

CBSE CLASS X
Social Science (087)

ANSWER KEY

AI-generated question paper

Code: P7EBCZ

Questions: 34

Maximum Marks: 74

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SELECTIONS USED

Subject	Social Science
Lessons	5 Outcomes of Democracy
Level of understanding	Exam-ready
Question selection	CBSE board paper, whole lesson (~80 marks across Sections A-E)
Model	claude-sonnet-4-6

Composition — Difficulty: 11 straightforward · 14 medium · 9 deep | Types: 11 MCQ · 7 Short · 5 Assertion–reason · 5 Very short · 3 Long · 3 Case-based | Sections: A 16Q/16m · B 5Q/10m · C 7Q/21m · D 3Q/15m · E 3Q/12m

Q1. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

Which of the following is the most basic expected outcome of a democratic government?

Options:

- (A) Rapid economic growth
 - (B) A government accountable to citizens and responsive to their needs
 - (C) Elimination of all social conflicts
 - (D) Equal distribution of national income
- A Rapid economic growth
B A government accountable to citizens and responsive to their needs
C Elimination of all social conflicts
D Equal distribution of national income

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Model Answer**(B) A government accountable to citizens and responsive to their needs****Explanation**

The textbook explicitly states: *"the most basic outcome of democracy should be that it produces a government that is accountable to the citizens, and responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens."* Options A, C, and D are outcomes democracy does **not** guarantee — the chapter notes democracies don't always achieve higher economic growth, cannot eliminate all social conflicts, and often fail to reduce income inequality.

Q2. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

What is the term used for a government's feature that allows citizens to find out whether decisions were taken through correct procedures?

Options:

- (A) Responsiveness
- (B) Legitimacy
- (C) Transparency
- (D) Accountability

- A Responsiveness
- B Legitimacy
- C Transparency
- D Accountability

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Model Answer

(C) Transparency

A government's feature that allows citizens to find out if decisions were taken through correct procedures is called **transparency**.

Explanation

The textbook (Chapter 5, "Accountable, responsive and legitimate government") explicitly states: *"a citizen who wants to know if a decision was taken through the correct procedures can find this out... This is known as transparency."* Examiners expect you to recall this exact term. Do not confuse it with accountability (being answerable for actions) or responsiveness (attending to citizens' needs).

Q3. straightforward exam-ready**[1]**

In which of the following ways is a democratic government considered superior to a non-democratic one, even if it is slow or less efficient?

Options:

- (A) It guarantees economic equality
 - (B) It is a legitimate government — people's own government
 - (C) It ensures zero corruption
 - (D) It resolves all social conflicts permanently
- A It guarantees economic equality
B It is a legitimate government — people's own government
C It ensures zero corruption
D It resolves all social conflicts permanently

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Model Answer

(B) It is a legitimate government — people's own government

Explanation

The passage explicitly states: "There is one respect in which democratic government is certainly better than its alternatives: democratic government is **legitimate government**. It may be slow, less efficient... But a democratic government is **people's own government**." Options A, C, and D are directly contradicted by the passage, which says democracy does not guarantee economic equality, is not free of corruption, and does not resolve all social conflicts permanently.

Q4. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

Democracies are based on political equality. Which of the following best describes what this means in practice?

Options:

- (A) All citizens earn the same income
 - (B) Every individual has equal weight in electing representatives
 - (C) All castes and religions are merged into one
 - (D) The government distributes wealth equally among all
- A All citizens earn the same income
B Every individual has equal weight in electing representatives
C All castes and religions are merged into one
D The government distributes wealth equally among all

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Model Answer**(B) Every individual has equal weight in electing representatives.****Explanation**

The passage directly states: "Democracies are based on political equality. All individuals have equal weight in electing representatives." This is a direct-recall MCQ — the answer is lifted verbatim from the source. Options A, C, and D relate to economic equality or social uniformity, which are not what political equality means.

Q5. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

Which one of the following conditions is essential for democracy to successfully accommodate social diversity?

Options:

- (A) The majority community must always hold power
 - (B) Minority groups must accept the majority's decisions without question
 - (C) The majority must work with the minority so government represents the general view
 - (D) Social differences must be suppressed for national unity
- A The majority community must always hold power
B Minority groups must accept the majority's decisions without question
C The majority must work with the minority so government represents the general view
D Social differences must be suppressed for national unity

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Model Answer**(C) The majority must work with the minority so government represents the general view.**

Source: Accommodation of social diversity, Chapter 5

Explanation

The passage explicitly states that "the majority always needs to work with the minority so that governments function to represent the general view" as a necessary condition for democracy to accommodate social diversity. Options A, B, and D contradict democratic principles — they describe majoritarian rule or suppression of diversity, which the text warns against using the Sri Lanka example.

Q6. medium exam-ready

[1]

Which of the following is NOT among the reasons why democracy is considered a better form of government compared to alternatives?

