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## **NCERT Civics (Political Science) Class 10th**

### **Chapter 3: Gender, Religion and Caste**

#### **Gender and Politics**

##### **1. Definition of Gender Division:**

- Gender division is a hierarchical social division present worldwide.
- It is rarely acknowledged in political studies.

##### **2. Misconception About Gender Division:**

- Often perceived as natural and unchangeable.
- Not based on biological factors but on social expectations and stereotypes.

##### **3. Sexual Division of Labour:**

- A system where women primarily manage household work.
- Work inside the home is either performed by women or organized by them through domestic helpers.

##### **4. Gender Roles in Society:**

- Society assigns specific roles to men and women based on stereotypes.

- This results in limited opportunities for women in public and political life.

## **5. Political Relevance of Gender Division:**

- Gender-based inequalities influence social and economic policies.
- Recognizing gender division is crucial for achieving gender equality in politics.

## **Public/Private Division**

### **1. Gender Stereotypes and Social Expectations:**

- Boys and girls are socialized to believe that women's primary role is housework and child-rearing.
- The sexual division of labour is deeply ingrained in society, where women handle household work, and men work outside.

### **2. Sexual Division of Labour:**

- Women perform tasks like cooking, cleaning, tailoring, and childcare, while men engage in outside work.
- Men do not consider household chores their responsibility, but they take up such jobs when paid (e.g., male tailors and hotel cooks).

### **3. Women's Economic Contribution:**

- Women in villages fetch water, collect fuel, and work in fields.
- Urban poor women work as domestic helpers, while middle-class women have office jobs.
- Despite working inside and outside the home, women's contributions are undervalued and unrecognized.

#### **4. Limited Role of Women in Public and Political Life:**

- Women make up half of the population but have minimal participation in public life, especially in politics.
- Historically, only men were allowed to vote and contest elections.
- Over time, the women's rights movement fought for equal voting rights and political participation.

#### **5. Feminist Movements and Their Impact:**

- Feminist movements demanded equal political and legal status for women.
- They also advocated for better education and career opportunities.
- More radical feminist movements fought for equality in personal and family life.

#### **6. Women's Growing Role in Public Life:**

- Political awareness and mobilization have improved women's presence in various professions such as:
- Scientists, doctors, engineers, lawyers, managers, and educators.
- Scandinavian countries (Sweden, Norway, Finland) have high female participation in public life.

#### **7. Gender Inequality in India:**

- Despite progress since Independence, India remains a male-dominated, patriarchal society.
- Women face discrimination, oppression, and disadvantage in multiple areas.

#### **8. Education and Gender Gap:**

- Female literacy rate: 54% vs. Male literacy rate: 76%.
- Fewer girls pursue higher education as parents prioritize boys' education.
- Despite performing well academically, many girls drop out due to societal and economic factors.

## **9. Gender Pay Gap and Economic Discrimination:**

- Women work one hour more per day than men but their work is often unpaid and undervalued.
- The Equal Remuneration Act, of 1976 mandates equal pay for equal work, but women still earn less in fields like sports, cinema, factories, and agriculture.

## **10. Declining Child Sex Ratio and Gender Bias:**

- Sex-selective abortions have led to a declining child-sex ratio (919 girls per 1000 boys).
- In some states, the ratio has fallen below 850 or even 800.
- The preference for male children continues to impact gender demographics negatively.

## **11. Violence and Harassment Against Women:**

- Women face harassment, exploitation, and violence in various forms.
- Urban areas are unsafe, with increasing cases of abuse.
- Domestic violence is prevalent, and women are not safe even in their own homes.

## **12. Key Terms:**

- **Feminist:** A person who advocates for equal rights and opportunities for men and women.

- **Patriarchy:** A system where men hold power over women, both in society and the family.

## **Women's Political Representation**

### **1. Lack of Attention to Women's Issues:**

- Despite widespread awareness, women's well-being is not given priority in decision-making.
- Feminists and women's movements believe that women must control power to ensure their issues receive adequate attention.

### **2. Low Representation of Women in Indian Politics:**

- Women's participation in legislatures is very low in India.
- In 2019, the proportion of women in the Lok Sabha reached 14.36% for the first time.
- Their representation in State Assemblies remains below 5%.

### **3. Global Comparison of Women's Representation:**

- India ranks low in women's political representation compared to Africa and Latin America.
- Government cabinets are mostly male-dominated, even when a woman holds a key position like Chief Minister or Prime Minister.

### **4. Panchayati Raj and Women's Reservation:**

- To address gender disparity, one-third of seats in Panchayati Raj institutions (local bodies like panchayats and municipalities) are reserved for women.
- Over 10 lakh women are now elected representatives in rural and urban local bodies.

