



Grade VIII – Political Science
Lesson 2. Understanding Secularism

Objective Type Questions

(1 Mark each)

I. Multiple choice questions

1. It refers to the separation of religion from the state.
(a) Federalism (b) Secularism (c) Anarchy (d) Monarchy
2. The Indian constitution mandates that the Indian state be:
(a) Democracy (b) Dictatorship (c) Secular (d) Anarchy
3. Which schools cannot promote any one religion?
(a) Private schools (b) Government schools
(c) International schools (d) Religious schools
4. Indian secularism works to prevent the domination through strategy of :
(a) Non-interference (b) Abolition
(c) Interference (d) None of these
5. Indian Constitution is:
(a) Flexible (b) Rigid (c) Constant (d) None of these
6. The Indian constitution guarantees:
(a) Food (b) Home (c) Fundamental Rights (d) Electricity
7. It refers to the state's efforts to influence a particular matter in accordance with the principles of the constitution:
(a) Coercion (b) Interpret (c) Intervene (d) None of these
8. In which of the following countries are non-Muslims not allowed to build church, etc.?
(a) USA (b) Saudi Arabia (c) India (d) Pakistan

1. (b)	2. (c)	3. (b)	4. (a)	5. (a)	6. (c)	7. (c)	8. (b)
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Next Generation School



II. Multiple choice questions

1. Which one is a correct statement with regard to Saudi Arabia?
 - (a) Non-Muslims can gather in a public place for prayer.
 - (b) They cannot build a temple, church, etc.
 - (c) They can live in their own way.
 - (d) None of the above
2. The most important aspect of secularism is its
 - (a) separation of religion from State power
 - (b) separation of politics from religion
 - (c) separation of one community from another
 - (d) mixing of religion with State power
3. What children cannot do in the government schools?
 - (a) Celebrate any national festival
 - (b) Celebrate any religious festival
 - (c) Sing national song
 - (d) Sing national anthem
4. The government cannot force Sikhs to wear a helmet while driving two wheelers because
 - (a) Sikhs are very powerful
 - (b) they do not obey government rules
 - (c) they look handsome in pagri
 - (d) wearing a pagri is a very important part of Sikh religion
5. In American secularism, there is a
 - (a) strict separation between religion and the State
 - (b) loose separation between religion and the State
 - (c) strict mingling of religion with the State
 - (d) strict rule that contracts all religions

1. b

2. a

3. b

4. d

5. a

III. Multiple choice questions

PRELUDE

1. Where do Christians go for prayer?
 - (a) Temple
 - (b) Church
 - (c) Mosque
 - (d) Gurudwara



2. What happened in Hitler's Germany?

- (a) Several million people were killed (b) Bomb blast took place in Nagasaki
(c) Assassination of Mrs. Indira Gandhi (d) All of these

WHAT IS SECULARISM?

3. What does 'to force someone to do something' mean?

- (a) Coercion (b) Intervene (c) Interpret (d) None of these

4. Indian Constitution contains

- (a) fundamental rights (b) discrimination
(c) inequality (d) all of these

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO SEPARATE RELIGION FROM THE STATE?

5. What could the tyranny of majority result in?

- (a) Discrimination (b) Coercion (c) None of the above (d) Both (a) and (b)

WHAT IS INDIAN SECULARISM

6. What can we not do in government schools?

- (a) Sing national anthem (b) Sing Rashtriya Geet
(c) Celebrate any religious festival (d) None of these

7. What refers to the State's effort to influence a particular matter in accordance with the principles of the constitution?

- (a) Intervene (b) Coercion (c) Meditation (d) None of these

MISCELLANEOUS

8. Which is the sect of Jainism?

- (a) Arya Samaj (b) Khalsa (c) Digamber (d) Sanatan Dharma

9. What is celebrated on 2nd October of every year?

- (a) Christmas Day (b) Children's Day (c) Gandhi Jayanti (d) Diwali

1. (b)	2. (a)	3. (a)	4. (a)	5. (d)	6. (c)	7. (a)	8. (c)	9. (c)
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IV. Multiple choice questions

1. The Britishers came to India as :

- (a) social reformer (b) inventors (c) ruler (d) traders

2. How many languages are accepted in Indian Constitution?

- (a) 22 (b) 28 (c) 15 (d) 20



3. Bi-Hinduism started in the year :

- (a) 1870 (b) 1878 (c) 1865 (d) 1861

4. Which one of the following is a Fundamental Right ?

- (a) Right to freedom of religion (b) Right to property
(c) Right to work (d) All of these

5. The rights provided by Constitution are called :

- (a) Governmental Rights (b) Optional Rights
(c) Economic Rights (d) Fundamental Rights