Options:

- (A) It promotes equality among citizens
 - (B) It guarantees a higher rate of economic growth than dictatorship
 - (C) It enhances the dignity of the individual
 - (D) It allows room to correct mistakes
- A It promotes equality among citizens
B It guarantees a higher rate of economic growth than dictatorship
C It enhances the dignity of the individual
D It allows room to correct mistakes

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Model Answer

(B) It guarantees a higher rate of economic growth than dictatorship

As per the textbook, democracy is considered better because it promotes equality, enhances dignity, and allows room to correct mistakes — but economic growth is **not** guaranteed to be higher under democracy than dictatorship.

Source: *Outcomes of Democracy*, Chapter 5

Explanation

The passage explicitly states that dictatorial regimes have had a **slightly better** average rate of economic growth (4.42% vs 3.95%), so democracy does **not** guarantee higher economic growth. The other three options (equality, dignity, room to correct mistakes) are directly listed as reasons democracy is preferred. Examiners expect you to recall this key contrast — democracy's strength lies in its moral/political outcomes, not guaranteed economic superiority.

Q7. medium exam-ready

[1]

When citizens express dissatisfaction with how democracy is functioning, this should be seen as:

Options:

- (A) A sign of democracy's failure
- (B) Proof that people want dictatorship
- (C) Evidence of the success of the democratic project — citizens have developed awareness and critical thinking
- (D) A reason to restrict freedom of speech

A A sign of democracy's failure

B Proof that people want dictatorship

C Evidence of the success of the democratic project — citizens have developed awareness and critical thinking

D A reason to restrict freedom of speech

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Model Answer

(C) Evidence of the success of the democratic project — citizens have developed awareness and critical thinking.

Explanation

The textbook (Ch. 5) states that democracy creates conditions for citizens to become aware and critically evaluate governance. Dissatisfaction reflects engaged, thinking citizens — a democratic achievement — not a failure or desire for authoritarianism.

Q8. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

Why does democratic decision-making take more time compared to decision-making in a non-democratic regime?

Options:

- (A) Democratic leaders are less educated
- (B) Democracy involves deliberation, negotiation and following procedures
- (C) Citizens in democracies are uncooperative
- (D) Democratic governments lack administrative machinery

- A Democratic leaders are less educated
- B Democracy involves deliberation, negotiation and following procedures
- C Citizens in democracies are uncooperative
- D Democratic governments lack administrative machinery

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Model Answer

(B) Democracy involves deliberation, negotiation and following procedures.

Democratic governments must consult, debate and follow set procedures before taking decisions, unlike non-democratic rulers who can act quickly without such checks.

Source: Accountable, responsive and legitimate government, Chapter 5

Explanation

The passage directly states: "Democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation. So, some delay is bound to take place." Non-democratic rulers need not worry about assemblies, majorities or public opinion, making them faster. Option B captures this exactly. The other options are not supported anywhere in the text.

Q9. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

Which of the following best describes how democracy changes the relationship between an individual and the state?

Options:

- (A) It makes every individual a voter with limited rights
- (B) It transforms individuals from passive subjects to active citizens with rights and agency
- (C) It converts individuals into taxpayers who fund public services
- (D) It makes every individual a potential political leader

- A Voter
- B Taxpayer
- C Citizen
- D Politician

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Model Answer

(C) It transforms individuals from passive subjects to active citizens with rights and agency

Democracy distributes power among citizens, promotes equality, enhances individual dignity, and gives everyone a voice in shaping public policies.

Source: Outcomes of Democracy, Chapter 5; Forms of Power-Sharing, Chapter 1

Explanation

The key idea is that democracy promotes equality, dignity, and citizen participation — turning people from passive subjects into active citizens. Options A, C, and D describe only partial or incidental roles (voter, taxpayer, politician), not the fundamental transformation democracy brings. Examiners look for the word "**citizens**" and the idea of **rights + agency**. Always link your MCQ choice to a core democratic principle from the chapter.

Q10. medium exam-ready

[1]

Which of the following correctly describes a situation where 'rule by majority' becomes dangerous for democracy?

Options:

- (A) When the majority changes from election to election
 - (B) When majority rule becomes the permanent rule of a majority religious, racial or linguistic community
 - (C) When the majority supports economic reforms
 - (D) When minority parties contest elections
- A When the majority changes from election to election
B When majority rule becomes the permanent rule of a majority religious, racial or linguistic community
C When the majority supports economic reforms
D When minority parties contest elections

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Model Answer

(B) When majority rule becomes the permanent rule of a majority religious, racial or linguistic community.

This is dangerous because it prevents minorities from ever being in the majority, turning democracy into exclusion rather than representation.

Explanation

The source passage explicitly states: "Rule by majority does not become rule by majority community in terms of religion or race or linguistic group" — if someone is permanently barred from being in the majority based on birth, democratic rule ceases to be accommodative. Options A, C, and D do not threaten democracy.

Q11. medium exam-ready

[1]

Democracy is described as 'just a form of government' in the context of outcomes. What does this imply?

