

Challenges to Democracy

Q1: Each of these cartoons represents a challenge to democracy. Please describe what that challenge is. Also place it in one of the three categories mentioned in the first section.

- a) Mubarak Re-elected,
- b) Seeing the democracy,
- c) Liberal gender equality and
- d)a) Campaign money.

Ans:

- a) It's booth-capturing, secretly opening of ballot boxes prior to counting.

Challenge of expansion.

- b) This is a challenge of keeping military away from controlling government.

The foundational challenge.

- c) It'sIts challenge of strengthening of institutions and practice in such a manner that women can feel their expectations of democracy.

Deepening of democracy.

- d) It's challenge to bring down the control and influence of rich people in decision making.

Deepening of democracy.

Q2: Fill up challenge that democracy requires as per column case and context below:

Ans:

Case and Context	Your description of the challenges for democracy in the situation
Chile: General Pinochet's government defeated, but military still in control of	Example: Establishing civilian control over all governmental institution, holding the first multi-party elections,

several institutions.	recalling all political leaders from exile.
Poland: After the first success of solidarity, the government imposed martial law and also banned solidarity.	The democratic rights to organize, protest and freely represent opinion were to be restored. Free presidential elections were required such that the military government of General Jaruzelski could be replaced through a democratic government.
Ghana: Just attained independence, Nkrumah elected president	Nkrumah got himself elected as president for life. The concept of life president-ship is contrary to the spirit of democracy. Such a person will enjoy power without accountability as well as responsibility.
Myanmar: SuuKyi under house arrest for more than 15 years, army rulers getting global acceptance.	In 1990, elections were held in the country. The National League for Democracy led thorough SuuKyi won the election. The army did not accept the people's verdict. SuuKyi is under arrest. Citizens haven't any basic democratic rights.
International Organizations: US as the only super power disregards the UN and takes unilateral action.	The UN system is highly loaded in favor of five permanent members; they have a veto right. It is contrary to democratic principles. The US acts against the expressed desire of the UN. This is further a challenge to the democratic functioning of the UN.
Mexico: Second free election after the defeat of PRI in 2000; defeated candidate alleges rigging.	Free and fair election is the essence of democracy. A rigged election does not show the will of the people.
China: Communist Party adopts economic reforms but	Democracy is inconsistent with one-party system; in this system there is no

maintains monopoly over political power.	scope for the difference of opinion and views. Free expression of views and opinions, peaceful means of protest are not allowed.
Pakistan: General Musharraf holds referendum, allegations of fraud in voters list.	A referendum is held to gain legitimacy for the military rule. The army uses its might to prepare electoral rolls. Apparently, the election results do not show people's verdict.
Iraq: Widespread sectarian violence as the new government fails to establish its authority.	The ruling group with the support of the outside powers suppresses the other social and religious groups; in negotiated settlement through talks as well as exchange of views.
South Africa: Nelson Mandela retires from active politics, pressure on his successor Mbeki to withdraw a few concessions provided to white minority.	In 1993, a democratic constitution was established and apartheid government ended giving way to the creation of a multi-racial government.
US, Guantanamo Bay: UN secretary general call this a violation of international law, US refuses to respond.	This consists the government of one country denying rights to citizens of another country.
Saudi Arabia: Women not allowed to take part in public activities, no freedom of religion for minorities.	People do not elect their rulers and have no say in decision-making.
Yugoslavia: Ethnic tension between Serbs and Albanians on the rise in the province of Kosovo. Yugoslavia disintegrated.	Political competition along religious and ethnic lines caused the disintegration of Yugoslavia into six independent countries.

Belgium: One round of constitutional change happened, but the Dutch speaker not satisfied; they want more autonomy.	Leaders felt that the unity of the country is possible only by respecting the feeling and interests of different communities. Thus, mutually acceptable arrangement for power sharing was made.
Sri Lanka: The peace talks between the government and the LTTE split down, renewed violence.	Sri Lankan Tamils launched parties and struggles demanding an independent Tamil Eelam (state) in Sri Lanka. While majority rule established.
US, Civil Rights: Blacks have won equal rights, but are still poor, less educated and marginalized.	This movement practiced non-violent procedures of civil disobedience against racially discriminatory laws and practices.
Northern Ireland: the civil war has finished while Protestants and Catholics yet to develop trust.	In Northern Ireland class and religion overlap each other. This produced the possibilities of deep social divisions and tensions.
Nepal: Constituent Assembly about to be elected, unrest in Terai areas, Maoists have not surrendered arms.	Here the famous struggle was about the foundation of the country's politics, i.e., the demand for restoration of parliament as well as power to all party government.
Bolivia: Morales, a supporter of water struggle, becomes Prime Minister, MNC's threaten to leave the nation.	Bolivia's famous struggle was about one specific policy and claims on an elected, democratic government. The power of the people compelled the officials of MNC's to flee and made the government concede to all the demands of the protesters.

