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CLASS X · SOCIAL SCIENCE (087) · POLITICAL SCIENCE · CBSE BOARD EXAMINATION 2027

POLITICAL SCIENCE · CHAPTER 5

Outcomes of Democracy

Dignity
Freedom
Voice

Chapter Practice Booklet · Questions only

8 note blocks + outcomes table | 5 case studies | PYQs 2025–2026 | 56 practice questions | Model Answer Booklet

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STUDENT DETAILS

NAME _____

CLASS & SECTION _____

ROLL NO. _____

BOOKLET STARTED ON _____

CHAPTER TEST SCORE _____ / 20

1

READ THIS FIRST

Chapter Notes

The whole chapter in short-note form: how to assess democracy and its five outcomes – accountable government, development, equality, social diversity, and dignity and freedom. Revise from here – you should not need the textbook again.

1 Why democracy is better – and what to expect

Democracy is better than other forms of government because it:

- promotes **equality** among citizens; enhances the **dignity** of the individual;
- improves the **quality of decision-making**; provides a method to **resolve conflicts**; allows **room to correct mistakes**.
- Democracy is only a **form of government**: it creates **conditions** for achieving goals; **citizens** must use them to achieve those goals.
- Over a hundred countries claim to practise some democracy – constitutions, elections, parties and rights – but they differ in social situation, economic achievement and culture.

2 Accountable, responsive and legitimate government

- Democracy ensures decisions follow **norms and procedures**. A citizen has the right and means to examine how a decision was taken – **transparency**.
- Following procedures takes **more time**, but decisions are more **acceptable and effective** – the cost of time is worth it.
- Democracy is **accountable** to citizens and **responsive** to their needs through **regular, free and fair elections**, **open public debate** on policies and laws, and the **right to information**.
- **Actual record is mixed:** democracies sometimes ignore people's demands, and corruption exists – but there is **no evidence** that non-democracies are less corrupt or more sensitive.
- Democracy is surely better in one respect: it is a **legitimate government** – it may be slow, less efficient, not always responsive or clean, but it is **people's own government**. Hence the overwhelming **support for democracy** all over the world; its ability to **generate its own support** is itself an outcome.

3 Economic growth and development

- Many democracies have not met the expectation of rapid development. In the textbook's data (1950–2000), **dictatorships** had a slightly **higher** rate of economic growth.
- Development depends on several factors – **population size, global situation, cooperation from other countries, economic priorities** – not only on the type of government.
- Among **poor countries**, the difference between dictatorships and democracies is **negligible**.
- Democracy is **not a guarantee** of development, but it need not lag behind; since it has many **other positive outcomes**, it is better to prefer democracy.

Rate of economic growth, 1950–2000 (textbook table)	%
All democracies and dictatorships	3.95
Dictatorships	4.42
Democracies	3.28
Poor countries under dictatorship	4.34
Poor countries under democracy	4.28

4 Reduction of inequality and poverty

- Democracies are based on **political equality** – every vote has equal weight.

- Yet **economic inequality** is growing: a small number of **ultra-rich** hold a highly disproportionate and **rising** share of wealth and income, while those at the bottom find it hard to meet **basic needs** – food, clothing, house, education, health.
- The poor are a large share of voters, yet elected governments are **not as keen** to tackle poverty as expected.
- In some countries it is worse: in **Bangladesh**, more than half the people lived in poverty (textbook); several poor countries depend on rich ones even for **food**.
- So democracies have **not been very successful** in reducing economic inequality.

5 Accommodation of social diversity

- Democracies develop **procedures for competition** among groups, which reduces the chance of tensions becoming **explosive or violent**.
- No society can resolve all conflicts permanently, but democracy helps us **respect differences** and evolve **mechanisms to negotiate** them (e.g. **Belgium**). Non-democracies often ignore or **suppress** differences.