## 5. Women's Reservation in Parliament and State Assemblies:

- Women's organizations and activists have been demanding 33% reservation in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies for decades.
- The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (Women's Reservation Act, 2023) was passed, ensuring one-third reservation for women in:
  - a. Lok Sabha (Lower House of Parliament)
  - b. State Legislative Assemblies
  - c. Delhi Assembly

## 6. Political Expression of Social Divisions:

- Gender division, like other social divisions, must be expressed politically to bring about positive change.
- The political mobilization of disadvantaged groups, such as women, helps them secure rights and representation.

## 7. Importance of Political Representation for Women's Progress:

- If women's unequal treatment had not been raised in politics, progress in education, employment, and rights would have been much slower.
- The inclusion of women in politics ensures that gender-related concerns are addressed at the highest level.

## MCQs on NCERT Civics Class 10 Chapter 3 Topic

### – Gender and Politics

Here are top exam oriented mcq's type questions on "*Gender and Politics*" that you should prepare for your CBSE or state board exams:

### **Question 1. What is gender division?**

- a) A biological difference between men and women
- b) A natural and unchangeable division in society
- c) A form of hierarchical social division based on social expectations and stereotypes
- d) A division that exists only in politics

**Answer: c)** A form of hierarchical social division based on social expectations and stereotypes

### **Question 2. What does the term 'sexual division of labour' refer to?**

- a) Equal distribution of work between men and women
- b) A system where all household work is done or managed by women
- c) A situation where men perform household work
- d) A law ensuring equal wages for men and women

**Answer: b)** A system where all household work is done or managed by women

### **Question 3. Which of the following statements best describes the 'public/private division'?**

- a) A belief that men should work in public spaces and women should do housework
- b) A system where men and women share household work equally
- c) A legal rule that ensures equal job opportunities
- d) A division between government and private sector jobs

**Answer: a)** A belief that men should work in public spaces and women should do housework

**Question 4. Which of the following is NOT an example of gender division in society?**

- a) Women doing all household chores while men work outside
- b) Men being paid more than women for the same work
- c) Equal representation of men and women in politics
- d) Parents preferring to educate sons over daughters

**Answer: c)** Equal representation of men and women in politics

**Question 5. Which factor led to the political expression of gender division?**

- a) The belief that women should stay at home
- b) The demand for equal rights by women
- c) The reluctance of women to participate in public life
- d) The refusal of men to work outside

**Answer: b)** The demand for equal rights by women

**Question 6. What were the main demands of feminist movements?**

- a) Enhancing the political and legal status of women
- b) Restricting women to household work
- c) Reducing women's participation in politics
- d) Encouraging women to take up only traditional professions

**Answer: a)** Enhancing the political and legal status of women

**Question 7. In which regions is women's participation in public life the highest?**



- a) South Asia
- b) Scandinavian countries (Sweden, Norway, Finland)
- c) Middle Eastern countries
- d) Latin America

**Answer: b)** Scandinavian countries (Sweden, Norway, Finland)

**Question 8. What is the main goal of feminist movements?**

- a) To establish the superiority of women over men
- b) To create an entirely separate political system for women
- c) To achieve equality between men and women in all spheres of life
- d) To restrict men from participating in politics

**Answer: c)** To achieve equality between men and women in all spheres of life

**Question 9. Which of the following is NOT a form of discrimination faced by women in India?**

- a) Lower literacy rate compared to men
- b) Equal wages for equal work
- c) Preference for educating boys over girls
- d) Harassment and violence against women

**Answer: b)** Equal wages for equal work

**Question 10. What is the literacy rate among women in India compared to men?**

- a) 65% for women, 85% for men
- b) 54% for women, 76% for men
- c) 70% for women, 80% for men
- d) 80% for women, 90% for men

**Answer: b)** 54% for women, 76% for men

**Question 11. What is the main reason for the low percentage of girls in higher education?**

- a) Girls are not interested in studying
- b) Girls do not perform well in school
- c) Parents prefer to invest in their sons' education
- d) Girls are not allowed to attend schools

**Answer: c)** Parents prefer to invest in their sons' education

**Question 12. According to the Equal Remuneration Act of 1976, what does the law mandate?**

- a) Women should be paid less than men
- b) Men should be paid twice as much as women
- c) Equal wages for equal work regardless of gender
- d) Only men can work in industries

**Answer: c)** Equal wages for equal work regardless of gender

**Question 13. Which of the following contributes to the declining child sex ratio in India?**

- a) The high literacy rate of women
- b) Sex-selective abortion
- c) Women's participation in the workforce
- d) Equal representation of women in politics

**Answer: b)** Sex-selective abortion

**Question 14.** What percentage of seats in local government bodies are reserved for women in India?

- a) 10%
- b) 20%
- c) 33%
- d) 50%

**Answer: c)** 33%

**Question 15.** What percentage of women were elected to the Lok Sabha in 2019?

- a) 5%
- b) 10%
- c) 14.36%
- d) 25%

**Answer: c)** 14.36%

**Question 16.** What is the name of the law passed in 2023 that reserves 33% of seats for women in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies?