Q3: Given below are some spheres or sites of democratic politics.

You may place against each of these the specific challenges that you noted for one or more countries or cartoons in the previous sections. In addition to that, write one item for India for each of these spheres. In case you find some challenges that do not fit into

any of the categories given below, you can create new categories and put some item under that.

Ans:

Query side	Answer side
Constitutional design	Foundational challenge associated to Constituent Assembly and framing of the constitution. Countries: Chile, Poland, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka Belgium and Nepal.
Democratic rights	Deepening and expansion of democracy in dictatorships Countries: Poland, Saudi Arabia and Nepal.
Working of Institutions	The foundational challenges in non-democratic countries Countries: Ghana, South Africa, Iraq, US in Guantanamo Bay and Nepal Mexico.
Elections	Deepening of democracy in the way of free, fair election and famous participation. Country: Mexico.
Federalism decentralization	Deepening of democracy at grass-roots levels, i.e., local self government Countries: Sri Lanka, Yugoslavia and Belgium.
Accommodation of diversity	Expansion of democracy towards socio-economic equality. Countries: Yugoslavia, Belgium, Sri Lanka and South Africa.
Political Organizations	The foundational challenges in the democratic and non-democratic institutions in the forms of pressure groups as well as political parties. Countries: South Africa, Northern Ireland and Bolivia.

Affidavit concerned with politics	Challenge of corruption in Indian politics regarding politicians' criminal records and possessions.
Free and fair elections	Challenge of criminalization in Indian politics in the way of use of money and also muscle power.

Q4: Let us group these again, this time by the nature of these challenges as per classification suggested in the first section. For each of these categories, find at least one example from India as well.

Ans:

Query side	Answer side
Foundational challenge	A country having a monarchy. Granting full statehood to Delhi and Andaman and Nicobar in India. Other countries: Myanmar, Pakistan, Poland, Iraq, Nepal.
Challenge of expansion	More representation in state assemblies and Lok Sabha to women in India. No discrimination upon the basis of gender, caste, language etc. More power to local governments. Other countries: Ghana, International Organizations, Saudi Arabia, Yugoslavia, Sri Lanka, Northern Ireland.

Challenge of deepening	Constitutional amendment not allowing to hold two essential portfolio at the same time like president of a national political party or a state level party along with the post of the prime Minister or Chief Minister. Other countries: South Africa, Belgium, Mexico, US Civil Rights and Bolivia.
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Q5: Now let us think only about India. Think of all the challenges that democracy faces in contemporary India. List those five that should be addressed first of all. The listing should be in order of priority, i.e., the challenge you find most important or pressing should be mentioned at number 1, and so on. Give one example of that challenge and your reason for assigning it the priority.

Ans:

S.No	Query side		Answer side
Priority	Challenges to democracy	Example	Reasons for preference
1.	Foundational challenge	Change in the constitutional design to suit the present challenges of India	In the changing world towards globalization India requires some reforms in the constitutional designs to cope up with.

2.	Challenge of deepening	Representation to women and SC's and ST's	With the constitutional change India is needed to accommodate social diversity as well.
3.	Challenge of criminalization	Electoral reforms of use of money and muscle power	In order to have free and fair elections under the electoral reforms, influence of money and power must be stopped.
4.	Challenge of expansion	Federal decentralization	Keeping in view the vastness of our country representation must be provided at the local level also.
5.	Challenge of corruption	Politicians and their possessions	In order to check the corruption among politicians and their criminal record the idea of Affidavit has been introduced in India.

Q6: Here are some challenges that require political reforms. Discuss these challenges in detail. Study the reform options offered here and give your preferred solutions with reasons. Remember that none of the options offered here is 'right' or 'wrong'. You can opt for a mix of more than one option, or come up with same thing that is not offered here. But you must give your solution in details and after reasons for your choice.

Ans: See page number 91 on NCERT Book.