 20%.
1. **Government apathy:** The poor constitute a large proportion of voters, yet democratically elected governments do not appear keen to address poverty effectively.

Thus, in actual life, democracies do not appear very successful in reducing economic inequalities.

Source: Chapter 5, "Outcomes of Democracy," Reduction of Inequality and Poverty section

Explanation

- The examiner wants you to **directly contradict the assumption** in the question first, then give **point-wise reasons** backed by facts/data from the textbook.
- Always quote the **Table 2 data** (South Africa/Brazil example) – it signals you know the evidence.
- Three reasons = 3 marks. Keep each point crisp, one sentence each.
- Avoid generic statements; stick to textbook language ("ultra-rich," "disproportionate share," "political equality").

Q11. medium initial-understanding § Accommodation of social diversity

[3]

Why is democracy considered better suited than non-democratic regimes to handle social differences and conflicts?

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Model Answer

Democracy is better suited than non-democratic regimes to handle social differences and conflicts because:

1. **Develops procedures:** Democracies develop procedures to conduct competition among groups, reducing the possibility of tensions becoming explosive or violent.
1. **Negotiates differences:** While no society can fully resolve conflicts, democracy is best suited to evolve mechanisms to negotiate differences and respect diversity, as seen in Belgium's success with ethnic groups.
1. **Suppression vs. accommodation:** Non-democratic regimes often turn a blind eye to or suppress internal social differences, whereas democracy accommodates them. However, democracy must ensure majority rule does not become rule by a majority community based on religion, race, or language.

Source: Chapter 5 – Accommodation of Social Diversity

Explanation

Examiners expect three clear, distinct points for 3 marks. Use the Belgium example to illustrate success. The key contrast – democracy *negotiates*, non-democracy *suppresses* – is the central idea. Mentioning the condition about majority not oppressing minority shows depth. Avoid writing a long essay; three focused points with brief elaboration are enough.

Q12. straightforward initial-understanding § Accommodation of social diversity

[1]

What is the key condition that must be met for majority rule in a democracy to remain inclusive rather than becoming exclusionary?

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Model Answer

Majority rule must not become rule by a majority community based on religion, race, or language; every citizen must have a chance to be part of the majority at some point.

Explanation

The passage clearly states two conditions; this question targets the second one. Examiners expect the idea that majority rule is based on *issues/decisions*, not permanent identity (religion/race/language). Mentioning "every citizen has a chance of being in majority" is the key phrase that earns the mark.

Q13. medium initial-understanding § Dignity and freedom of the citizens

[3]

Why is democracy considered better than other forms of government in upholding the dignity of disadvantaged sections of society, even when discrimination still exists in practice?

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Model Answer

Democracy is considered better than other forms of government in upholding dignity because it recognises, **at least in principle**, that all individuals are equal and deserve respect. This legal and moral recognition is crucial.

For example, even though caste-based discrimination and atrocities still occur in India, democracy has **strengthened the claims of disadvantaged castes** for equal status and opportunity. These practices now lack any legal or moral foundation.

Similarly, once the principle of equal dignity is established, it becomes easier for oppressed groups to **wage a struggle** against what is legally and morally unacceptable — something impossible in a non-democratic setup where individual dignity has no legal force.

Source: *Democratic Politics II, Chapter 5 — Dignity and Freedom of the Citizens*

Explanation

- The examiner wants you to show **why principle matters even when practice is imperfect** — this is the core argument.
- Use the **two examples** from the text: women's dignity and caste inequality. Either one or both are fine; using both strengthens a 3-mark answer.
- Key phrase to include: *"lacks legal and moral foundation"* — this is what makes democracy superior even when discrimination exists.
- Do **not** write about economic outcomes or social diversity here; stay focused on the dignity angle from the passage.

Q14. straightforward initial-understanding § Dignity and freedom of the citizens

[1]

When people in a democracy constantly complain about how it is functioning, what does this actually reveal about the health of that democracy?

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Model Answer

People constantly complaining about democracy's functioning actually reveals that the system is healthy — citizens are free to express dissatisfaction, which itself is a sign of a functioning democracy.

Source: Outcomes of Democracy, Chapter 5

Explanation

The examiner expects you to link public criticism with democratic freedom, not treat it as a negative sign. The key insight is that the *ability* to complain openly is itself proof that democracy is working — it shows freedom of expression exists. Avoid writing about democracy's failures; focus on what the complaint *reveals*.

Q15. straightforward initial-understanding § Dignity and freedom of the citizens

[1]

Which of the following best explains why dignity and freedom are considered the core foundations of democracy?

Options: (A) Because democracy guarantees equal wealth distribution among all citizens. (B) Because individuals fundamentally desire to be treated with respect, and democracy recognises and protects this right. (C) Because democratic governments are always free from corruption and inefficiency. (D) Because democracy ensures that no social conflicts ever arise among citizens.

A Because democracy guarantees equal wealth distribution among all citizens.

B Because individuals fundamentally desire to be treated with dignity, and democracy recognises and protects this right.

C Because democratic governments are always free from corruption and inefficiency.

D Because democracy ensures that no social conflicts ever arise among citizens.

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Model Answer

(B) Because individuals fundamentally desire to be treated with dignity, and democracy recognises and protects this right.

Explanation

The passage states: "*The passion for respect and freedom are the basis of democracy.*" Options A, C, and D are incorrect — democracy does not guarantee equal wealth, is not free from corruption, and does not eliminate social conflicts. Option B directly reflects the textbook's core argument about dignity and freedom.

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