- a) Women's Empowerment Act
- b) Equal Representation Act
- c) Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam
- d) Gender Equality Act

**Answer: c)** Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam

**Question 17.** Which of the following best describes patriarchy?

- a) A system where women hold more power than men
- b) A system where men dominate and hold power over women
- c) A political movement led by women
- d) A legal system ensuring equal rights for women

**Answer: b)** A system where men dominate and hold power over women

**Question 18. What is one major reason for the low representation of women in legislatures?**

- a) Lack of interest in politics among women
- b) Resistance from male-dominated political parties
- c) Women are legally not allowed to contest elections
- d) Women are not eligible to vote in India

**Answer: b)** Resistance from male-dominated political parties

**Question 19. What is the significance of women's representation in politics?**

- a) It ensures women's issues are given priority in policymaking
- b) It reduces men's role in governance
- c) It creates an entirely separate government for women
- d) It ensures that only women make laws

**Answer: a)** It ensures women's issues are given priority in policymaking

**Question 20. Why is gender division considered a social rather than a biological division?**

- a) It is based on natural differences between men and women
- b) It is created by society through stereotypes and social norms

- c) It has existed since ancient times and cannot change
- d) It is a political strategy used by governments

**Answer: b)** It is created by society through stereotypes and social norms

## **Religion, Communalism And Politics**

### **1. Religious Diversity in Society**

- Religious divisions are not as universal as gender divisions but exist in most societies.
- Many countries, including India, have followers of multiple religions within their population.
- Even within the same religion, differences may exist in how people practice it (e.g., the Northern Ireland conflict).

### **2. Expression of Religion in Politics**

- Unlike gender differences, religious differences are often expressed in politics.
- Gandhiji believed that religion and politics cannot be separated.
- He emphasized that politics should be guided by moral values from all religions, not just a particular one.

### **3. Demands for Government Intervention in Religious Matters**

- Human rights groups in India demand that the government should prevent communal riots and protect religious minorities.
- The women's movement argues that family laws of all religions discriminate against women and should be reformed for gender equality.

## **4. Role of Religion in Politics**

- Religious ideals and values can influence politics in a positive way if they promote justice, equality, and ethics.
- People should be allowed to express their religious interests in politics, as long as it does not violate democratic principles.

## **5. Regulation of Religion by Political Authorities**

- Governments may regulate religious practices if they lead to discrimination or oppression.
- However, such regulations must ensure equal treatment of all religions to maintain secularism and fairness.

## **6. Ethical and Secular Approach to Religion in Politics**

- Religious influence in politics is not necessarily harmful if it upholds equality and justice.
- The state should not favour any one religion but ensure equal rights and opportunities for all religious communities.

# **Communalism**

## **1. Religion as the Basis of a Nation: A Dangerous Concept**

- Problems arise when religion is used as the foundation of a nation, leading to exclusion and division.
- Northern Ireland's conflict is an example of how religion-based nationalism can cause unrest.
- Communalism emerges when one religion is placed above others and used to dominate the state.

## 2. Understanding Communal Politics

- Communal politics is based on the belief that religion is the key factor defining a community.
- It assumes that all followers of a religion share common interests, ignoring individual differences.
- Extreme communalism leads to the idea that different religious groups cannot coexist in one nation.
- In its worst form, it suggests that either one religious group dominates others or that separate nations should be formed.

## 3. Flawed Nature of Communal Thinking

- People within the same religion have diverse aspirations, roles, and identities.
- Not all followers of religion think alike, and forcing them into one identity suppresses internal diversity.
- Multiple perspectives exist within every community, and these must be acknowledged in a democratic society.

## 4. Various Forms of Communalism in Politics

- **Everyday Communal Beliefs**
  - a. Prejudices and stereotypes about religions lead to subtle communal biases.
  - b. People often accept religious superiority unconsciously, which influences their behaviour and decisions.
- **Political Domination in the Name of Religion**
  - a. Majority communities may seek dominance over minorities, known as majoritarianism.
  - b. Minority communities may demand political separatism to form their independent units.

