1. **Democracies in different countries have different outcomes**
   i. It is just a form of government.
   ii. It is only a means to achieve, not the end
   iii. It can only create conditions to achieve something.
   iv. Citizens have to take advantage of those conditions and then achieve those set goals.
   v. To judge democracy we need to examine the records of democratic setups.

2. **The most basic expectations a citizen can have in a democracy**
   i. It should be a govt. that is accountable to its citizens
   ii. Responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens.
   iii. Should follow the procedures and norms
   iv. Mechanism for to hold the government accountable
   v. mechanism for citizens to take part in decision making
   vi. The government has to be attentive to the needs and the demands of the people
   vii. Should be largely free of corruption

3. **Decision Making – Critically Examined**
   i. Democracy is based on the idea of deliberations and negotiations.
   ii. Democratic government takes more time to follow procedures before arriving at a decision
   iii. Those decisions are more acceptable to the people and are more effective
   iv. The cost of time that the democracy pays is more but is worth it.

4. **The main non performance areas of Democracy**
   i. The record of democracies is not impressive on these two counts,
      a) Corruption
      b) Frustrating people by ignoring their needs on morality grounds
   ii. But at the same time there is nothing to show that non-democracies are less corrupt or more sensitive to the people.
   iii. Most democracies fall short of elections that provide fair chance to everyone and allowing all decisions for public debate.
   iv. Democratic governments do not have a very good record on sharing information with the citizens.
   v. Mixed record on free and fair election and not successful in sharing records with people, however in India we have RTI as a fundamental right.

5. **The three bed rocks of democracy**
   **A. Accountability / transparency**
   i. Democracy ensures that decision making will be based on norms and procedures,
   ii. The citizen can check whether the government is working in accordance with the correct procedures or not.
   iii. Transparency - They have the right to examine the process of decision making.
   iv. This factor is often missing from the non-democratic government.
   **B. Legitimacy**
   i. A democratic government is a legitimate government which may be slow, less efficient.
   ii. Not always very responsive or clean but it is peoples own government
   iii. People wish to be ruled by the representatives elected by them
   iv. They also believe that democracy is suitable for it has an ability to generate its own support is itself an outcome that cannot be ignored.
   v. Various South Asian countries show support for it.
C. Responsiveness
People want the government to pay attention to their needs, demands and issues which require urgent notice.

6. **The basic parameters to evaluate democracy - critically examined**
   a) Regular free and fair elections,
   b) Open public debate on major policies and legislations,
   c) Citizen’s right to information about the govt. and its functioning.

**Actual record**
   i. **Democracies** show a **mixed record** on the above grounds
   ii. Democracies have had **greater success in setting up regular free and fair elections** and in **setting up conditions for open public debate**.
   iii. Government **not very good in sharing records** with the public however, in India Citizens have RTI as a fundamental right

**Questions**
   a) How does democracy produce an accountable, responsive and legitimate government?
   b) List the various aspects and qualifications which help in giving a clear definition of democracy.
   c) “Democratic governments are better than its alternatives”. Explain the statement?
   d) How does democracy provide a more accountable, responsive and legitimate Government?

7. **ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT**
   i. **Democracies** do produce good governments but are not always able to produce development.
   ii. **Dictatorships** have slightly showed higher rate of economic growth between 1950-2000. Though the difference is negligible
   iii. It is also been noticed that when two poor countries, one being **democratic** and other being **non democratic** are compared then the difference in their economic growth is not at all alarming.
   iv. In **developed countries** the **poor** class which is on the **higher side of the population** tends to have a **reasonable share** in the **national income**.
   v. For example **Denmark** and **UK** have a **higher percentage share** for bottom 20% of population. Where as in south Africa and brazil top 20 % of population take away more 60% of national income
   vi. But we expect democracy not to lag behind dictatorship in this respect. Therefore it is **better to prefer democracy** as it has several other **positive outcomes**.

**Factors on which economic growth is dependent**
   i. population
   ii. size,
   iii. global situation,
   iv. endowments

*It can concluded that democracy is not a guarantee of economic development*

**Question**
   i. Democracy does not ensure faster economic growth” Explain.

8. **REDUCTION OF INEQUALITY AND POVERTY**

**Expectations**
   i. To reduce economic disparities
   ii. Equitable distribution of wealth
   iii. Justice in distribution of goods and opportunities

**Actual record**
   i. Democracies ensure political equality but fall short on economic front
   ii. a small number of **ultra-rich enjoy highly disproportionate share of wealth** and incomes
   iii. most resources and **wealth is owned by handful of rich population**
   iv. **Gap** between rich and poor in terms of **income distribution is widening**
   v. major proportion of population is not able to meet their basic needs
   vi. the **poor constitute a large proportion of our voters** and no party likes to lose their votes

**To conclude**
   i. Democratically elected governments do not appear to be as keen to address the question of poverty as you would expect them to.
ii. Example in Bangladesh, more than half of its population lives in poverty

**Question**

“Democracy has failed to reduce inequality and poverty” Examine.

**9. Accommodation of social diversity**

**Expectations**

- a) Democracy should **produce a harmonious social life.**
- b) Accommodate all differences and divisions in society
- c) It should have **mechanisms to resolve conflicts peacefully**

**Actual record**

- i. No society can permanently resolve conflicts among different groups
- ii. We can evolve mechanisms to negotiate the differences.
- iii. **Democracy has the Ability to handle social differences**, division and conflicts
- iv. Non-democratic regimes often **turn a blind eye to or suppress** internal social differences.
- v. But we also need to learn from what happened in Sri Lanka

**10. Majority minority significance in a democratic society**

- i. Democracy is **not just rule by majority** opinion but the majority always needs to work with the minority so that government functions to **represent a general view.**
- ii. It is necessary that rule by majority does not become rule by majority community in terms of religion or race or linguistic group, etc
- iii. **Rule by majority** means that in case of every decision or in case of every election, different persons and groups can and may form majority.
- iv. It is important that every citizen has a chance of being in majority at some point of time.
- v. If someone is barred from doing so then democracy ceases to be accommodative.

**Question**

How democracy accommodates social diversity?

**11. Dignity and freedom of the citizens**

**Expectation**

- a) Every individual wants to receive respect from fellow beings
- b) Should promote dignity and freedom amongst its citizens

**Actual record**

- i. It seen that worldwide democracies have recognized and adopted this feature at least in principle
- ii. **Dignity of women**- after long struggles, equal treatment to women has become a key ingredient in democratic societies
- iii. Once the principle is recognized it becomes easier to make morally and legally acceptable.
- iv. Unlike in non-democracies where moral and legal force is not present, many non-democratic governments do not equal status to women and men.
- v. **Case of caste inequalities**- India has strengthened the claims of the disadvantaged and discriminated castes for equal status and equal opportunity.
  - Example – India claims to provide equal status and opportunity to discriminated groups

**12. DISTINCTIVE FEATURE OF DEMOCRACY**

- i. Its examination never gets over, as it passes one test it produces another test
- ii. as people get one benefit they ask for another and better one
- iii. **people will come up with more expectations**, and many complaints
- iv. The fact people are complaining is itself a testimony (evidence) that people have developed awareness and ability to expect and judge.
- v. This transforms them from a status of 'subject' to that of a 'citizen'.
- vi. Most feel that their vote makes a difference to the way government is run and in turn to their own self-interest.

**Question**

‘Most distinctive feature of democracy is that its examination never gets over. ‘Support the statements with three appropriate arguments