

Subject- S. S. T Class- 8 Topic- Secularism In India

Learn and Write

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) – [Tick (✓) the correct options.]

Which of the following statements is true about secularism?

- (a) Secularism promotes harmony and peace.
- (b) A secular country adopts an unbiased approach towards all religions.
- (c) Both (a) and (b)

2. The dominance of the religion of a particular community over another is against the principle of
(a) secularism (b) nationalism (c) socialism

B. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements.

1. Religious bigotry can happen only where a particular faith gets official recognition at the cost of other religions.
2. Secularism is essentially similar to fundamentalism.
3. Religious dominance of one community over another is against the principle of democracy.
4. Freedom of religion and the right to preserve one's culture is a Fundamental Right of all Indian citizens.

Answer The Following

A. Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)–[Tick (✓) the correct options.]

1. For proper working of a system, it is imperative to separate religion from State
(a) communal (b) democratic (c) country
2. What is the policy of non-interference?
(a) Government respects the outlook of all religious communities.
(b) Government does not intervene in their customs and practices.
(c) Both (a) and (b)

B. Short Answer Questions

1. What do you understand by the term secularism?
2. What does Indian secularism guarantee its citizens?
3. Why no religious festival or practice is allowed in government-run institutions?
4. How does the State prevent domination or maltreatment?

C. Long Answer Questions

1. Why should we keep religion away from politics and State?
2. Compare the tenets of secularism as practised in India and the United States of America.
3. Discuss the importance of secularism in modern context.

D. HOTS (Higher Order Thinking Skills) Question

According to MK Gandhi, the State would look after our secular welfare. What do you understand by the term 'secular welfare'? How do you think, the State can look after our secular welfare?

2-Secularism In India

EXERCISE

Quick Revision

A. 1. (c) 2. (b)

B. 1. True 2. False 3. True 4. True

Answer The Following

A. 1. (b) 2. (c)

- B. 1. Secularism essentially means non-intervention of religion in matters relating to politics, society, education, etc.
2. Secularism in India guarantees that everyone should be free to leave or embrace any religion, interpret spiritual teachings as well as voice his/her view against any teachings and observances of a religion.
3. No religious festival or practice is allowed in government-run institutions because India does not have any state religion.
4. The State prevents the domination or ill-treatment of any section by following the strategy of intervention.

C. 1. There are three reasons for separating religion from State.

- **Smooth functioning of democracy:**

At times, a dominant religious group might use authority and prevent them from practising their religion. This is against the principle of democracy. So, it is necessary to separate religion from State for the proper working of democracy.

- **To protect fundamental rights :**

Everyone should be free to leave or embrace any religion, interpret spiritual teachings as well as voice his/her view against any teachings and observances of a religion which is a fundamental right.

- **To preserve India's unity:**

It is necessary to give equal importance to all religions so that there is harmony between different religious groups.

2. Similar to the Indian Constitution, the American Constitution declares that there is no official religion and no religion can seek special treatment from the State. Also, the legislature cannot pass any law that restricts freedom of religion. Moreover, the American Constitution strictly prohibits the State and religion from interfering in each other's affairs. On the other hand, the Indian government intervenes in religious affairs also, if the practices are unjust and infringe the rights of the weaker section of the society.

3. India is a country with diverse religions and religious beliefs. Therefore, it becomes extremely important to lay emphasis on secularism.

It is necessary for maintaining peace and harmony in the country. Giving preference to any one religion can create a rift in the society on the basis of religion.

Further, according to Articles 14 to 21 of the Constitution, all citizens enjoy same rights without any discrimination. Article 25 allows citizens of India to confess, practise and propagate religion of one's choice. Therefore, Secularism is necessary for equality.

In India, it is necessary that people are tolerant towards other religions for which it is necessary that the primary steps are taken by the government. The government should not at any time veer towards communalism so that the State remains secular always.

D. HOTS (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

The State is responsible for promoting secularism. It is also responsible for assuring that each person is free to practise or propagate their own religion. This is called 'secular welfare' and the State through Fundamental Rights looks after it.

Value Corner