Options:

- (A) Democracy is inferior to other forms of government
 - (B) Democracy can only create conditions; citizens must use those conditions to achieve goals
 - (C) Democracy does not affect the economic or social life of citizens
 - (D) A democratic government is solely responsible for all development
- A Democracy is inferior to other forms of government
B Democracy can only create conditions; citizens must use those conditions to achieve goals
C Democracy does not affect the economic or social life of citizens
D A democratic government is solely responsible for all development

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Model Answer

(B) Democracy can only create conditions; citizens must use those conditions to achieve goals.

This implies democracy is "just a form of government" — it creates conditions for achieving goals, but citizens must take advantage of those conditions themselves.

Source: *Outcomes of Democracy, Chapter 5*

Explanation

The passage explicitly states: "*democracy is just a form of government. It can only create conditions for achieving something. The citizens have to take advantage of those conditions and achieve those goals.*" Option B directly reflects this. Options A, C, and D are either contradicted by the text or distort its meaning. Examiners expect you to identify the option that matches the textbook language most closely.

Q12. medium exam-ready

[1]

Assertion (A): Democratic governments are considered legitimate even when they are slow and less efficient.

Reason (R): In a democracy, government is chosen by the people themselves through free and fair elections.

- A Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C A is true but R is false.
- D A is false but R is true.

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Model Answer**Option A: Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.**

Democratic governments are legitimate because they are chosen by the people through free and fair elections. This people's mandate makes them acceptable even if slow and less efficient.

Explanation

The textbook states: "*democratic government is legitimate government. It may be slow, less efficient... But a democratic government is people's own government.*" The reason (free and fair elections = people's choice) directly explains why democracy is considered legitimate despite inefficiency — making A the correct option.

Q13. medium exam-ready

[1]

Assertion (A): Democracy is not a guarantee of economic development.

Reason (R): Factors such as country size, population, natural resources, global economic conditions, and government policies contribute to economic growth, making the type of political regime just one of several variables.

- A Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C A is true but R is false.
- D A is false but R is true.

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Model Answer**Option A: Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.**

Democracy is not a guarantee of economic development (A is true), because growth depends on multiple factors like country size, population, global conditions, and policies — not just the type of regime (R correctly explains A).

Explanation

The textbook states: "economic development depends on several factors: country's population size, global situation, cooperation from other countries, economic priorities adopted by the country, etc." and concludes "we cannot say that democracy is a guarantee of economic development." The Reason directly explains *why* the Assertion is true, so Option A is correct. Students must check whether R *explains* A, not just whether both are true independently.

Q14. medium exam-ready

[1]

Assertion (A): Democracies have not been very successful in reducing economic inequalities between citizens.

Reason (R): In democracies, the ultra-rich enjoy a disproportionately high share of wealth, and the share of the poor in national income has been declining.

- A Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C A is true but R is false.
- D A is false but R is true.

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Model Answer

Option A is correct. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A. In democracies, the ultra-rich enjoy a disproportionately high share of wealth, and the incomes of the poor have been declining, which explains why democracies have not been successful in reducing economic inequalities.

Source: *Democratic Politics II, Chapter 5 — Outcomes of Democracy*

Explanation

- The passage explicitly states that "democracies do not appear to be very successful in reducing economic inequalities" (A is true).
- It also states that "a small number of ultra-rich enjoy a highly disproportionate share of wealth" and the incomes of those at the bottom "have been declining" (R is true).
- R directly explains **why** A is true — the disproportionate wealth of the rich and declining income of the poor is the very reason democracies fail to reduce inequality.
- So both statements are true and R correctly explains A → **Option A**.

Q15. deep exam-ready

[1]

Assertion (A): Non-democratic governments are better at handling internal social differences and conflicts than democracies.

Reason (R): Non-democratic regimes often suppress or turn a blind eye to internal social differences rather than resolving them.

- A Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C A is false but R is true.
- D Both A and R are false.

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Model Answer

Answer: C — A is false but R is true.

Assertion A is false because democracies, not non-democratic governments, are better at handling social differences. Reason R is true — non-democratic regimes often suppress or ignore internal differences rather than resolving them.

Source: *Outcomes of Democracy, Chapter 5*

Explanation

- **Why A is false:** The textbook explicitly states "Ability to handle social differences, divisions and conflicts is thus a definite plus point of democratic regimes." So the assertion reverses this fact.
- **Why R is true:** The textbook directly says "Non-democratic regimes often turn a blind eye to or suppress internal social differences" — this is word-for-word from the passage.
- **Examiner tip:** In Assertion-Reason questions, evaluate each statement independently first, then check if R explains A. Here A is wrong, R is correct → Option C.

Q16. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

Assertion (A): The passion for respect and freedom forms the basis of democracy.

Reason (R): Democracy promotes the dignity of the individual and recognises that every person deserves equal respect.

- A Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C A is true but R is false.
- D A is false but R is true.