6. In which year Bengal was divided into two parts?

- (a) 1905 (b) 1910 (c) 1915 (d) 1920

7. Bengal was divided as a result of :

- (a) Do or die (b) Divide and rule (c) Both (a) and (b) (d) None of these

8. Who was the first governor general of independent India ?

- (a) Dr. Rajender Parsad (b) Dr. S. Radhakrishnan
(c) Mahatma Gandhi (d) C. Rajagopalachari

9. Who was nominated as a permanent member of Constitutional Assembly ?

- (a) Dr. Rajender Parsad (b) Dr. S. Radhakrishnan
(c) Mahatma Gandhi (d) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

1. d	2. a	3. b	4. a	5. d	6. a	7. b	8. d	9. d
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I. Match the Columns

Column A	Column B
1. India	a. Rigid constitution
2. Hitler	b. Skullcap
3. USA	c. Secular state
4. Jews	d. Germany

1. c	2. d	3. a	4. b
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II. Match the Columns

Column A	Column B
(i) The Indian State	(a) Abolished
(ii) The force used by a legal authority	(b) Skull cap
(iii) The practice of untouchability	(c) Secular
(iv) Jews	(d) Headscarf
(v) Muslims	(e) Coercion

i. d	ii. e	iii. a	iv. b	v. c
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III. Match the Columns

Column A	Column B
a. Hindu	i. Religious festival
b. Muslim	ii. Pooja, Meditation
c. Sikh	iii. National Festival
d. Diwali	iv. Mecca, Madina
e. Republic Day	v. Golden Temple

a. ii	b. iv	c. v	d. i	e. iii
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IV. Match the Columns

S. No.	Column A	Column B
1	Sikhism	(a) Holy Mass
2	Christianity	(b) Shabad Kirtan
3	Islam	(c) Jagran/ Kirtan
4	Hinduism	(d) Qawali

1. (b)	2. (a)	3. (d)	4. (c)
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I. Fill in the blanks

- _____ is a country which gives fundamental rights to the citizen to practise their individual religion.
- _____ means peace and cooperation between individuals.
- _____ cannot declare any religion as official religion.
- Indian secularism works to prevent _____ and _____.
- Secularism is a freedom to live by an individual's religious _____ and _____.
- The Indian constitution guarantees _____ that are based on the secular principles.

1. India	2. Harmony	3. The legislature
4. religious domination, discrimination.	5. beliefs, practices	6. Fundamental Rights.

II. Fill in the blanks

- The intervention of the State can also be in the form of _____.
- In the United States of America, most of the children in government schools have to begin their school day reciting the 'Pledge of _____.'
- The most important aspect of secularism is its separation of religion from _____ power.
- Government schools don't celebrate any _____ festivals in the school premises.
- The Indian State is not ruled by _____ group and nor does it _____ any one religion.

(i) support	(ii) Allegiance	(iii) state
(iv) religious	(v) religious	



III. Fill in the blanks

- (i) Pooja sthal of Hindus is _____.
- (ii) The form of prayer of _____ is Namaj.
- (iii) _____ is God of Muslim.
- (iv) Holi is celebrated in the month of _____.
- (v) Makkar Sakranti is celebrated on _____ January every year.
- (vi) Independence Day is _____ festival of India.

(i) temple	(ii) Muslims	(iii) Allah
(iv) March	(v) 13th or 14th	(vi) national

IV. Fill in the blanks

1. Article 17 abolished _____.
2. The most powerful aspect of secularism is its _____ from state power.
3. Indian Constitution bans _____ to prevent discrimination of lower castes.
4. Muslims worship in _____ and their form of prayer is known as _____.
5. India is a _____ country which gives Fundamental Right of _____ to its citizen.

1. Untouchability	2. Separation of religion	3. Untouchability
4. Mosques, Namaz	5. Secular, freedom of religion	

I. True or False

1. In India, a Sikh youth does not have to wear a helmet as a mark of respect to their religion.
2. Indian constitution promotes Hinduism.
3. USA strictly separates itself from religions and does not intervene in the religious affairs.
4. Indian secularism follows a strategy of interference.
5. The Indian state is not ruled by a religious group.

1. True	2. False	3. True	4. False	5. True
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II. True or False

- (i) In Indian secularism the State is not strictly separate from religion.
- (ii) Wearing a pagri is central to a Sikh's religious practice.
- (iii) Government schools can promote any one religion.
- (iv) The Indian Constitution does not grant religious communities to set up their own schools and colleges. In Indian secularism, the State cannot intervene in religion.

