

Lesson at a Glance

- Each country needs a **government** to make important decisions and function well. The decisions may be economic, educational or social.
- The government also takes care of the international boundaries and relations with other countries. It is responsible for the transport facilities and health facilities for citizens.
- The government works at different levels—like, **local level, state level, national level.**
- The government makes laws and every citizen is supposed to follow them. Laws need to be enforced for proper function of the government.
- Citizens can also take the help of law if they are dissatisfied with something.
- There are some types of government, like **democratic, monarch**, etc. In a democracy (like India), the people elect the government themselves by voting in the election. In a monarchy the king/queen has the power to make decisions and no one from the citizens can object to them.
- The basic idea of democracy is that people rule themselves by taking part in the law-making.
- Nowadays, democratic governments are better known as '**representative democracies**'. People do not participate directly. They choose their representatives during elections and these representatives come together for the decision-making process. All adults in the country are eligible to vote according to the **universal adult franchise.**
- There are instances in history when governments did not allow women, the poor people and the uneducated to vote. But when India got independence, universal adult franchise was enforced.

■ IN-TEXT QUESTIONS SOLVED ■

9. 1.

Government sought to protect rights of unorganised workers

Detailed plan to tackle floods soon, says Government

Govt. fixes price of onions. Says no shortage in market

Supreme Court can have five more judges: Govt

Govt. for revamping coal and power sector

Over 15,000 villages declared scarcity-hit by Government

Look at the newspaper headlines above and list the different kinds of activities that government is reported to be doing in these newspaper headlines.

1.
2.
3.
4.

Isn't this a wide range of activities? What do you think government is? Discuss in class.

(NCERT Textbook, page 27)

Ans. Below is given the list of different kinds of activities that the government is reported to be doing in these newspaper headlines :

1. The government protects the rights of unorganized workers.
2. The government has detailed plan to tackle floods soon.
3. The government fixes price of onions. It says there is no shortage of onions in markets.
4. It appoints judges to High court and Supreme Court.
5. It revamps coal and power sector.
6. It declares over 15,000 villages as scarcity-hit.

Undoubtedly, this is a very wide range of activities in which the government involves itself for the welfare of country as a whole.

So far as I think government is an institution or organization that takes decisions and gets things done in time. It builds roads and schools. It regularises the supply of electricity. It takes action on many social issues such as poverty, corruption, price-rise, etc. The postal and railway services are run under its supervision. The government makes all efforts to keep the country safe and peaceful. It tries to maintain good relationship with it neighbouring countries. Thus, the government has a variety of works and it is difficult for us to list all of its works.

9. 2. Can you list three things that the government does which have not been mentioned. (NCERT Textbook, page 28)

- Ans.**
1. The government promotes people to honour human dignity.
 2. It binds people to obey rules.
 3. It promotes patriotism among its citizens.

9. 3. Look at the statements in the column on the left. Can you identify which level they belong to? Place tick marks against the level you consider most appropriate.

(NCERT Textbook, page 30)

	Local	State	Central
1. The decision of the Indian government to maintain peaceful relations with Russia.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. The decision of the West Bengal Government on whether to have Board exam in class 8 for all government schools.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Introduction of two new train connections between Jammu and Bhubaneshwar.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. The decision to locate a common well in a particular area of the village.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5. Decision to construct a big children's park in Patna.
6. The decision of Haryana government to electricity for all farmers.
7. Introduction of a new 1000 rupee note.

- Ans.** 1. Central
2. State
3. Central
4. Local
5. Local
6. State
7. Central

Q. 4. Think of an example of another law. Why do you think it is important that people abide by this law?

(NCERT Textbook, page 31)

Ans. The government has made it compulsory for all persons to wear a helmet while driving a two-wheeler. However, the Sikhs have been excluded from this law. It is important that people abide by this law for his own safety.

Q. 5. Who gives the government this power to make decisions and enforce laws? (NCERT Textbook, page 31)

Ans. The answer of this question varies with the type of the government.

- In a democracy, it is the people who give the government this power. They do this through elections in which they vote for particular persons and elect them. Once elected, these persons form the government. In a democracy the government has to explain its actions and defends its decisions to the people.
- In a monarchy, the monarch i.e. king or queen, has the power to make decisions and run the government. The monarch may have a small group of people to discuss matters with but the final decision making power remains with the monarch.

Q. 6. Do you think it is important for people to be involved in decisions that affect them? Give two reasons for your answer.

- Ans.**
- If the government decides to raise the price of petrol, it must intimate common mass so that they may get mentally prepared for petrol price hike.
 - Common people also share a country's economy. So, they must know about what the government decides to do.

Q. 7. Which type of government would you prefer to have in the place you live in? Why? (NCERT Textbook, page 32)

Ans. Democracy is the best form of government and I would not like to replace it with another one. In a democracy, people have a say. They can get their desired works done through their elected representatives. It is they who rule themselves by participating in the making of rules.

Q. 8. Which of the statements below is correct? Correct those sentences that you think need correction.

- In a monarchy the country's citizens are allowed to elect whomever they want.
- In a democracy a king has absolute powers to rule the country.
- In a democracy people can raise questions about the decisions the monarch takes.

(NCERT Textbook, page 32)

- Ans.**
- In a democracy, the country's citizens are allowed to elect whoever they want.
 - In a monarchy a king has absolute powers to rule the country.
 - In a monarchy people can not raise questions about the decisions the monarch takes.

■ TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED ■

Q. 1. What do you understand by the word 'government'? List five ways in which you think the government affects your daily life.

Ans. The word government refers to a governing body that makes decisions and gets things done for the welfare of its citizens.

- The government provides legal supports to its citizens against any discrimination and injustice.
- It maintains peace and so keeps society in order.
- It controls crime.
- It assists people to lead proper life.
- In the event of natural calamities, the government provides all emergency assistance to the affected people.

Q. 2. Why do you think the government needs to make rules for everyone in the form of laws?

Ans. The government needs laws to maintain peace and order in society. Law establishes justice. It is meant to achieve constitutional ideas i.e. equality and right against discrimination. Law makes it compulsory for the people to obey it.

Q. 3. Name two essential features of a democratic government.

Ans. Two essential features of a democratic government are :

- Democracy is a rule by the people. It is people who rule themselves by participating in the making of these rules.
- In a democracy people have the power to elect their leaders. These leaders or representatives meet and make decisions for the entire population.

Q. 4. What was the suffrage movement? What did it accomplish?

Ans. The movement for voting rights to women came to be known as the suffrage movement. All over Europe and USA, women and the poor have had to fight for participation in the government. Women's struggle to vote got strengthened during the first world war. During the War, many men were away fighting and because of this women were called upon to do work that was earlier considered men's work. Thus, women got opportunity to show their capability. People as a whole got disillusioned. They began demanding the right to vote for all women. The result was positive. American women got the right to vote in 1920 while women in the UK got the right to vote on the same terms as men some years later, in 1928.

Q. 5. Gandhiji strongly believed that every adult in India should be given the right to vote. However, a few people don't share his views. They feel that illiterate people, who are mainly poor, should not be given the right to vote. What do you think? Do you think this would be a form of discrimination? Give five points to support your view and share these with the class.

Ans. All citizens are equal. The constitution aims at providing all equality to all its citizens.

- We have no right to discriminate any one on the basis of poverty.
- An illiterate is also a citizen of India. He should not be debarred from voting right on the basis of his illiteracy.
- Our constitution provides equal voting rights to all its citizens.
- As ideal citizens we all have to abide by the constitutional provisions. We must honour human dignity and legal provisions.