> **Two conditions:** (1) Democracy is **not simply rule by majority opinion** – the majority must work with the minority so the government represents the general view. (2) Majority rule must **not become rule by a majority community** of religion, race or language; every citizen must have a **chance of being in the majority** at some time. If someone is barred from the majority by birth, democracy stops being accommodative (e.g. **Sri Lanka**).

6 Dignity and freedom of citizens

- Democracy is **far superior** to any other form in promoting the **dignity and freedom** of the individual. The passion for **respect and freedom** is the basis of democracy.
- **Women:** long struggles have made equal treatment of women a necessary part of democracy. Women are not always respected, but once the principle is accepted it is easier to fight what is now **legally and morally unacceptable**. In a non-democracy such a struggle would have no legal basis.
- **Caste:** democracy in India has strengthened the claims of disadvantaged castes for **equal status and opportunity**. Caste atrocities still happen but have **no moral or legal foundation**.

7 Democracy's examination never ends

- As democracy passes one test, it produces another; as people get some benefits, they **ask for more**.
- So people always have **more expectations and complaints**. The fact that people complain is itself a **testimony to the success** of democracy – it shows **awareness** and the ability to look critically at the powerful.
- Public dissatisfaction shows the success of the democratic project: it turns people from **subjects into citizens**.
- Most people believe their **vote makes a difference** to how the government is run and to their own interests.

8 How to write an 'outcomes' answer

- Name the outcome as the keyword: **accountable, responsive, legitimate, transparency, development, inequality, social diversity, dignity, freedom**.
- Give a **balanced** view where the question asks to 'assess' or 'examine': what democracy achieves and where it falls short.
- End with the **legitimacy** or **subject-to-citizen** point – it scores well in 5-mark answers.

Five outcomes at a glance

5-mark answers are built from this table

Outcome	What democracy does well	Where it falls short
Accountable, responsive, legitimate government	transparency; elections, debate, right to information; legitimate – people's own government	slow; sometimes unresponsive; corruption
Economic growth and development	need not lag behind; many other benefits	dictatorships grew slightly faster (1950–2000)
Reduction of inequality and poverty	political equality – one vote each	economic inequality and poverty persist
Accommodation of social diversity	procedures to negotiate differences; Belgium	fails if majority means a fixed majority community
Dignity and freedom	women's and Dalits' claims gain legal and moral force	atrocities still occur, though illegitimate

Key terms

1- and 2-mark answers

Outcome – result that democracy is expected to produce

Transparency – citizen's right and means to examine how a decision was taken

Accountable government – government answerable to citizens

Responsive government – government that responds to people's needs and demands

Legitimate government – people's own government, accepted as rightful

Right to information – citizens' right to know about the government and its work

Economic inequality – unequal distribution of income and wealth

Political equality – every citizen's vote has equal value

Social diversity – differences of religion, caste, language, region

Majority rule – decisions by the larger number, changing from issue to issue

Dictatorship – rule by one person or group without people's consent

Dignity – respect owed to every individual

Subject vs citizen – a subject obeys rulers; a citizen questions and shares power

Exam snapshot

What the board asks, and how to prepare

SYLLABUS 2026–27

- How do we assess democracy's outcomes
- Accountable, responsive and legitimate government; economic growth and development
- Reduction of inequality and poverty; accommodation of social diversity; dignity and freedom of the citizens

BOARD WEIGHTAGE

20 / 80

Political Science is Section C (Q20–Q28). This is the **heaviest** Political Science chapter in the papers we read: 2026 (32/1/1) gave **both choices of the 5-mark Q27** (accountable, responsive, legitimate government; dignity and freedom); 2025 (32/1/1) gave a 3-mark question (Q27) and **both choices of the 5-mark Q32** (how to assess outcomes; values of democracy). Expect **5–8 marks**.