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Model Answer**Option A** — Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

The passion for respect and freedom are the basis of democracy, and democracy promotes dignity and equal respect for every individual, which directly explains why these values form democracy's foundation.

Source: *Dignity and freedom of the citizens, Chapter 5*

Explanation

The textbook explicitly states: "*The passion for respect and freedom are the basis of democracy. Democracies throughout the world have recognised this...*" and also that democracy "*enhances the dignity of the individual.*" So both statements are true, and R directly explains A — making Option A correct. Examiners expect you to identify this direct cause-effect link between the two statements.

Q17. straightforward exam-ready

[2]

How does transparency in a democratic government empower ordinary citizens in their relationship with those in power?

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Model Answer

Transparency in a democratic government means citizens have **the right to examine how decisions are made** and whether correct procedures were followed. This empowers ordinary citizens by giving them the means to hold the government accountable. It shifts power toward the people, enabling them to question, scrutinize, and check those in power — a feature largely absent in non-democratic regimes.

Source: *Outcomes of Democracy, 'Accountable, Responsive and Legitimate Government' — Chapter 5*

Explanation

- The key term here is **transparency**, defined in the passage as a citizen's right and means to examine the decision-making process.
- Examiners expect you to link transparency → accountability → citizen empowerment. Don't just define transparency; explain *how* it changes the citizen-government relationship.
- Avoid writing about elections or other outcomes — stay focused on the specific concept asked.
- Two marks = two distinct points: (1) what transparency means, and (2) how it empowers citizens. Cover both concisely.

Q18. medium exam-ready

[2]

Although non-democratic governments can make decisions quickly, why might their decisions be less effective in the long run compared to decisions made by democratic governments?

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Model Answer

Non-democratic governments can make quick decisions without deliberation, but these decisions may **not be accepted by the people**, causing problems in implementation. In contrast, democratic governments follow proper procedures and deliberation, making decisions **more acceptable and effective**. The time cost of democracy is worth it because its decisions have greater public acceptance and legitimacy.

Source: *Accountable, responsive and legitimate government, Chapter 5*

Explanation

- The key contrast examiners look for: **speed vs. acceptance/effectiveness**.
- Use the textbook's own logic: non-democratic = fast but may face resistance; democratic = slower but more acceptable and effective.
- Avoid writing a long essay — 2 marks = 2 key points clearly stated.
- Keywords to include: **deliberation, procedures, acceptable, effective, transparency**.

Q19. medium exam-ready

[2]

How has democracy in India strengthened the position of historically disadvantaged castes? Give one limitation that still exists.

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Model Answer

Democracy has strengthened historically disadvantaged castes in the following way: Universal adult franchise and the one-person-one-vote principle brought new political consciousness among lower castes. Caste politics has helped Dalits and OBC communities gain better access to decision-making and demand their share of power.

Limitation: Economic inequality based on caste still persists. The proportion of Dalits and Adivasis living below the poverty line remains disproportionately high compared to upper castes.

Source: *Chapter 3, "Caste in politics" and "Caste inequality today"*

Explanation

- For 2 marks, examiners expect **one clear positive point** (democracy/adult franchise empowering lower castes) and **one clear limitation** (economic inequality/poverty persisting among lower castes).
- Use textbook language: "one-person-one-vote," "Dalits and OBC," "access to decision-making."
- The limitation must be specific — avoid vague statements like "caste still exists." Point to economic disparity or continued untouchability as textbook evidence.
- Do not exceed this length; padding loses marks indirectly by reducing clarity.

Q20. straightforward exam-ready

[2]

State two conditions that a democracy must fulfil to successfully accommodate social diversity.

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Model Answer

Two conditions a democracy must fulfil to accommodate social diversity:

1. **Majority must work with minority:** Democracy is not simply rule by majority opinion. The majority must work with the minority so that governments represent the general view. Majority and minority opinions are not permanent.
1. **No rule by majority community:** Rule by majority should not become rule by a majority community based on religion, race, or language. Every citizen must have the chance of being in the majority at some point; no one should be barred on the basis of birth.

Source: Chapter 5, Accommodation of social diversity

Explanation

- This question is directly from the textbook passage on "Accommodation of social diversity" (Chapter 5), using the Sri Lanka example as a warning.
- Examiners expect **both points** clearly stated — each point is worth 1 mark.
- Avoid vague answers like "majority should be fair" — use the specific textbook language: "majority working with minority" and "rule by majority not becoming rule by majority community."
- The key distinction in Point 2 is birth-based exclusion — mention it for full marks.

Q21. deep exam-ready

[2]

Despite having political equality, why do democracies continue to witness growing economic inequalities?

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Model Answer

Despite political equality, democracies witness growing economic inequalities because a small number of ultra-rich enjoy a disproportionate share of wealth, and their share in national income keeps increasing. Those at the bottom have declining incomes and struggle to meet basic needs like food, clothing, and education. Democratic governments do not appear keen enough to address poverty effectively.

