Class 9 Social Science Chapter 6: Democracy - Notes, Important Questions and MCQs (2026-27)

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These Class 9 Social Science Chapter 6 notes cover “Democracy” from the new NCERT textbook Understanding Society: India and Beyond (Part 1, 2026-27): what democracy means, its roots in Indian traditions, key features such as rule of law, separation of powers and a multi-party system, different forms of democracy, how Indian democracy works at three levels, the role of media and RTI, and the duties of citizens – with tables, Q&A, 10 MCQs and a free PDF.

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Chapter Overview

Democracy is a system of self-governance in which people take part in decision-making through institutions, rules and practices at the local, state and national levels. It is much more than voting in elections – it rests on transparency, participation, inclusion, fairness, equality, accountability and respect for different opinions.

India’s democratic ideas have deep roots: Vedic assemblies like the Sabha and Samiti and the early republics (gaṇas and saṁghas) practised collective decision-making. Combined with ideas from around the world, these shaped the Constitution, which provides for popular sovereignty, universal adult franchise, rights and duties, the rule of law and separation of powers.

Important Topics and Concepts

Meaning and Evolution of Democracy

- Democracy = people govern themselves directly or through representatives.
- Vedic assemblies (Sabha, Samiti, Vidatha) and early republics (gaṇas or saṁghas) show early traditions of consultation in India.
- The Constituent Assembly took about 2 years, 11 months and 18 days to draft the world's longest written Constitution.
- Global democratic values also influenced India's modern democratic system.

Key Features of Democracy

- Popular sovereignty and universal adult franchise: every adult citizen has one vote of equal value.
- Rule of Law: equality before the law and equal protection of the law; no one is above the law.
- Separation of powers: legislature makes laws, executive implements them, judiciary interprets them and checks misuse.
- Fundamental rights and duties protect freedoms and remind citizens of responsibilities.
- Transparency and accountability: e.g. the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005.
- Multi-party system: many parties compete, reflecting India's diversity.

Forms of Democracy

- Direct democracy: citizens decide directly (e.g. Gram Sabha meetings, referendums).
- Representative democracy: citizens elect representatives who make decisions (India).
- Parliamentary systems (India, UK) – executive responsible to legislature; presidential systems (USA) – separately elected president.
- Democracies differ in design but share freedom, equality, participation, rights and duties.

Indian Democracy in Practice

- India is called the world's largest democracy because of the huge number of registered voters.
- Three-tier system: Union, State and Local governments (Panchayats and Municipalities) for efficiency and participation.
- Local bodies hold Gram Sabhas and Mahila Sabhas and involve marginalised groups.
- Indian women got the right to vote from the start of the Republic, while in Britain full voting rights for women came only in 1928.

Media, Citizens and Safeguards

- Media informs people, raises issues and holds governments accountable; social media must be used responsibly to avoid misinformation.
- Citizens strengthen democracy by civic awareness, community participation, respecting others' views and protecting public property.
- The National Emergency (1975–77) showed how freedoms can be curtailed and why constitutional safeguards and alert citizens matter.
- Democracy works best when citizens act responsibly every day, not just on election day.

Organs of Government and Their Roles

Separation of powers.

Organ	Main function	Indian example
Legislature	Makes laws	Parliament, State Legislatures
Executive	Implements laws	Prime Minister and Council of Ministers
Judiciary	Interprets laws, protects rights	Supreme Court, High Courts

Features of Democracy in India

Feature	What it means
Universal adult franchise	Every citizen aged 18+ can vote
Rule of Law	No one is above the law
Separation of powers	Legislature, executive, judiciary have distinct roles
Fundamental rights	Freedoms protected by the Constitution
Transparency	RTI Act, 2005 lets citizens seek information
Multi-party system	Many parties compete in elections
Three-tier government	Union, State and Local levels

Important Definitions and Terms

Term	Meaning
Democracy	Government in which people take part in decision-making
Popular sovereignty	Supreme power rests with the people
Universal adult franchise	Right to vote for all adults without discrimination
Rule of Law	Equality before the law; no one is above it
Separation of powers	Division of functions among legislature, executive and judiciary
Direct democracy	Citizens decide matters directly
Representative democracy	Citizens elect representatives to decide
Sabha and Samiti	Vedic assemblies for collective decisions
RTI	Right to Information Act, 2005
Gram Sabha	Assembly of all adult voters of a village

Short Answer Questions

Q1. Is democracy only about elections?

No. It includes institutions, rules, rights, accountability and everyday participation of citizens.

Q2. Name two ancient Indian assemblies that reflected democratic practice.

Sabha and Samiti of the Vedic period.

The principle that all are equal before the law and no one is above it.

Q4. Why is separation of powers important?

It prevents concentration of power and allows each organ to check the others.

Q5. How does the RTI Act strengthen democracy?