MOST ASKED IN BOARD PAPERS, 2025–2026 (2 PAPERS READ IN FULL)

How often	Topic / question type	Marks	Papers
★★★	A 5-mark question on democracy's outcomes	5	2 of 2
★★☆	Accountable, responsive, legitimate government; transparency	5	1 of 2
★★☆	Dignity and freedom of citizens (women, caste)	5	1 of 2
★★☆	How to assess democracy; why democracy is better	3–5	1 of 2
★★☆	Accommodation of social diversity; majority rule	3–5	NCERT core
★★☆	Economic growth; inequality and poverty	3–5	NCERT core

ANSWER-WRITING RULES FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE (CBSE 2026–27)

2 marks
Very short answer · up to 40 words · 2 clear points

3 marks
Short answer · up to 60 words · 3 points

4 marks
Case / source based · up to 100 words in all · answer from the source

5 marks
Long answer · up to 120 words · 5 points, with an intro line

Write in points, underline key words, and give one example or date wherever you can. Read every "OR" choice before you start, and attempt only one.

MISTAKES THAT COST MARKS

- Writing that democracy guarantees faster growth – the textbook data show **dictatorships grew slightly faster**; democracy need not lag.
- Saying democracy has removed inequality – it has **not**; political equality exists but **economic inequality** persists.
- Defining transparency as 'honest leaders' – it is the citizen's **right and means to examine** how decisions are taken.
- Treating majority rule as rule by one religious or language group – majorities **change** from issue to issue.
- Seeing complaints as failure – complaints show **awareness** and turn **subjects into citizens**.
- Writing five points that all say 'elections' – use five **different** outcomes or mechanisms.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

1. **Day 1:** Read the Chapter Notes twice; learn the key terms.
2. **Next day:** Parts A and B. **Then:** Parts C and D – MUST DO questions first.
3. Check every answer against the **Model Answer Booklet**: same points, same keywords, within the word limit.
4. Write every mistake on the My Mistakes page and redo it after 3 days.

A

PART A · NCERT PRACTICE

Textbook Check

Every section of the chapter and every NCERT exercise idea, asked in new words. Model answers for all of these are in the Model Answer Booklet.

Assessing democracy

A1. Why is democracy considered better than other forms of government? Give three reasons. [3] MUST DO

A2. "Democracy is just a form of government." What does this mean? [2]

Accountable, responsive, legitimate

A3. What is transparency? How does democracy ensure it? MUST DO [2]

A4. Why do democratic governments take more time to decide? Is it worth it? [2]

A5. How is a democratic government accountable and responsive? MUST DO [3]

A6. "Democratic government is a legitimate government." Explain. MUST DO [3]

Development, equality, diversity, dignity

A7. Why can't we judge democracy only by economic growth? MUST DO [3]

A8. "Democracies have not been successful in reducing economic inequality." Explain. [3]

A9. How does democracy accommodate social diversity? MUST DO [3]

A10. State the two conditions for democracy to accommodate diversity. MUST DO [2]

A11. How has democracy promoted the dignity of women? MUST DO [2]

A12. How has democracy helped disadvantaged castes in India? [2]

A13. "Complaints about democracy show its success." Explain. MUST DO [3]

B

PART B · SECTION C STYLE

Objective Practice

All the MCQ types used in the board paper: statements, data tables, identify the outcome and assertion–reason.

ASSERTION–REASON: HOW TO ANSWER

(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.

Multiple choice

1 mark each

B1. A citizen's right and means to examine the process of decision-making is called: [1]

(a) transparency **(b)** legitimacy **(c)** accountability **(d)** dignity

B2. According to the textbook data for 1950–2000, which had the highest growth rate? [1]

(a) Democracies (b) Dictatorships
(c) Poor countries under democracy (d) All countries together

B3. Which is a mechanism that makes democratic governments accountable? [1]

(a) Hereditary rulers (b) Military courts
(c) Regular, free and fair elections (d) Censorship

B4. Democracy remains democracy only as long as: [1]

(a) one community always forms the majority
(b) the majority ignores the minority
(c) decisions are taken quickly
(d) every citizen has a chance of being in the majority

B5. Read the statements: [1]
I. Democracy guarantees economic development.
II. Democracy need not lag behind dictatorships in development.
Choose the correct option.

