

Assessing Democracy's Outcomes

Chapter 17: Outcomes of Democracy · Topic 1

Key Concept

Democracies are generally better at ensuring political equality and protecting individual rights compared to non-democratic systems, though outcomes vary between countries.

Economic development under democracies can be mixed - some democracies have strong economic growth, while others face challenges, showing democracy alone doesn't guarantee prosperity.

Democracies tend to allow more accountability and citizen participation, enabling peaceful conflict resolution and course correction when policies fail to serve people's needs.

Despite challenges and imperfections, most people continue to value democracy for its ability to provide dignity, freedom, and a mechanism for peaceful political change.

Quick Revision Notes

- Assessing democracy examines political equality, development and participation.
- Democracies generally protect political equality well.
- Democracies protect individual rights better than many alternatives.
- Economic outcomes under democracy vary between countries.
- Democracy alone doesn't guarantee economic prosperity.
- Democracies allow accountability and citizen participation.
- This enables peaceful conflict resolution.
- People value democracy for dignity, freedom and peaceful change.

Practice Questions

- 1 Discuss how democracy protects political equality.
- 2 Research a country's economic performance under democracy.
- 3 Explain how accountability helps correct bad policies.
- 4 Discuss why people value democracy despite its imperfections.
- 5 Research a peaceful political change achieved through democracy.
- 6 Debate whether democracy guarantees prosperity.