

**CBSE Class–VI Social Science**  
**NCERT Solutions**  
**Political Science Chapter 3**  
**WHAT IS GOVERNMENT?**

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

**Answer :**The word 'government' is derived from the Latin word 'gubernare' which means 'to govern' or 'to manage'. It refers to the body that exercises ruling authority which controls the people of a state. Thus, the government refers to the political system or an organization through which, the will of the state is created, expressed and implemented.

The three main organs of the government are the Legislature, the Judiciary and the Executive.

**The government affects our daily life in the following ways:**

- (i) It takes action on social issues like poverty, unemployment, discrimination etc and also takes care of the underprivileged sections of society.
  - (ii) It maintains armed forces and protects the boundaries of state. It also maintains friendly relations with other countries.
  - (iii) It takes decision on providing basic infrastructure facilities including postal systems, roads etc.
  - (iv) It builds schools, health centres, hospitals and dispensaries. It organises free medical check-ups to the needy and poor people.
  - (v) It makes law for the benefits of the people and implements them. It looks after the law and order within the country and provides for the protection of the people.
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**Question 2. Why do you think the government needs to make rules for every one in the form of laws?**

**Answer:** The law serves many purposes and functions in society. For maintaining law and order, resolving disputes, and protecting liberties and rights we have to follow the laws. The laws are made by the government and every citizen has to follow these laws. According to these laws, a government can function and make decisions and vests with power to enforce these laws.

Law is essential in a society and it helps to regulate the behaviour of the people. The government needs to make rules for everyone in the form of law because by doing so people can obey rules and thus the nation as a whole leads a secure life. It avoids disorder, anarchy and confusion in a country.

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**Question 3. Name two essential features of a democratic government.**

**Answer:** Democratic governments are usually referred to as representative democracies in which elected representatives of the people govern the country. In India, democratic form of government exists. The two essential features of a democratic government are:

- (i) Participation of people is a necessity. People participate in the functioning of the government through their elected representatives,
  - (ii) It acts according to the will of the people. In a democracy, it is the people who give the government the power to make decisions. Democracy provides people the opportunity to realise their true potential by providing rights and freedom to its citizens.
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**Question 4. What was the suffrage movement? What did it accomplish?**

**Answer:** The suffrage movement means right to vote or franchise. This movement was organised by the British women in the early 20th century to win political rights and for the participation in government. During the World War-1, the struggle for the right to vote got strengthened. This struggle came to be known as the suffrage movement.

**Accomplishments of Suffrage Movement :** During the World War-1, men were away from their houses fighting in the battle field. At this time, women were called upon to do the work, which were earlier done by men. Women did their best and tried to manage and organize different kinds of work. People wonder to know that the women can do such work. Women

began to be seen as being equally capable for doing hard work and making decision.

Consequently ,British women organised a protest movement against the government's policy of not allowing them to vote.The participants,known as suffragists,even employed violent methods and they chained themselves in rallying in public places and meetings. Finally in 1928 British women won the right to vote on equal terms with men. In America, women were given right to vote in 1920.

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**Question 5. Gandhi ji 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.**

**Answer:** In India, before Independence, only a small minority was allowed to vote.The poor, women,the property-less and the uneducated were not allowed to vote. We think that the people must be given the right to vote.

The given statement shows it a case of discrimination because of the following:

- (i) All citizens are equal by law.
- (ii) According to constitution, there is no difference between a man and woman, a poor and a rich.
- (iii) The laws are not made for men only.
- (iv) All citizens must be granted right to vote.