

Challenges to Democracy

Chapter 17: Outcomes of Democracy · Topic 2

Key Concept

Corruption in politics and public administration can undermine trust in democratic institutions and lead to unfair distribution of resources and opportunities.

Economic and social inequality can limit true political participation, as marginalised or poorer groups may have less influence over political decisions despite formal voting rights.

Threats to free and fair elections, like misinformation, voter suppression, or election fraud, can undermine the legitimacy of democratic outcomes.

Strengthening democracy requires ongoing efforts, including promoting transparency, protecting the free press, empowering citizens, and consistently reforming and improving democratic institutions.

Quick Revision Notes

- Challenges to democracy include corruption and inequality.
- Corruption can undermine trust in institutions.
- Corruption leads to unfair resource distribution.
- Inequality can limit true political participation.
- Marginalised groups may have less real influence.
- Threats to elections include misinformation and fraud.
- These threats undermine election legitimacy.
- Strengthening democracy needs transparency and citizen empowerment.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research an example of corruption affecting a democracy.
- 2 Discuss how inequality can limit political participation.
- 3 Research a threat to fair elections, like misinformation.
- 4 Explain why a free press is important for democracy.
- 5 Discuss a reform that could strengthen democratic institutions.
- 6 Debate how citizens can help address these challenges.