It lets citizens seek information from government bodies, increasing transparency and accountability.

Q6. Why is India called the world’s largest democracy?

Because of the very large number of registered voters who take part in elections.

Q7. Name the three tiers of government in India.

Union, State and Local (Panchayats and Municipalities).

Q8. Give two ways in which students can strengthen democracy.

Taking part in school decisions respectfully and avoiding spreading misinformation.

Long Answer Questions

Q1. Explain the key features of India’s democracy.

Popular sovereignty and universal adult franchise.

Rule of Law and equal protection of law.

Separation of powers among legislature, executive and judiciary.

Fundamental rights and duties.

Transparency and accountability (RTI), and a multi-party system.

Q2. Describe the role of media in a democracy. What care must citizens take?

Media informs people about events and government decisions.

It raises public issues and holds those in power accountable.

It provides a platform for different opinions.

Fake news and misinformation can mislead people, especially on social media.

Citizens should verify facts and use media responsibly.

Q3. “Democracy has deep roots in India.” Justify.

Vedic Sabha, Samiti and Vidatha practised collective decision-making.

Early republics (gaṇas, saṁghas) were governed by assemblies.

Local village assemblies continued traditions of consultation.

These ideas, together with global democratic values, shaped the Constitution.

Today Gram Sabhas carry this tradition forward.

MCQs with Answers

1. The RTI Act was passed in(a) 1995 (b) 2005 (c) 2015 (d) 1950Answer: (b) 2005

2. Sabha and Samiti belong to the(a) Mughal period (b) Vedic period (c) British period (d) Gupta periodAnswer: (b) Vedic period

3. Which organ interprets laws?(a) Legislature (b) Executive (c) Judiciary (d) MediaAnswer: (c) Judiciary

4. Rule of Law means(a) the king is above law (b) no one is above law (c) only judges follow law (d) laws are optionalAnswer: (b) no one is above law

5. India follows(a) direct democracy only (b) representative parliamentary democracy (c) presidential system (d) monarchyAnswer: (b) representative parliamentary democracy

6. Women in Britain got full voting rights in(a) 1918 (b) 1928 (c) 1947 (d) 1950Answer: (b) 1928

7. National Emergency in India lasted from(a) 1962–64 (b) 1975–77 (c) 1984–86 (d) 1991–93Answer: (b) 1975–77

8. Local government in villages is(a) Municipal Corporation (b) Panchayat (c) Parliament (d) Supreme CourtAnswer: (b) Panchayat

9. Universal adult franchise means(a) only educated can vote (b) all adults can vote (c) only men vote (d) only taxpayers voteAnswer: (b) all adults can vote

10. A multi-party system means(a) one party rules (b) many parties compete (c) no parties (d) only two partiesAnswer: (b) many parties compete

Quick Revision Points

- Democracy = self-governance, more than elections.
- Roots: Sabha, Samiti, gaṇas.
- Features: franchise, rule of law, separation of powers, rights, RTI, multi-party.
- Direct vs representative; parliamentary vs presidential.
- Three tiers: Union, State, Local.
- Media and citizens’ duties; lesson of the Emergency.

Chapter Summary

Democracy is a system of self-governance in which people participate through institutions and rules at every level. It rests on principles of transparency, participation, equality and accountability, and has deep roots in India’s ancient assemblies and republics.

India’s Constitution provides universal adult franchise, rule of law, separation of powers and fundamental rights and duties. Democracies differ in form but share common values. India works through Union, State and Local governments, and its democracy depends on responsible media and active, aware citizens.

Exam Tips and PYQ Pattern

- Learn features of democracy with one Indian example each.
- Separation of powers table is often asked.
- Remember dates: RTI 2005, Emergency 1975–77.
- Use Sabha/Samiti examples to show Indian roots.
- For value questions, link your actions to democratic values.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is this chapter in the 2026-27 CBSE syllabus?

Yes. It is part of the new NCERT Class 9 Social Science textbook “Understanding Society: India and Beyond” (Part 1), prescribed for the 2026-27 session.

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What are the key features of democracy?

Universal adult franchise, rule of law, separation of powers, fundamental rights and duties, transparency and a multi-party system.

What is the difference between direct and representative democracy?

In direct democracy citizens decide directly; in representative democracy they elect representatives to decide for them.

Conclusion

Democracy explains how Indians govern themselves and why every citizen matters. Learn the features table, practise the Q&A here and save the free PDF for revision.

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Author Bio: Written and reviewed by the Nextoper Editorial Team, a group of CBSE social science educators who build chapter notes directly from the NCERT textbook and past board paper patterns.

Freshness Note: These notes follow the NCERT Class 9 Social Science textbook, Understanding Society: India and Beyond (Parts 1 and 2, first edition 2026, NCF-SE 2023), and the CBSE syllabus for the 2026-27 session. Last checked on 23 November 2026.