Source: Outcomes of Democracy, Chapter 5

Explanation

The examiner expects you to clearly separate **political equality** (everyone has equal vote) from **economic equality** (wealth distribution) — these are two different things. Key points to include: rising share of ultra-rich, declining income of the poor, and governments' failure to address poverty despite depending on poor voters. Avoid writing a lengthy explanation; two-three tight points are enough for 2 marks.

Q22. medium exam-ready

[3]

Explain why 'legitimacy' is considered the most definitive advantage of a democratic government over non-democratic alternatives.

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Model Answer

Legitimacy is considered the most definitive advantage of democratic government because a democratic government is **people's own government** — elected by the people themselves. People wish to be ruled by representatives they have chosen, which gives the government its moral authority to rule.

While democratic governments may be slow, less efficient, or sometimes corrupt, they are legitimate because they follow proper procedures and are accountable to citizens. Non-democratic governments lack this popular mandate.

Evidence from South Asia shows that around 94% of people agree with rule by elected leaders, reflecting overwhelming support for democracy even in countries currently without it. Democracy's ability to generate its own support is itself a significant outcome.

Source: Chapter 5 — Accountable, responsive and legitimate government

Explanation

- The key phrase examiners look for is "**legitimate government = people's own government.**"
- Mention that despite shortcomings (slow, inefficient, sometimes corrupt), democracy retains legitimacy — this shows analytical depth.
- The South Asia data (94% support) supports the point with evidence — CBSE examiners appreciate citing textbook data.
- Do **not** confuse legitimacy with efficiency or economic development; those are separate outcomes discussed in the chapter.
- The final line about democracy generating its own support is directly from the textbook and is a key examiner-expected point.

Q23. medium exam-ready

[3]

Examine the statement: 'Democracy is good in principle but felt to be not so good in practice.' Give THREE points to justify this observation.

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Model Answer

The statement reflects a common dilemma: democracy is valued in theory but often disappoints in practice. Three justifications are:

1. **Corruption and unresponsiveness:** Democratic governments often ignore majority demands and are riddled with corruption, making them less responsive than expected.
1. **Inefficiency in decision-making:** Democracy involves lengthy deliberation, debate, and negotiation, causing delays. This makes it appear less effective compared to non-democratic regimes.
1. **Failure to accommodate diversity fully:** While democracies aim to handle social differences, instances like Sri Lanka show that majority rule can suppress minorities, causing conflict rather than harmony.

Source: Chapter 5 – Outcomes of Democracy

Explanation

- The examiner expects **three distinct, labelled points** — one per mark.
- Draw directly from the chapter's discussion of democracy's **shortcomings in practice**: corruption, slow decision-making, and failure to fully accommodate diversity.
- Avoid writing only positives of democracy; the question specifically asks why practice falls short of principle.
- Key phrases to use: *transparent but not always responsive, deliberation causes delay, majority rule suppressing minorities.*

Q24. deep exam-ready

[3]

'Economic growth alone cannot determine whether democracy is preferable to dictatorship.' Justify this statement with reference to what democracy offers beyond economic outcomes.

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Model Answer

Economic growth alone cannot determine the preference for democracy over dictatorship because:

1. **Accountability & Transparency:** Democracy produces accountable governments where citizens can examine decision-making processes — a feature absent in dictatorships.
1. **Dignity & Equality:** Democracy promotes equality among citizens and enhances individual dignity.
1. **Legitimate Government:** Democratic government is people's own government, chosen by elected representatives, making it legitimate even if slower.
1. **Conflict Resolution:** Democracy provides mechanisms to resolve conflicts and allows room to correct mistakes.
1. **Citizen Participation:** Citizens can participate in decision-making that affects them.

Thus, democracy's value lies beyond economic growth — in its political and moral outcomes.

Source: Chapter 5 — Democratic Politics II, Outcomes of Democracy

Explanation

- Examiners expect **3 distinct points** beyond economic outcomes — each clearly stated.
- Key terms to use: **accountable, legitimate, transparent, dignity, equality.**
- Avoid spending marks on economic data; the question explicitly asks for **non-economic** outcomes.
- The phrase "people's own government" (legitimate government) is a direct textbook phrase — use it.

Q25. straightforward exam-ready

[3]

Explain any three features that a democratic government must demonstrate in order to be considered truly accountable and responsive to its citizens.

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Model Answer

A democratic government must demonstrate the following features to be truly accountable and responsive:

1. **Regular, free and fair elections** — Citizens must be able to choose and change their rulers through elections, ensuring government accountability.
1. **Transparency** — Citizens must have the right to examine whether decisions were taken through correct procedures. The government must follow established norms and procedures in decision-making.
1. **Open public debate and right to information** — Citizens should have access to information about the government's functioning and the right to participate in major decisions that affect them.

