

Why Democracy is Preferred

Chapter 12: What is Democracy? Why Democracy? · Topic 2

Key Concept

Democracy holds leaders accountable through regular elections, meaning poor performance or corruption can lead to leaders being voted out, unlike in non-democratic systems.

Democracies generally protect individual freedoms and rights better, as constitutions and independent courts safeguard citizens from arbitrary government actions.

Democracy allows for peaceful conflict resolution through debate, negotiation, and voting, rather than relying on violence or force to resolve disagreements.

While democracy has challenges, like slower decision-making due to debate and compromise, its benefits in promoting equality, participation, and accountability make it a widely preferred system.

Quick Revision Notes

- Democracy promotes accountability through regular elections.
- Poor leaders can be voted out in a democracy.
- Democracy generally protects individual rights well.
- Constitutions and courts safeguard citizens from arbitrary action.
- Democracy allows peaceful conflict resolution.
- Conflicts are resolved through debate and voting, not violence.
- Democracy can have slower decision-making due to debate.
- Its benefits in equality and participation make it preferred.

Practice Questions

- 1 Discuss why accountability matters in government.
- 2 Explain how elections help hold leaders accountable.
- 3 Discuss an example of peaceful conflict resolution in a democracy.
- 4 Explain a challenge of democratic decision-making.
- 5 Compare democracy with a non-democratic system in terms of rights.
- 6 Discuss why you think democracy is or isn't the best system.