- **Political Mobilization on Religious Lines**
  - a. Sacred symbols, religious leaders, and emotional appeals are used to unite people of one religion in politics.
  - b. In elections, political parties may favour one religious group over others to gain votes.
- **Communal Violence and Riots**
  - a. Extreme communalism results in violence, riots, and massacres.
  - b. India and Pakistan suffered severe communal riots during Partition.
  - c. Even after Independence, India has witnessed large-scale communal violence in different periods.

## Secular State

### 1. Communalism: A Threat to Democracy

- Communalism remains a major challenge to Indian democracy.
- The Constitution makers recognized this issue and designed India as a secular state.
- Communalism is not just a threat to certain communities but to the idea of India itself.

### 2. India's Model of Secularism

- No official religion is recognized by the Indian state.
- Unlike Buddhism in Sri Lanka, Islam in Pakistan, or Christianity in England, India remains neutral in religious matters.

### 3. Constitutional Provisions Ensuring Secularism

- **Freedom of Religion:** Every individual and community can profess, practice, and propagate any religion or choose not to follow any.



- **No Discrimination:** The Constitution prohibits discrimination on religious grounds.
- **State Intervention for Equality:** The state can intervene to ensure fairness within religious communities (e.g., banning untouchability).

#### 4. Secularism: More Than an Ideology

- Secularism is not just a political idea but a core principle of the Indian Constitution.
- A secular state alone is not enough to stop communalism.
- Communal prejudices and propaganda must be tackled in everyday life and politics.
- Religious mobilization for political gains should be countered actively.

#### 5. Family Laws in India

- Family laws regulate matters like marriage, divorce, inheritance, and adoption.
- Different religions have different family laws in India.

## MCQs on NCERT Civics Class 10 Chapter 3 Topic – Religion, Communalism And Politics

Here are top exam oriented mcq's type questions on "*Religion, Communalism And Politics*" that you should prepare for your CBSE or state board exams:

**Question 1.** How is religious division different from gender division?

- a) Religious diversity is not as universal as gender diversity
- b) Religion is based on biology, while gender is socially constructed

- c) Religious division is never expressed in politics
- d) Gender division is always dangerous, while religious division is not

**Answer: a)** Religious diversity is not as universal as gender diversity

**Question 2. According to Gandhiji, what should guide politics?**

- a) Military strength
- b) Economic policies
- c) Ethics drawn from religion
- d) Caste-based representation

**Answer: c)** Ethics drawn from religion

**Question 3. What is the demand of human rights groups regarding communal riots?**

- a) The government should take special steps to prevent communal violence
- b) The government should not interfere in religious matters
- c) The government should establish an official religion
- d) The government should allow communal riots to occur freely

**Answer: a)** The government should take special steps to prevent communal violence

**Question 4. What is the demand of women's movements regarding family laws?**

- a) Family laws of all religions should be abolished
- b) Family laws should be changed to make them more equitable for women
- c) Women should not be allowed to follow religious laws
- d) Family laws should be enforced strictly without any changes

**Answer: b)** Family laws should be changed to make them more equitable for women

**Question 5. What is the main problem with linking religion and nationalism?**

- a) It unites all communities under one belief system
- b) It strengthens democracy
- c) It leads to conflict and division among religious groups
- d) It ensures equality among all religions

**Answer: c)** It leads to conflict and division among religious groups

**Question 6. Which of the following best defines communal politics?**

- a) When religion is used for national unity
- b) When religion is used to create social harmony
- c) When religion is used to establish dominance of one group over another
- d) When religious leaders participate in politics

**Answer: c)** When religion is used to establish dominance of one group over another

**Question 7. Which of the following statements is NOT a characteristic of communalism?**

- a) People of the same religion must belong to one community
- b) Followers of different religions cannot have common interests
- c) Religion should be used to unite people of all backgrounds
- d) Religious differences can lead to political conflicts

**Answer: c)** Religion should be used to unite people of all backgrounds

**Question 8. In its extreme form, communalism leads to which of the following beliefs?**

- a) People of different religions can live peacefully together
- b) People of different religions must form separate nations
- c) Religious diversity strengthens democracy
- d) Religious unity is necessary for democracy

**Answer: b)** People of different religions must form separate nations

**Question 9. Which of the following is a flawed belief of communalism?**

- a) People of different religions can have common interests
- b) All followers of a religion must have the same aspirations
- c) A nation can have multiple religions living together peacefully
- d) Religious diversity is important for a democratic society

**Answer: b)** All followers of a religion must have the same aspirations

**Question 10. Which of the following is NOT a form of communalism?**

- a) Religious prejudices and stereotypes
- b) Equal treatment of all religions in politics
- c) Majoritarian dominance
- d) Political mobilization based on religious identity