Source: Chapter 5 — *Accountable, responsive and legitimate government*

Explanation

- The examiner expects you to name and briefly explain **three distinct features** — one point per mark.
- All three features are directly from the passage: elections, transparency (following procedures/RTI), and open public debate/citizen participation.
- Avoid writing vague points like "government should be honest" — use the textbook's specific terms: *transparency, free and fair elections, right to information, open public debate*.
- Each point should be 1–2 lines only; do not elaborate beyond that for a 3-mark question.

Q26. medium exam-ready

[3]

How does democracy help reduce the possibility of social tensions becoming explosive or violent? What is one limitation of this outcome?

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Model Answer

Democracy reduces the possibility of social tensions becoming explosive or violent by developing **procedures to conduct competition** among groups. It accommodates social differences and evolves mechanisms to negotiate conflicts rather than suppress them. For example, Belgium successfully negotiated differences among ethnic populations through democratic means.

Limitation: However, democracy does not guarantee harmony. Simply ensuring that people do not harm each other is not true social harmony. As the textbook notes, "No society can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups." Democracy only reduces violence; deep-rooted tensions may still persist.

Source: *Outcomes of Democracy*, Chapter 5

Explanation

- The examiner expects two parts: (1) how democracy reduces tensions — focus on *procedures, accommodation, negotiation*; (2) one clear limitation — that it does not fully resolve conflicts or produce genuine harmony.
- Use the Belgium example briefly to show accommodation in practice.
- The quote about "not breaking each other's head" is a good anchor for the limitation — it signals that absence of violence ≠ true harmony.
- Avoid padding; 3 marks = ~3 clear points.

Q27. deep exam-ready

[3]

'The struggle for women's dignity illustrates both the strength and the ongoing challenge of democracy.' Explain this statement.

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Model Answer

Democracy promotes dignity and freedom of individuals, including women. Historically, most societies were male-dominated, and women faced subordination and unequal treatment.

Strength of Democracy: Long struggles by women have created sensitivity towards their equal treatment. Democracy provides a legal and moral basis to challenge discrimination. In a non-democratic setup, women's struggles would lack this legal foundation.

Ongoing Challenge: Despite the recognition of this principle, women are not always treated with respect in practice. The gap between principle and practice shows democracy is a continuous, unfinished process.

Thus, women's struggle for dignity reflects both democracy's strength (providing legal protection) and its ongoing challenge (ensuring actual equality).

Source: *Dignity and freedom of the citizens*, Chapter 5

Explanation

- The question is directly from Chapter 5 (Democratic Politics). The key idea is **principle vs. practice** — democracy gives women the legal/moral backing to fight inequality, but full equality is still not achieved.
- Examiners expect: (1) mention of historical male domination, (2) how democracy helps (legal/moral basis), and (3) the ongoing gap — showing the "challenge" aspect.
- Avoid writing a general essay on women's rights; stay focused on democracy's role.

Q28. deep exam-ready

[3]

How do people's ever-increasing expectations from democracy actually reflect its success rather than its failure? Explain with reference to the transformation democracy brings about in citizens.

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Model Answer

People's high expectations from democracy actually show its success because democracy transforms citizens — it promotes equality, enhances individual dignity, and gives people the right to question their government. When citizens start demanding accountability, transparency, and better governance, it means democracy has made them aware of their rights. This consciousness itself is democracy working. As the textbook notes, dissatisfaction reflects that citizens hold government to higher standards — something impossible under dictatorship, where people have no voice to raise expectations at all.

Source: *Outcomes of Democracy, Chapter 5*

Explanation

The examiner wants you to link **rising expectations** → **democratic transformation of citizens** → **proof of success**, not failure. Key points: democracy promotes equality and dignity, creates awareness, and enables citizens to question rulers. Avoid simply listing outcomes — connect them to the idea that *demanding more* is itself a democratic achievement. Do not write about economic development here; focus on citizen empowerment and consciousness.

Q29. deep exam-ready

[5]

'A democratic government may be slow and imperfect, but it remains the most preferred form of government across the world.' Examine this statement by discussing the outcomes of democracy in terms of accountability, responsiveness, and legitimacy.

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Model Answer**Democracy: Accountability, Responsiveness, and Legitimacy**

Democracy is considered the most preferred form of government for the following reasons:

1. **Accountability:** Democracy ensures that rulers are accountable to citizens. Regular, free and fair elections, open public debate, and citizens' right to information make the government answerable. Transparency in decision-making — the ability to examine procedures — is a key feature absent in non-democracies.
1. **Responsiveness:** Democratic government follows deliberation and negotiation before taking decisions. Though this causes some delay, decisions become more acceptable and effective. However, democracies often fall short in fully addressing people's demands and are not always free from corruption.
1. **Legitimacy:** This is where democracy clearly outperforms all alternatives. It is the people's own government, elected by them. As South Asian data shows, 94% of people support rule by elected representatives, reflecting overwhelming legitimacy across the region.

Thus, while democracy may be slow and imperfect, its legitimacy, transparency, and accountability make it the most preferred form of government worldwide.