(a) Only II is correct (b) Only I is correct
(c) Both are correct (d) Neither is correct

B6. Which outcome are democracies LEAST successful at? [1]

(a) Legitimate government (b) Reducing economic inequality
(c) Dignity of citizens (d) Accommodating diversity

B7. The fact that people complain about democracy shows that: [1]

(a) democracy has failed (b) people are subjects
(c) people have become aware citizens (d) dictatorship is better

B8. Which of these is NOT a reason why democracy is better? [1]

(a) It promotes equality. (b) It allows room to correct mistakes.
(c) It provides a method to resolve conflicts. (d) It always takes decisions fastest.

B9. 'People's own government' describes which outcome? [1]

(a) Legitimacy (b) Economic growth (c) Transparency (d) Inequality

B10. *Table described:* growth rate – poor countries under dictatorship 4.34%; poor countries under democracy 4.28%. What can be concluded? [1]

(a) Dictatorship is far better for the poor (b) The difference is negligible
(c) Democracy is far better for growth (d) Poor countries cannot grow

B11. Which country is given in the textbook as an example where more than half the people lived in poverty? [1]

(a) Belgium (b) Sri Lanka (c) Bangladesh (d) Switzerland

B12. Which shows democracy accommodating social diversity? [1]

(a) Sinhala made the only official language (b) Banning all parties
(c) Military rule (d) Belgium's community governments

B13. In a democracy, struggles against caste atrocities have: [1]

(a) legal and moral force (b) no basis at all
(c) support of dictators (d) been banned

B14. Which right helps citizens know about government functioning? [1]

(a) Right to property (b) Right to information
(c) Right to vote only (d) Right to rule

B15. Which factor does NOT decide economic development, according to the chapter? [1]

(a) Population size (b) Global situation
(c) The colour of the national flag (d) Economic priorities

B16. Democracy's examination never gets over because: [1]

(a) it fails every test (b) it has no tests
(c) elections are rare (d) as it passes one test, people expect more

Assertion–Reason

1 mark each

B17. ASSERTION–REASON [1]

Assertion (A): Democratic decisions may be more acceptable to people.
Reason (R): They are taken after following norms and procedures.

B18. ASSERTION–REASON [1]

Assertion (A): Democracy is a legitimate government.
Reason (R): Democracies sometimes ignore the demands of the majority.

B19. ASSERTION–REASON [1]

Assertion (A): Majority rule in a democracy means rule by the majority religious community.
Reason (R): Every citizen should have a chance to be in the majority.

B20. ASSERTION–REASON [1]

Assertion (A): Democracy promotes the dignity of women.
Reason (R): Equal treatment of women is accepted as a principle in democracies.

C

PART C · BOARD PATTERN

Board Pattern Practice

Written-answer questions grouped by topic. ★★★ = asked more than once in the papers read · ★★ = asked once or NCERT core · ★ = supporting topic.

Accountable, responsive, legitimate government

★★☆ 2026 32/1/1 · 5 marks

C1. "Democracy produces an accountable, responsive and legitimate government." Explain. [5]
MUST DO

C2. Examine the actual performance of democracies as accountable and responsive governments. [3]

Dignity and freedom

★★☆ 2026 32/1/1 · 5 marks

C3. "Democracy stands superior in promoting the dignity and freedom of citizens." Justify. [5]
MUST DO

Assessing democracy's outcomes

★★★ 2025 32/1/1 · 3 + 5 marks

C4. On what bases can the outcomes of democracy be assessed? Explain with five points. MUST DO [5]

C5. "Democracy is better than dictatorship despite slower growth." Justify. MUST DO [5]

Inequality and diversity

★★☆ NCERT core · 3 marks

C6. Why have democracies not reduced poverty and inequality as expected? [3]

C7. "Democracy is not simply rule by majority opinion." Explain. MUST DO [3]

C8. How does democracy reduce the chances of social conflicts becoming violent? [2]

D

PART D · CASE-BASED STYLE

Case-Based Questions

Each case carries 4 marks (1 + 1 + 2), as in Q28 of the board paper.