**Answer: b)** Equal treatment of all religions in politics

**Question 11. Which of the following is an example of political mobilization on religious lines?**

- a) Use of sacred symbols and religious leaders for political gains
- b) Encouraging equal representation of all communities
- c) Avoiding any religious influence in political matters
- d) Promoting inter-religious harmony in politics

**Answer: a)** Use of sacred symbols and religious leaders for political gains

**Question 12. Which of the following statements about communalism is correct?**

- a) Communalism is harmless and promotes peace
- b) Communalism leads to discrimination and violence
- c) Communalism only affects small communities
- d) Communalism has no impact on politics

**Answer: b)** Communalism leads to discrimination and violence

**Question 13. What is an extreme form of communalism?**

- a) Religious harmony
- b) Political debates on religious policies
- c) Communal riots and violence
- d) Secularism

**Answer: c)** Communal riots and violence

**Question 14. What happened during the Partition of India in terms of communalism?**

- a) Different communities united under one government
- b) Large-scale communal riots and violence occurred
- c) Religious conflicts were resolved peacefully
- d) There was no religious impact on politics

**Answer: b)** Large-scale communal riots and violence occurred

**Question 15. Which of the following is true about the secular nature of the Indian Constitution?**

- a) It declares Hinduism as the national religion
- b) It provides special privileges to one religion
- c) It gives equal status to all religions
- d) It does not allow people to follow any religion

**Answer: c)** It gives equal status to all religions

**Question 16. Which of the following is a secular feature of the Indian Constitution?**

- a) Declaring Buddhism as the state religion
- b) Prohibiting religious freedom
- c) Providing individuals and communities the freedom to practice any religion
- d) Making one religion mandatory for all citizens

**Answer: c)** Providing individuals and communities the freedom to practice any religion

**Question 17. What is one way the Indian Constitution ensures religious equality?**

- a) By banning all religious practices
- b) By prohibiting discrimination based on religion
- c) By giving financial support to one religion
- d) By encouraging conversion to the majority religion

**Answer: b)** By prohibiting discrimination based on religion

**Question 18. Why does the Indian Constitution allow state intervention in religious matters?**

- a) To promote one religion over others
- b) To ensure equality within religious communities
- c) To stop people from practising their faith
- d) To remove all religious symbols from public life

**Answer: b)** To ensure equality within religious communities

**Question 19. Which of the following is an example of state intervention in religion?**

- a) Declaring one religion superior to others
- b) Banning untouchability
- c) Preventing people from following religious customs
- d) Making religious laws compulsory for all citizens

**Answer: b)** Banning untouchability

**Question 20. Why is secularism important for India?**

- a) It ensures the dominance of one religion
- b) It protects the rights of all religious communities
- c) It eliminates all religious diversity
- d) It allows the government to favour one religion

**Answer: b)** It protects the rights of all religious communities

**Question 21. What is the major challenge posed by communalism to democracy?**

- a) It strengthens national unity
- b) It creates divisions and conflicts in society
- c) It promotes equality among all religions
- d) It does not affect democratic processes

**Answer: b)** It creates divisions and conflicts in society

**Question 22. What should be done to combat communalism in politics?**

- a) Promote religious prejudices
- b) Support religion-based political mobilization
- c) Encourage secular principles and equality
- d) Restrict religious freedom

**Answer: c)** Encourage secular principles and equality

**Question 23. What is the meaning of “family laws”?**

- a) Laws that deal with marriage, divorce, and inheritance
- b) Laws that regulate business contracts
- c) Laws that only apply to men
- d) Laws that prohibit religious freedom

**Answer: a)** Laws that deal with marriage, divorce, and inheritance

## **Caste And Politics**



## **1. Social Divisions in Politics:**

- Social divisions can be expressed in both positive and negative ways in politics.
- Two examples of social divisions in politics have already been studied—one positive and one negative.

## **2. Caste and Politics: A Mixed Impact:**

- The role of caste in politics has both positive and negative consequences.
- Caste-based political mobilization can empower marginalized communities but may also lead to division and discrimination.
- It is important to study how caste influences democracy and governance.

## **Caste Inequalities**

### **1. Caste as a Unique Social Division in India:**

- Unlike gender and religion, caste division is specific to India.
- All societies have social inequalities and occupational divisions, but caste is an extreme form of hereditary occupation-based division.
- The caste system was ritually sanctioned, meaning occupation and social status were determined by birth.

### **2. Characteristics of the Caste System:**

- Members of the same caste practised the same occupation.
- Marriage and dining were restricted within the same caste group.
- The caste system led to the exclusion and discrimination of 'outcast' groups.

