

NTSE

NCERT Solutions for Class 9 Social Science
CIVICS – Democratic Rights



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1. What are rights?

Ans. Rights are claims of a person over other fellow beings, over the society and over the government. Rights are reasonable claims of persons recognized by society and sanctioned by law.

2. What is Amnesty International?

Ans. Amnesty International is an international human rights organization.

3. What are the three qualities that a claim should have to become a right?

Ans.

- It should be reasonable claims of citizens that are equally possible for others.
- It should be recognized by society. Rights acquire meaning only in society.
- It should be sanctioned by law.

4. 'The notion of rights changes from time to time and society to society'. Discuss.

Ans. What all rights that we enjoy today were not granted to citizens in the early period. Two hundred years ago anyone who said that women should have the right to vote would have sounded strange. Today not granting them vote in Saudi Arabia appears strange.

5. What is the role of rights in Democracy?

Ans. (1) Rights protect minorities from the oppression of the majority. They ensure that the majority cannot do whatever it likes. Rights are guarantees which can be used when things go wrong.
(2) Things may go wrong when some citizens may wish to take away the rights of others. This usually happens when those in majority want to dominate those in the minority.
(3) The government should protect the citizens' rights in such a situation. But sometimes elected governments may not protect or may even attack the rights of their own citizens. That is why some rights need to be placed higher than the government, so that the government cannot violate these. In most democracies the basic rights of the citizen are written down in the constitution.

6. What is Guantanamo known for?

Ans. (1) It is known for prison there and the violation of human rights. About 600 people were secretly picked up by the US forces from all over the world and put in a prison in Guantanamo Bay, an area near Cuba controlled by American Navy.
(2) The American government said that they were enemies of the US and linked to the attack on New York on 11 September 2001. In most cases the governments of their countries were not asked or even informed about their imprisonment.

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(3) Families of prisoners, media or even UN representatives were not allowed to meet them. The US army arrested them, interrogated them and decided whether to keep them there or not.

(4) There was no trial before any magistrate in the US. Nor could these prisoners approach courts in their own country.

7. What was the basic reason for the ethnic massacre in Kosovo?

Ans. (1) Kosovo was a province of Yugoslavia before its split. In this province the population was overwhelmingly ethnic Albanian. But in the entire country, Serbs were in majority.

(2) A narrow minded Serb nationalist Milosevic had won the election. His government was very hostile to the Kosovo Albanians. He wanted the Serbs to dominate the country. Many Serb leaders thought that Ethnic minorities like Albanians should either leave the country or accept the dominance of the Serbs.

(3) This massacre was being carried out by the army of their own country, working under the direction of a leader who came to power through democratic elections. This was one of the worst instances of killings based on ethnic prejudices in recent times.

(4) Finally several other countries intervened to stop this massacre. Milosevic lost power and was tried by an International Court of Justice for crimes against humanity.

8. Explain the term Right to Equality.

Ans.

- The Constitution says that the government shall not deny to any person in India equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws. It means that the laws apply in the same manner to all, regardless of a person's status. This is called the rule of law. Rule of law is the foundation of any democracy. It means that no person is above the law. There cannot be any distinction between a political leader, government official and an ordinary citizen. No person can legally claim any special treatment or privilege just because he or she happens to be an important person.
- This basic position is further clarified in the Constitution by spelling out some implications of the Right to Equality. The government shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds of religion, caste, ethnicity, sex or place of birth. Every citizen shall have access to public places like shops, restaurants, hotels, and cinema halls.
- Similarly, there shall be no restriction with regard to the use of wells, tanks, bathing ghats, roads, playgrounds and places of public resorts maintained by government or dedicated to the use of general public.
- The same principle applies to public jobs. All citizens have equality of opportunity in matters relating to employment or appointment to any position in the government. No citizen shall be discriminated against or made ineligible for employment on the grounds mentioned above.

9. Why do we consider Right to freedom a cluster of several rights?

Ans. There are many freedoms included under Right to Freedom. Under the Indian Constitution all citizens have the right to:

(1) Freedom of speech and expression

(2) Citizens have the freedom to hold meetings, processions, rallies and demonstrations on any issue. (Assembly in a peaceful manner)

(3) Form associations and unions

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STORY**

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- (4) Move freely throughout the country
- (5) Reside in any part of the country, and
- (6) Practice any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business.

10. What are the provisions in the Constitution regarding the Right against exploitation?

Ans.

- The Constitution mentions three specific evils and declares these illegal.
- First, the Constitution prohibits 'traffic in human beings'. Traffic here means selling and buying of human beings, usually women, for immoral purposes.
- Second, our Constitution also prohibits forced labour or begar in any form. 'Begar' is a practice where the worker is forced to render service to the 'master' free of charge or at a nominal remuneration. When this practice takes place on a life-long basis, it is called the practice of bonded labour.
- Finally, the Constitution also prohibits child labour. No one can employ a child below the age of fourteen to work in any factory or mine or in any other hazardous work, such as railways and ports. Using this as a basis many laws have been made to prohibit children from working in industries such as beedi making, firecrackers and matches, printing and dyeing.

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