# NTSE

NCERT Solutions for Class 10 Social Science CIVICS – Challenges to Democracy



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### 1. What do you mean by the term challenge?

**Ans.** A challenge is a difficulty that carries within it, an opportunity for progress. A challenge is not just any problem. We usually call only those difficulties a 'challenge' which are significant and which can be overcome. Once we overcome a challenge, we go up to a higher level than before.

### 2. What do you mean by political reform?

**Ans.** Generally all the suggestions or proposals about overcoming various challenges to democracy are called 'democracy reform' or 'political reform'.

### 3. What challenges do non-democratic countries face, in their way to democracy?

**Ans.** Non-democratic countries face the foundational challenge of making the transition to democracy and then instituting democratic government. This involves bringing down the existing non-democratic rule, keeping the military away from controlling government and establishing a sovereign and functional state.

### 4. What challenge do established democracies face?

**Ans.** Most of the established democracies face the <u>challenge of expansion</u>. This involves applying the basic principle of democratic government across all the regions, different social groups and various institutions. Ensuring greater power to local governments, extension of federal principle to all the units of the federation, inclusion of women and minority groups, etc., falls under this challenge.

### 5. Explain deepening of democracy.

**Ans.** The challenge of <u>deepening democracy</u> is faced by every democracy in one form or another. This involves strengthening the institutions and practices of democracy.

This should happen in such a way that people can realize their expectations of democracy. In general terms, it usually means strengthening those institutions that help people's participation and control. This requires an attempt to bring down the control and influence of the rich and powerful people in making governmental decisions.



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### 6. Write the expanded definition of democracy.

Ans. Democracy is a form of government in which the rulers are elected by the people.

The rulers elected by the people must take all the major decisions;

Elections must offer a choice and fair opportunity to the people to change the current rulers. This choice and opportunity should be available to all the people on an equal basis; and The exercise of this choice must lead to a government limited by basic rules of the constitution and citizens' rights.

### 7. Discuss the expanded scope of democracy in the modern world.

**Ans.** Democratic rights are not limited to the right to vote, stand in elections and form political organizations. Democracy should offer to its citizens some social and economic rights.

Power sharing is the spirit of democracy. Power sharing between governments and social groups is necessary in a democracy.

The scope of democracy has gone beyond the government and its activities to eliminating discrimination based on caste, religion and gender.

### 8. Suggest any four guidelines that should be kept in mind while devising ways for political reforms in India.

**Ans.** People think of legal ways of reforming politics, to ban undesirable things. But this temptation needs to be resisted. Carefully devised changes in law can help to discourage wrong political practices and encourage good ones. But legal- constitutional changes by themselves cannot overcome challenges to democracy. Democratic reforms are to be carried out mainly by political activists, parties, movements and politically conscious citizens.

Any legal change must carefully look at what results it will have on politics. Sometimes the results may be counter-productive. Generally, laws that seek to ban something are not very successful in politics. Laws that give political actors incentives to do good things have more chances of working. The best laws are those, which empower people to carry out democratic reforms.

Democratic reforms are to be brought about principally through political practice. Therefore, the main focus of political reforms should be on ways to strengthen democratic practice. The most important concern should be to increase and improve the quality of political participation by ordinary citizens.

Any proposal for political reforms should think not only about what is a good solution but also about who will implement it and how. It is not very wise to think that the legislatures will pass legislations that go against the interest of all the political parties and MPs. But measures that rely on democratic movements, citizens' organizations and the media are likely to succeed.

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