- Untouchability was a result of caste-based discrimination (studied in Class 9).

### **3. Social Reform Movements Against Caste Discrimination:**

- Many leaders worked towards abolishing caste inequalities, including:
  - a. Jotiba Phule
  - b. Mahatma Gandhi
  - c. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
  - d. Periyar Ramaswami Naicker
- Their efforts, along with socio-economic changes, have transformed caste dynamics in India.

### **4. Changes in the Caste System in Modern India:**

- Economic development, urbanization, literacy, education, and occupational mobility have weakened caste-based hierarchy.
- Landlord dominance has declined, further reducing caste-based discrimination.
- Indian Constitution prohibits caste-based discrimination and introduced policies to correct past injustices.
- Social interaction in urban areas is less caste-restrictive than in villages.

### **5. Persistence of Caste in Contemporary India:**

- Caste-based endogamy (marriage within the caste) continues.
- Untouchability is not completely eradicated, despite legal prohibition.
- Historical advantages of upper castes in education still influence economic and social status.
- Caste and economic status remain closely linked, leading to unequal representation in middle-class professions.

# Caste in Politics

## 1. Casteism and Its Beliefs:

- Casteism is based on the belief that caste is the sole basis of social identity and interests.
- It assumes that people of the same caste share common interests, distinct from those of other castes.
- This belief is incorrect as caste is just one aspect of a person's identity, not the only or most important one.

## 2. Role of Caste in Politics:

- Political parties consider caste composition while selecting candidates for elections.
- Governments ensure caste representation by including members of different castes and tribes.
- Some political parties are known to favour certain castes and are seen as their representatives.
- Caste-based appeals are used by parties to mobilize support during elections.
- The principle of universal adult franchise brought awareness among lower castes, empowering them politically.

## 3. Misconceptions About Caste and Elections:

- Elections are not solely determined by caste; many other factors play a role.
- No parliamentary constituency has a single caste in the majority.
- Every candidate and party must gain support from multiple castes and communities to win elections.

- No caste votes entirely for one party; even if a caste is a party's "vote bank," not all members support it.
- Multiple candidates from the same caste often compete in elections, diluting caste-based voting patterns.
- Ruling parties and sitting MPs/MLAs frequently lose elections, proving that caste-based voting is not absolute.

#### **4. Factors Beyond Caste in Electoral Politics:**

- Voter loyalty to political parties is often stronger than caste-based voting.
- Economic status influences voting behaviour within the same caste.
- Gender differences exist in voting preferences even within the same caste.
- The performance of the government and leaders' popularity significantly impact election outcomes.

### **Politics in Caste**

#### **1. Two-Way Relationship Between Caste and Politics:**

- Politics does not become caste-ridden; instead, caste gets politicized through political processes.
- Caste identities are influenced by politics when brought into the political arena.

#### **2. Forms of Caste Politicization:**

- Caste groups expand by including neighbouring sub-castes that were previously excluded.
- Different caste groups form coalitions and engage in political dialogue and negotiations.

- New categories like 'backward' and 'forward' caste groups have emerged in politics.

### **3. Positive Impact of Caste in Politics:**

- Empowers disadvantaged communities (Dalits and OBCs) by providing them access to decision-making.
- Helps in demanding rights, dignity, and resources through political and non-political movements.
- Reduces caste discrimination by ensuring representation in governance.

### **4. Negative Impact of Caste in Politics:**

- Excessive focus on caste diverts attention from crucial issues like poverty, development, and corruption.
- Can lead to social tensions, conflicts, and even violence.
- Encourages vote bank politics, where caste identity overshadows merit and governance.

#### **Extra:**

## **Caste Inequality Today**

### **1. Caste as a Source of Economic Inequality:**

- Caste historically regulated access to resources, leading to economic disparity.
- In the past, 'untouchables' were denied land ownership, while only 'twice-born castes' had access to education.
- Though caste-based discrimination is now illegal, the impact of historical inequalities persists.

## 2. Changing Relationship Between Caste and Economic Status:

- Economic mobility has increased, and rich and poor people can now be found in all castes.
- This shift was rare 20–30 years ago when the lowest castes had almost no wealthy individuals.
- Despite progress, caste is still closely linked to economic status.

## 3. Findings from National Sample Survey (NSS) Data:

- Caste-based hierarchy in economic status still exists, with ‘upper castes’ being the wealthiest and Dalits & Adivasis the poorest.
- Extreme poverty is higher among lower castes and lower among upper castes.
- Upper castes are overrepresented among the rich, while lower castes remain underrepresented.