Source: *Outcomes of Democracy, Chapter 5*

Explanation

- The examiner expects three clear outcomes — **accountability, responsiveness, legitimacy** — since the question directly names them. Structure your answer around these three.
- Always mention that **delay in democracy is worthwhile** because decisions are more acceptable (this counters the "slow and imperfect" part of the statement).
- The **South Asia data on legitimacy** is a strong factual point — include it briefly to show evidence-based reasoning.
- Avoid writing about economic growth or social diversity here; the question is specifically about these three outcomes only. Stay focused.

Q30. deep exam-ready

[5]

'Democracy stands superior to any other form of government in promoting the dignity and freedom of the individual.' Examine this statement with reference to caste inequalities, the status of women, and the overall transformation of citizens in a democracy.

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Model Answer**Democracy and Individual Dignity & Freedom:**

Democracy stands superior to other forms of government in promoting dignity and freedom because it recognises every individual as equal, regardless of caste, gender, or religion.

Caste Inequalities: Democracy has strengthened the claims of disadvantaged and discriminated castes for equal status and equal opportunity. Although caste-based atrocities still occur, they lack moral and legal foundations in a democracy.

Status of Women: Historically, most societies were male-dominated. Long struggles by women have created sensitivity toward equal treatment. In a democracy, unequal treatment is legally and morally unacceptable, making it easier for women to fight discrimination.

Transformation of Citizens: Democracy transforms people from *subjects* into *citizens*. People develop awareness, question power holders, and express dissatisfaction — which itself is a sign of democracy's success. Most citizens believe their vote matters.

Source: Chapter 5 — Dignity and Freedom of the Citizens

Explanation

- Examiners look for **three distinct aspects**: caste, women, and citizen transformation — each addressed separately.
- Use the textbook phrases: "*transforms people from the status of a subject into that of a citizen*" and "*lack moral and legal foundations*" — these fetch marks.
- Avoid padding; 5 marks = ~5 crisp points or 3 tight paragraphs.
- The phrase "*at least in principle*" is important — democracies recognise equality in principle even if practice is imperfect.

Q31. deep exam-ready

[5]

'While democracies may not guarantee economic development or eliminate inequality, there are still compelling reasons to prefer them over dictatorships.' Critically examine this statement with evidence from the outcomes of democratic regimes.

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Model Answer

The statement is largely valid. While democracies have limitations in economic performance, they are still preferable to dictatorships for several reasons:

Economic Growth: Table 1 shows that all dictatorial regimes had a slightly higher growth rate (4.42%) compared to democracies (3.95%). However, when comparing only poor countries, the difference is negligible (4.34% vs 4.28%). Thus, democracy does not guarantee faster growth, but it does not significantly lag either.

Inequality: Democracies do not effectively reduce inequality. In South Africa and Brazil, the top 20% earn over 60% of national income, leaving under 3% for the bottom 20%.

Why prefer democracy still?

- Promotes equality among citizens
- Enhances individual dignity
- Improves quality of decision-making
- Provides mechanisms to resolve conflicts peacefully
- Allows correction of mistakes
- Accommodates social diversity better than dictatorships

Therefore, democracy is preferred not just on economic grounds but for strong moral and prudential reasons.

Source: Chapter 5 — Democratic Politics II, Outcomes of Democracy

Explanation

Examiners expect you to critically examine — meaning acknowledge both strengths AND limitations. Don't simply praise democracy. Use the data from Table 1 and Table 2 as evidence (examiners reward specific figures). Then pivot to non-economic outcomes as the "compelling reasons." The five bullet points on why democracy is better (from the textbook's Madam Lyngdoh's class discussion) are key — memorise them.

Q32. medium exam-ready

[4]

Read the following scenario and answer the questions that follow:

In a country called Alveria, the government regularly holds elections, has an open public debate culture, and guarantees the right to information. However, citizens frequently complain that the government is slow in responding to their needs, corrupt officials go unpunished, and the gap between the rich and the poor keeps widening. Despite these shortcomings, surveys show that 90% of Alverians believe democracy is suitable for their country, and 68% say their vote makes a difference.

- (i) Which feature of democratic government does Alveria's open public debate and right to information represent? (1 mark)
- (ii) Name the outcome of democracy that the survey data (90% support) directly reflects. (1 mark)
- (iii) Despite corruption and inequality, why do the majority of Alverians still prefer their democratic system? (2 marks)

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Model Answer

(i) Alveria's open public debate and right to information represent **transparency** — a key feature of an accountable and responsive democratic government.

(ii) The survey data (90% support) directly reflects **legitimacy** as an outcome of democracy. Democracy is people's own government, and its ability to generate its own support is itself a significant outcome.

(iii) Despite corruption and slow response, the majority of Alverians prefer democracy because:

- Democracy is seen as a **legitimate government** — it is the people's own government, chosen by them through elections.
- Citizens believe democracy is **suitable for their country** and that their vote matters, showing faith in the system.
- Even with its flaws, democracy is **much better than non-democratic alternatives** like military or monarchical rule, which are equally or more corrupt and less accountable.