1. True	2. True	3. False	4. False	5. False
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III. True or False

- (a) Qawwali is religious music of Christians.
- (b) Shabad Kirtan is the religious music sung by Sikhs.
- (c) Shiva and Vishnu are the God of Hindus.
- (d) Id-ul-Zuha is the religious festivals of Muslims.

(a) False	(b) True	(c) True	(d) True
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IV. True or False

- 1. Namaz is the way of prayer of Muslim community.
- 2. The state can also intervene by extending its support.
- 3. Secularism is not essential for a country to function democratically.
- 4. In Indian secularism, the state is not rigidly separated from religion.
- 5. The police stations in India are supposed to display and profess the religion of police superintendent.

1. True	2. True	3. False	4. False	5. False
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Next Generation School

Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. What is secularism?

Secularism is freedom to live by an individual's religious beliefs and practice. It separates power of religion and the power of the state. The state is neutral and impartial in dealing with religions.

2. In Saudi Arabia, how are the non-Muslims treated?

In Saudi Arabia, non-Muslims are not allowed to build a temple, church either and nor they can gather in a public place for prayers.

3. Explain the meaning of coercion.

Coercion means to force someone to do something. In other words, it refers to the force used by a legal authority like the state.

4. Define freedom to interpret.

Freedom to interpret refers to a person's liberty to develop his/her own understanding and meaning of the religion practised.

5. What does intervene mean?

Intervene refers to the state's efforts to influence a particular matter accordance with the principles of the Constitution.

Short Answer Type Questions

- 1. List the different types of religious practices that you find in your neighbourhood. This could be different forms of prayer, worship of different gods, sacred sites, different kinds of religious music and singing, etc. Does this indicate freedom of religious practice?**

[NCERT]

Different types of religious practices are jagran, havan, kirtan, mass and namaz.

Yes, this indicates freedom of religious practice.

- 2. Will the government intervene if some religious group says that their religion allows them to practice infanticides? Give reasons for your answer. [NCERT]**

Yes, the government will intervene if some religions allow people to practice infanticide because the practice of infanticide is inhuman and a heinous crime.



3. Mention the two reasons why the separation between religion and state is important.

The two reasons why the separation between religion and state is important are as follows:

- (i) To prevent the domination of one religion over another religion.
- (ii) To protect the freedom of individuals to come out of their religion and freedom to interpret religious teachings differently.

4. How is secularism practised in India?

According to the Indian constitution, India is a secular country which meant there is no official religion. One religious community does not dominate another, nor the state enforces its people to follow any particular religion.

5. What is Indian secularism?

The Indian constitution mandates that the Indian state be secular. It has the following objectives:

- (i) One religious community does not dominate another.
- (ii) Some members do not dominate other members of the same religious community.
- (iii) The state does not enforce any particular religion nor it takes away the religious freedom of individuals.

6. Indian secularism is different from American secularism. Give one reason.

Unlike the strict separation between religion and the state in American secularism, in Indian secularism, the state can intervene in religious affairs.

Long Answer Type Questions

1. Complete the following table: [NCERT]

Objectives	Why is this important?	Example of a violation of this objective
Our religious community does not dominate another	It is important for establishing harmony in society	A muslim family living among Hindu people in a locality is forbidden to offer namaz
The state does not enforce any particular religion nor	It is essential in order to stabilise the ideas of the	Demolition of Babri Masjid

take away the religious freedom of individuals	Indian constitution	
That some members do not dominate other members of the same religious community	In order to establish equality and harmony in the society, it is important	Dalits are discouraged from entering temples

2. Look up the annual calendar of holidays of your school. How many of them pertain to different religions. What does this indicate? [NCERT]

The holidays in a school calendar for different religions:

Holidays	Religions
Holi, Dusshera, Diwali	Hindu
Id-ul-Zuha, Id-ul-Fitr, Muharram	Muslim
Lohri, Gurugobind Singh Jayanti, Guru Parv,	Sikh
Christmas, Good Friday	Christian

It shows equality of religions.

3. Describe the various ways to prevent religions domination by the Indian constitution. [NCERT]

The various ways to prevent religious domination by the Indian constitution are:

(i) It uses a strategy of distancing itself from religion. The Indian state not ruled by a religious group, nor does it support any one religion.

(ii) Indian secularism works to prevent the domination of religion through a strategy of non interference. This means that in order to respect the sentiments of all religions and not interfere with religions practices the State makes certain exceptions for particular religious communities.

(iii) The third way in which Indian secularism works to prevent the domination of religion is through a strategy of intervention for examples; 'Untouchability'. In this case, the members of the same religion, i.e., upper caste Hindus dominate the lower caste within it, In order to prevent this religion based exclusion and discrimination of lower castes the Indian constitution bans untouchability.