## 4. Caste-wise Poverty Distribution (1999–2000 NSS Data):

- Scheduled Tribes (STs) had the highest poverty rates (45.8% rural, 35.6% urban).
- Scheduled Castes (SCs) also had high poverty levels (35.9% rural, 38.3% urban).
- Other Backward Classes (OBCs) had moderate poverty levels (27.0% rural, 29.5% urban).
- Upper castes (Hindu, Christian, Sikh, Muslim) had the lowest poverty rates, with some groups below 10% poverty levels.
- Overall poverty rates were higher in rural areas (27.0%) than in urban areas (23.4%).

**Caste and Community groups**

**Rural**

**Urban**

Scheduled Tribes	45.8	35.6
Scheduled Castes	35.9	38.3
Other Backward Classes	27.0	29.5
Muslim Upper Castes	26.8	34.2
Hindu Upper Castes	11.7	9.9
Christian Upper Castes	9.6	5.4
Sikh Upper Castes	0.0	4.9
Other Upper Castes	16.0	2.7
All Groups	27.0	23.4

## 5. Key Observations on Caste and Economic Disparity:

- Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes suffer the most from economic deprivation.
- Upper-caste *Hindus, Christians, and Sikhs* have the lowest poverty rates.
- Caste-based economic inequality persists despite legal reforms.

### Extra:

## Social and Religious Diversity of India

### 1. Census of India and Religion Recording:

- The Census of India records the religion of every individual every ten years.

- Religion is recorded exactly as stated by the individual, including those who identify as atheists or have 'no religion'.
- This data helps track changes in the religious composition of the country.

## **2. Population Trends of Religious Communities:**

- Since Independence, the total population of all religious communities has increased.
- The proportion of Hindus, Jains, and Christians has declined marginally since 1961.
- The proportion of Muslims, Sikhs, and Buddhists has slightly increased.
- The belief that Muslims will overtake other communities is incorrect; estimates suggest only a 3-4% increase in the next 50 years.

## **3. Role of the Sachar Committee:**

- The Sachar Committee (Prime Minister's High-Level Committee) estimated minor changes in the proportion of different religious groups.
- It debunked the myth of drastic demographic shifts in religious composition.

## **4. Census and Social Groups in India:**

- The Census of India counts two broad social groups:
  - a. Scheduled Castes (SCs) (16.6% of the population in 2011).
  - b. Scheduled Tribes (STs) (8.6% of the population in 2011).
- SCs (Dalits) were historically regarded as 'outcastes' and faced untouchability.
- STs (Adivasis) lived in isolated regions (hills and forests) and had limited interaction with mainstream society.



- The Census does not record Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

## 5. Proportion of OBCs in Population:

- The National Sample Survey (2004-05) estimated OBCs to be around 41% of the total population.
- Together, SCs, STs, and OBCs form about two-thirds of the total population.
- Among Hindus, SCs, STs, and OBCs make up nearly three-fourths of the community.

## 6. Key Sociological Terms:

- Urbanisation: Migration of people from rural to urban areas.
- Occupational mobility: Changing jobs across generations, moving away from traditional family occupations.
- Caste hierarchy: Social ranking of caste groups from 'highest' to 'lowest'.

# MCQs on NCERT Civics Class 10 Chapter 3 Topic – Caste and Politics

Here are top exam oriented mcq's type questions on "*Caste and politics*" that you should prepare for your CBSE or state board exams:

### Question 1. What are the two aspects of caste in politics?

- a) Only positive
- b) Only negative
- c) Both positive and negative
- d) Neither positive nor negative

**Answer: c)** Both positive and negative

**Question 2. Which social division is unique to India?**

- a) Gender
- b) Religion
- c) Caste
- d) Economic

**Answer: c)** Caste

**Question 3. What makes the caste system different from other forms of social inequality?**

- a) It is based on economic status
- b) It is sanctioned by rituals
- c) It allows mobility between castes
- d) It does not influence occupations

**Answer: b)** It is sanctioned by rituals

**Question 4. In the caste system, members of a caste group were expected to:**

- a) Marry within the caste
- b) Eat only with members of other castes
- c) Change their occupations frequently
- d) Form political alliances outside their caste

**Answer: a)** Marry within the caste

**Question 5. Which practice was used to discriminate against outcast groups?**

- a) Economic restrictions
- b) Occupational mobility
- c) Untouchability
- d) Political representation

**Answer: c)** Untouchability

**Question 6. Which of the following social reformers worked to abolish caste inequalities?**

- a) Raja Ram Mohan Roy
- b) B.R. Ambedkar
- c) Jawaharlal Nehru
- d) Subhas Chandra Bose