Source: Chapter 5 — Outcomes of Democracy, Accountable, Responsive and Legitimate Government

Explanation

- (i) The textbook lists "open public debate on major policies" and "citizens' right to information" as indicators of **transparency** — always use this term.
- (ii) The passage explicitly states: "Democracy's ability to generate its own support is itself an outcome" — this is **legitimacy**. Don't confuse it with accountability.
- (iii) The key textbook line is: "*a democratic government is people's own government...there is an overwhelming support for the idea of democracy all over the world.*" Examiners expect you to cite legitimacy and the moral/prudential reasons to prefer democracy over alternatives.

Q33. deep exam-ready

[4]

Read the following scenario and answer the questions that follow:

In the country of Seralia, the top 20% of the population controls 62% of the national income, while the bottom 20% receives just 2.8%. The country holds regular elections and people can vote freely. However, the ruling party, which belongs to the dominant ethnic group, has consistently passed laws that favour its own community and made it practically impossible for members of other ethnic groups to ever form a government.

- (i) Name the economic phenomenon visible in Seralia despite it being a democracy. (1 mark)
(ii) Which specific condition required for democracy to accommodate social diversity is being violated in Seralia? (1 mark)
(iii) Explain why political equality in Seralia has not translated into social or economic equality, and what risk this poses to its democracy. (2 marks)

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Model Answer

(i) The economic phenomenon visible in Seralia is **economic inequality** — the top 20% controls 62% of national income while the bottom 20% receives only 2.8%, showing a highly disproportionate distribution of wealth.

(ii) The condition being violated is: **rule by majority must not become rule by majority community** (based on religion, ethnicity, race, etc.). Every citizen must have a chance of being in the majority at some point; since Seralia bars other ethnic groups from forming a government, this condition is broken.

(iii) Seralia has political equality (one person, one vote) but democracy is not simply majority rule — it requires that different groups can form a majority. Here, the dominant ethnic group permanently controls power and passes laws favouring itself, excluding minorities economically and politically. This poses the risk that democracy becomes unaccommodative, eroding legitimacy and potentially leading to social conflict or breakdown of democratic order.

Source: *Outcomes of Democracy — Accommodation of Social Diversity & Economic Outcomes, Chapter 5*

Explanation

- (i) Directly mirrors Table 2 data in the passage (South Africa/Brazil pattern). Use the term "economic inequality."
- (ii) Quote/paraphrase the textbook's second condition precisely: majority rule must not become majority **community** rule; barring a group from ever being in majority ends democratic accommodation.
- (iii) Link political equality → persistent economic disparity → risk to democracy. The textbook explicitly says democracies don't appear very successful in reducing economic inequalities, and that ethnic majority domination makes democracy cease to be accommodative — both points are expected here.

Q34. medium exam-ready

[4]

Read the following scenario and answer the questions that follow:

Rahim lives in a small town. He recently approached the local government office for a permit for his small business. Despite visiting multiple times over two months, officials ignored him and gave him no update. Frustrated, Rahim filed an application under the Right to Information Act, asking for the status of his application and the names of the responsible officials. Within ten days, he received his permit, and the officer personally called him to apologise.

- (i) Which outcome of democracy does Rahim's successful use of the Right to Information Act demonstrate? (1 mark)
 (ii) Before filing the RTI application, which quality of government — accountability or transparency — was missing in the conduct of the officials? Explain. (1 mark)
 (iii) How does Rahim's experience illustrate that democracy, while imperfect, provides citizens with tools to challenge power and seek justice? (2 marks)

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Model Answer

(i) Rahim's successful use of the RTI Act demonstrates that democracy produces an **accountable and responsive government** — officials are answerable to citizens for their actions (or inactions).

(ii) **Accountability** was missing. The officials ignored Rahim repeatedly without any explanation or update. They were not answerable for their inaction. Accountability means officials must explain and justify their conduct to citizens; here, that was absent until the RTI compelled them.

(iii) Rahim's experience shows that democracy, though imperfect (officials were unresponsive for two months), provides citizens with institutional tools — like the Right to Information Act — to challenge unresponsive power. Once Rahim used this tool, officials acted immediately and even apologised. This shows democracy allows room to correct mistakes and empowers ordinary citizens to seek justice against those in authority.

Source: Chapter 5 — Outcomes of Democracy

Explanation

- **(i)** The key term examiners want is "accountable" (and/or "responsive") government — both are valid; pick at least one.
- **(ii)** Distinguish: **accountability** = officials answerable for actions; **transparency** = information being open/visible. Since officials gave *no update* and were not answerable, it is *accountability* that was missing.
- **(iii)** Link two ideas: (a) democracy is imperfect in practice, AND (b) it provides mechanisms/tools (RTI here) to fix those imperfections. The textbook phrase "allows room to correct mistakes" is key. The Nannu example from the textbook exercises is almost identical — use that parallel to frame your answer.

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