**Democratic Government**

**Answer following questions in brief.**

1. **Key elements of democracy are:**
2. **right of the people to elect their leaders**
3. **right of the people to express their views freely regarding the policies of the government**
4. **right of the people to change the government**
5. **freedom of speech and expression, freedom to practice any religion freely, and freedom to move within the country.**
6. **The government is elected for a fixed period. At the end of that period, elections are held again. If the people are satisfied with the government, they may re-elect it. If not, they may elect another government. Elections help in ensuring democratic nature of the country. Elections also ensure that government is working on the right track.**
7. **A key element of democracy is accountability, which means being responsible for one's actions. The representatives are accountable to the people if they are found to be corrupt, dishonest or irresponsible. The judiciary and the police play a productive role in dealing with dishonest representatives and bringing them to task.**
8. **Democracy is incomplete without freedom. It can be a true democracy only when people enjoy certain rights and freedoms such as freedom of speech and expression, freedom to practice the religion of their choice and freedom to freely move within the country. Such freedom can be enjoyed within the limits of law and without harming the interest of other members of society or communities.**
9. **The twin values of equality and justice are the guiding principles of democracy. Democracy is the government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Indian society can progress when all members of the society are given equal opportunities and when everyone is treated equally by the law.**

**Answer the following questions in detail.**

1. **By voting in elections, people elect leaders to represent them. These representatives take decisions on behalf of the people. They keep the interests of the people in mind. In a democracy, the government is elected for a fixed period. At the end of that period, elections are held again. If the people are satisfied with the government, they may re-elect it. If not, they may elect another government. In India, elections are generally held after every five years.**
2. **The most important element of democracy is the participation of the people in the governance.**

**a. electing representatives by exercising the right to vote; through voting people elect their representatives who take decisions on behalf of the people.**

**b. They can keep a watch on the working of the government by asking questions and seeking explanation or by criticizing the actions of the government.**

**c. by expressing public opinion through mass media or by writing in newspapers and magazines**

**d. People can even express their views through electronic media such as radio and TV.**

**f. Citizens can use methods like starting signature campaigns, strikes, rallies, protest and dharnas.**

1. **Sharing of scarce natural resources, such as river water, has been a source of tension between states in India for a long time. Another example of conflict is the conflict between different communities or religious groups, which is more relevant i in a diverse and multi-cultural country like India. The Central Government tries to resolve such conflicts in a peaceful manner. Conflicts ought to be resolved through dialogue and negotiation.**
2. **The twin values of equality and justice are the guiding principles of a democracy. Democracy is a government of the people (of all classes), by the people (of all classes and for the people (of all classes). The value of equality is the foundation of democracy.**
3. **No government can be stable if some of its citizens are denied opportunities provided to others. Differences created on the grounds of caste, race, colour, gender, and religion are against the principles of democracy.**