**Answer: b)** B.R. Ambedkar

**Question 7. Which of the following factors contributed to the decline of caste hierarchy?**

- a) Economic development
- b) Urbanisation
- c) Growth of literacy and education
- d) All of the above

**Answer: d)** All of the above

**Question 8. Which law prohibits caste-based discrimination in India?**

- a) Right to Education Act
- b) Constitution of India
- c) Indian Penal Code
- d) Civil Rights Act

**Answer: b)** Constitution of India

**Question 9. Which aspect of caste has persisted in modern India?**

- a) Most people marry within their caste
- b) Caste has no relation to economic status
- c) Upper castes are under-represented in urban areas
- d) The caste system is completely abolished

**Answer: a)** Most people marry within their caste

**Question 10. Despite the constitutional prohibition, which practice still exists in some places?**

- a) Economic reservation
- b) Untouchability
- c) Social mobility
- d) Religious reforms

**Answer: b)** Untouchability

**Question 11. Caste continues to be an important factor in which aspect of life?**

- a) Economic status
- b) Political preferences

- c) Social mobility
- d) All of the above

**Answer: d)** All of the above

**Question 12. Which caste groups were historically denied the right to own land?**

- a) Upper castes
- b) Middle castes
- c) Untouchable castes
- d) Backward castes

**Answer: c)** Untouchable castes

**Question 13. What is one major change in caste-based economic inequality today?**

- a) Only upper castes are rich
- b) Rich and poor people exist in all castes
- c) Economic inequality has disappeared
- d) Caste no longer affects occupation

**Answer: b)** Rich and poor people exist in all castes

**Question 14. Which community has the lowest percentage of population below the poverty line in urban areas?**

- a) Hindu Upper Castes
- b) Christian Upper Castes
- c) Sikh Upper Castes
- d) Other Upper Castes

**Answer: c)** Sikh Upper Castes

**Question 15. Which caste group has the highest percentage of people living below the poverty line in rural areas?**

- a) Scheduled Castes
- b) Scheduled Tribes
- c) Hindu Upper Castes
- d) Other Backward Classes

**Answer: b)** Scheduled Tribes

**Question 16. Casteism is based on the belief that:**

- a) Caste is the only factor that defines social identity
- b) Caste does not influence politics
- c) Different castes have common interests
- d) Elections are never influenced by caste

**Answer: a)** Caste is the only factor that defines social identity

**Question 17. How do political parties use caste in elections?**

- a) By nominating candidates from dominant castes
- b) By completely avoiding caste-based selection
- c) By choosing candidates from only one caste
- d) By ignoring the caste composition of voters

**Answer: a)** By nominating candidates from dominant castes

**Question 18. How does the universal adult franchise affect caste politics?**

- a) It weakens caste consciousness
- b) It strengthens caste divisions
- c) It compels leaders to seek support from all castes
- d) It eliminates caste-based voting

**Answer: c)** It compels leaders to seek support from all castes

**Question 19. What is a common misconception about caste and elections?**

- a) Elections are determined only by caste
- b) Economic status does not influence voting
- c) All voters from a caste vote for the same party
- d) Caste has no role in politics

**Answer: a)** Elections are determined only by caste

**Question 20. How does politics influence caste?**

- a) By increasing caste-based discrimination
- b) By bringing caste groups into political negotiations
- c) By eliminating caste-based identity
- d) By preventing caste-based reservations

**Answer: b)** By bringing caste groups into political negotiations

**Question 21. What is one-way caste groups try to strengthen themselves in politics?**

- a) By excluding other sub-castes
- b) By forming broader caste coalitions
- c) By refusing to participate in elections
- d) By promoting untouchability

**Answer: b)** By forming broader caste coalitions

**Question 22. What role has caste-based politics played for disadvantaged communities?**

- a) It has helped them gain better access to power
- b) It has reduced their political representation
- c) It has eliminated caste-based discrimination
- d) It has weakened their political influence

**Answer: a)** It has helped them gain better access to power

**Question 23. Which negative effect can arise from excessive focus on caste in politics?**

- a) It can divert attention from poverty and development
- b) It strengthens democracy
- c) It ensures fair representation of all castes
- d) It eliminates caste-based discrimination

**Answer: a)** It can divert attention from poverty and development

**Question 24. What does caste-based politics sometimes lead to?**

- a) Greater social harmony
- b) Increased caste discrimination
- c) Elimination of economic inequality
- d) Better national integration

**Answer: b)** Increased caste discrimination



# Next & Previous Topics of NCERT/CBSE Political Science (Civics) Class 10 Chapter 3: Gender, Religion and Caste

Topics No.	Topics Name
1	Gender and Politics
2	Religion, Communalism And Politics
3	Caste and Politics