



SOCIAL SCIENCE
CIV-
CH.3 UNDERSTANDING
SECULARISM

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class: VIII Sec: ____

I Multiple Choice Questions

1. Which one is a correct statement?
(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

II Fill in the Blanks

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

III Questions and Answers

1. Will the Government intervene if some religious groups say that their religion allows them to practice infanticide? Give reasons for your answer
The Government in any democratic nation would intervene if some religious group says that their religion allows them to practice infanticide because this tradition goes against the Fundamental Right to Life. Under this practice the life of a newly born child is killed. The Law does not allow anyone to kill a life



2. Complete the Following Table

Objective	Why is this important	Example of a violation of this objective
One religious community does not dominate another	It is important for establishing harmony in the society	A Hindu religious procession is not allowed to cross along the road passing through a mosque
The state does not enforce any particular religion nor take away the religious freedom of individuals	It is essential in order to stabilise the ideals of the Indian constitution	Demolishing of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya on 6 th December, 1992 by Hindu Nationalists.
That some members do not dominate other members of the same religious community	It is important in order to establish equality in the society	Dalits are discouraged to enter a Temple

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

Many holidays on a school's annual calendar pertain to different religions. This indicates that India is a secular country where religious freedom is granted to its citizens and all religions are equally respected.

Religions	Festivals
Hindu	Holi, Dussehra, Diwali
Muslim	Id-ul-fitr, Id-ul-zuha, Muharram
Sikh	Lohri, Guru Purav
Christian	Christmas, Good Friday, Easter

4. Find out some examples of different views within the same religion.
Different views are followed even within the same religion. A for example, only in Hindu religion, we have hundreds of deities worshipped by different groups of people. Similarly, in Muslim community, there are Shiyas and Shunnis. In Jainas, there are Shwetambar and Digambar sects. In Buddha Dharma, there are Hinayaans and Mahayaans
5. The Indian State both keeps away from religion as well as intervenes in religion. This idea can be quite confusing. Discuss this once again in class using examples from the chapter as well as those that you might have come up with.
- The Indian State distances itself from the religion and it is not ruled by a religious group & nor does it support any one religion.
 - Equal respect is given to all the religions. In order to prevent domination by one particular community, the state may interfere in the religion.
 - State may interfere in the religion to ensure that all the religions are treated equally.
 - Sometimes, the State may have to intervene in the religion based on 'personal laws' of the communities to ensure that laws relating to equal inheritance are protected.
6. What are three objectives of a Secular state?
The three objectives of a secular state are:
- One religious community does not dominate another.
 - Some members do not dominate other members of the same religious community.



(c) The State does not enforce any particular religion, nor does it take away the religious freedom of individuals.

Very Short Answer Type questions

1. What does the term 'secularism' refer to?
The term 'secularism' refers to the separation of the power of religion from the power of the State.
2. How are non-Muslims treated in Saudi Arabia?
In Saudi Arabia, non-Muslims are not allowed to build a temple, church etc. They also cannot gather in a public place for prayers.
3. How is Indian secularism different from that of American secularism?
Unlike Indian secularism, there is strict separation between religion and the State in American secularism.