D1. Case-Based · The Ration Card File [4]

Meena's ration card application was pending for months. She filed a request under a law that lets citizens see government files and found where it was stuck. Within a week her card was issued, and the clerk was asked to explain the delay.

(i) Which right did Meena use? [1]

(ii) Which outcome of democracy does it show? [1]

(iii) Give two other ways democracy keeps governments accountable. [2]

D2. Case-Based · Growth Figures [4]

A student's chart shows that, over fifty years, dictatorships grew a little faster than democracies on average. But among poor countries the two bars are almost equal.

(i) Which type of government grew faster on average? [1]

(ii) What does the second comparison show? [1]

(iii) Why should we still prefer democracy? Two reasons. [2]

D3. Case-Based · Equal Votes, Unequal Lives [4]

In a city, a business family owns a dozen factories and three houses. Nearby, a worker's family of six lives in one room. On election day each adult casts exactly one vote.

(i) Which kind of equality exists on election day? [1]

(ii) Which kind of inequality remains? [1]

(iii) Why have democracies found it hard to reduce poverty? Two points. [2]

D4. Case-Based · Changing Majorities [4]

On a law about farm prices, MPs from many regions and religions voted together. On a language bill, a different set of MPs formed the majority. No group was always on the winning side.

(i) What does this show about majority rule? [1]

(ii) Why is this important for democracy? [1]

(iii) What happens if one community is always the majority? Give an example. [2]

D5. Case-Based · Her Own Voice [4]

A Dalit woman sarpanch was stopped from hoisting the flag on Independence Day. She complained to the police and the media. The officials were punished, and the next year she hoisted the flag.

(i) Which outcome of democracy does this show? [1]

(ii) Why could she win this struggle? [1]

(iii) How has democracy strengthened women and disadvantaged castes? Two points. [2]

E

PART E · REAL BOARD QUESTIONS

Board PYQ Index

Real questions from recent Social Science board papers, by topic. Open the official paper and attempt the listed questions.

Frequency	Topic	Marks	Where asked (year: paper code, question number)	Practise here
★★☆	**Accountable, responsive, legitimate government**	5	**2026:** 32/1/1 Q27(A)	A3–A6, B1, B3, B9, B14, B17–B18, C1–C2, D1
★★☆	**Dignity and freedom of citizens**	5	**2026:** 32/1/1 Q27(B)	A11–A13, B7, B13, B16, B20, C3, D5
★★★	**Assessing democracy; why democracy is better**	3–5	**2025:** 32/1/1 Q27 (3 marks); Q32(A) (bases for assessing outcomes); Q32(B) (values of democracy)	A1–A2, B8, C4–C5
★★☆	**Development; inequality and poverty**	3–5	Not asked in the papers read – NCERT core.	A7–A8, B2, B5–B6, B10–B11, B15, C6, D2–D3
★★☆	**Accommodation of social diversity**	3	Not asked in the papers read – NCERT core.	A9–A10, B4, B12, B19, C7–C8, D4

Papers read in full for Political Science (2): 2026 – 32/1/1 · 2025 – 32/1/1. Both papers gave a full 5-mark question from this chapter. Download official papers from cbse.gov.in → Previous Year Question Papers.

F

PART F · YOUR RECORD

My Mistakes

Write down each mistake from this chapter, including the Sunday Chapter Test.

Every wrong answer is a free lesson. Write it here, find the point you missed, and redo the question after three days.

Date	Part & Q No.	What went wrong	Correct point or fact	Redone ✓