

Equality (1)

Class 7th

Sub Civics

Q1. In a democracy why is universal adult franchise important?

Answer: A democratic government is the government of people. It should be fairly elected by the people. Every adult citizen should have the right to elect his/her representative through popular vote. Universal adult franchise gives equal voting rights to every adult citizen and does not discriminate on the basis of any social or economic factor. Hence, universal adult franchise is important for a true democracy.

Q2. Re-read the box on Article 15 and state two ways in which this Article addresses inequality?

Answer: The two ways in which Article 15 addresses inequality are as follows:

- a. It prevents discrimination on the basis of religion, caste, etc. Discrimination on the basis of religion, caste and gender is still prevalent in our country. This clause definitely helps in reducing the practice.*
- b. It allows access to public places for all citizens irrespective of religion, caste, gender, economic status, etc. People of all religions, castes, gender, economic status get some sense of empowerment when they get equal access to public places.*

Q3. In what ways was Omprakash Valmiki's experience similar to that of the Ansaris?

Answer: Both Omprakash Valmiki and the Ansaris had to face discrimination because of a particular social section in which they were born. Both had to suffer an attack on their dignity.

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Q4. What do you understand by the term "all persons are equal before the law"? Why do you think it is important in a democracy?

Answer: This means that nobody is above the law. The same law applies in the same sense to every individual. Since in a democracy where the leaders are the elected representatives of the people (as opposed to dictatorship or the practice where the legal heir rules), equality before law is very important.

The Government of India passed the Disabilities Act in 1995. This law states that persons with disabilities have equal rights, and that the government should make possible their full participation in society. The government has to provide free education and integrate children with disabilities into mainstream schools. This law also states that all public places including buildings, schools, etc., should be accessible and provided with ramps.



Q5. Look at the photograph and think about the boy who is being carried down the stairs. Do you think the above law is being implemented in his case? What needs to be done to make the building more accessible for him? How would his being carried down the stairs affect his dignity as well as his safety?

Answer: In this case, the above law is not being implemented. There is no ramp in the building which can enable a wheelchair bound person to safely access the facilities in the building. There should be a proper ramp so that a

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disabled person can access the facilities without getting a helping hand from someone.

It may look appealing that the body is being carried down the stairs. The security personnel may appear like good human beings. But this must have hurt the dignity of the boy. Moreover, there is always a risk of the body getting injured in the process.

Q6. Match Columns:

Column I	Column I
(i) Equality	(a) Dalit writer
(ii) Omprakash Valmiki	(b) Start of midday meal scheme
(iii) Year 2001	(c) Article 15

Answer: i - c, ii - a, iii - b

Q7. Fill in the blanks:

- i. _____ changed the course of American history with one defiant act.
- ii. The Dalit writer who described his experiences on inequality in his autobiography is _____
- iii. One of the more common forms of inequality in India is the _____.
- iv. The _____ scheme is one of the steps taken by the government to reduce inequality.

Answer: (i) Rosa Parks, (ii) Omprakash Valmiki, (iii) Caste system, (iv) Midday meal

Q8. Multiple Choice Questions

1: Rosa Parks was an _____

- a. Indian
- b. American
- c. African

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d. African-American

Answer: African-American

2: Universal adult franchise means every adult has a right to vote irrespective of his/her

- a. Educational background
- b. Economic background
- c. Religion
- d. All of the above

Answer: (d) All of the above

3: The basis/bases for inequality is/ are _____

- a. Gender
- b. Economic status
- c. Religion
- d. All of the above

Answer: (d) All of the above

4: The mid-day meal scheme was first implemented in the state of

- a. Kerala
- b. Tamil Nadu
- c. Maharashtra
- d. Madhya Pradesh

Answer: (b) Tamil Nadu

5: Who is the father of the Indian Constitution?

- a. Mahatma Gandhi
- b. Jawahar lal Nehru
- c. B.R. Ambedkar

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d. A. B. Bajpayee

Answer: (c) B.R. Ambedkar

Short Answer Type Questions

Question 1: What is universal adult franchise?

Answer: Universal adult franchise is a very important aspect of democracy. It means that all adults (those who are 18 and above) have the right to vote irrespective of their social and economic backgrounds.

Question 2: What is the condition of the African-Americans despite legislations to stop inequality?

Answer: In spite of legislations to ensure equality, the African-American continued to be extremely poor and could afford to attend only the government schools which were lacking in facilities and well-qualified teachers.

Question 3: What is the challenge of democracy?

Answer: No country can be described as being completely democratic. There are many communities and individuals persistently pushing for greater recognition of equality in existing and new issues.

Very Short Answer Type Questions

Question 1: Define dignity.

Answer: Dignity refers to the thinking of oneself and others as worthy of respect.

Question 2: What is the civil rights movement?

Answer: It is the movement that began in the 1950s in which the African-Americans demanded equal rights and an end to racial discrimination.

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Question 3: What do you mean by Constitution?

Answer: This is a document that lays down the basic rules and regulations for the people and the government in the country to follow.

Question 4: What are the ways in which the government implements the equality concept?

Answer: Through the laws and through the government programmes/schemes.

Question 5: What is the major factor that would help in reducing/eliminating inequality?

Answer: The change in the mindset and attitude of the people where nobody considers the other person as inferior; is the basic requirement for reducing/eliminating equality.

Long Answer Type Questions

Question 1: Describe the benefits of the midday meal.

Answer: The following are the benefits of the midday meal scheme:

- Increased attendance in schools: More and more students have started enrolling and attending school because of this scheme.*
- Uninterrupted work for mothers: previously the mothers had to leave their work and attend to/feed their kids when they came home for lunch but after this scheme was implemented there is no need for them to do so.*
- Reduction in caste prejudices: children from all castes and classes sit together and eat their meal, and in many cases dalit women are employed to cook the meal.*
- Better concentration in studies: when the poor students are not hungry, they can concentrate and study better in the school.*

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Question 2: Describe the provisions in the Indian Constitution regarding recognition of equality.

Answer: Regarding equality, the following are the provisions in the Constitution:

- ***Equality before law:*** Every person right from the President of the country to a daily wager; have to obey the same law.
- ***No discrimination based on caste, class, religion, gender, race, place of birth.***
- ***Equal access to public place:*** All people have equal right on public places and amenities like playgrounds, markets, shops, roads, wells etc.
- ***Abolition of untouchability.***

Question 3: Describe the struggle for equality faced by the African-Americans initially.

Answer: In the United States of America, the African-Americans whose ancestors were slaves who were brought over from Africa, had faced lot of discrimination and unequal treatment. One of the discriminatory practices they faced in their daily life was that they had to offer their seat in the bus whenever any white person wished to sit. One of the cases of such discrimination and resultant agitation is as follows:

Rosa Parks was an African –American. After a hard day at work she was travelling by bus. She refused to offer her seat to a white man. Her refusal to offer her seat in the bus to a white man on 1 December 1955 started a huge agitation against the unequal treatment meted out to the African-Americans.

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