

## Lesson two

### Democratic Government, Democratic State and Democratic Society

Democracy is not merely a form of government. Some claim it to be a form of state and some regard it as a form of society. A democratic government is one which is based on the accountability of the people; a democratic state is one which is based on popular sovereignty. Democracy, in its wider meaning, is a form of society. A democratic government implies a democratic state, although a democratic state may not imply a democratic government.

The United States is a democratic state but does not have daily accountability to the Congress. For a democratic government, there must be a democratic state and democratic society. Besides, democracy is an order of society and a way of life. It has political, social and economic implications. It has faith in the equality of all men and the recognition of the individuality of human beings. A democratic way of life is characterized by tolerance, mutual respect and fraternity. It implies equitable distribution of wealth. If the majority government suppresses the minority opinion, it is contrary to the democratic ideal. Democracy is of two types: direct democracy and indirect democracy or representative democracy.

Direct democracy prevailed in the city-states of ancient Greece. There, the people directly participated in the affairs of the Government. All the citizens used to go to a particular place and decide matters relating to legislation, taxation and policy making. It was possible because of the small size of the city-states. Modern states are quite big in size and population. Hence, direct democracy of the types of Greek city states is not possible in any modern state. But direct democracy can be found in Switzerland in modern states. Direct democracy operations are through the instruments of referendum, initiative and recall.

In almost all countries of the modern world except Switzerland, indirect democracy prevails. Switzerland presents a blend of direct and indirect democracy. Due to the large size of the modern state, it is not possible for all the people to gather at the particular place and take decisions. Hence, people elect their representatives who sit in the parliament and make law for the people. This is called indirect democracy.

### Part 1: Reading Comprehension

1. What is democracy according to the passage?
2. How is a democratic government different from a democratic state?
3. What are the main features of a democratic way of life?
4. Why is direct democracy not possible in modern states?
5. What is the difference between direct and indirect democracy?

## **Part 2: Vocabulary (Synonyms & Antonyms)**

### **A. Find synonyms for the following words from the text:**

- accountability
- equality
- fraternity

### **B. Find antonyms for the following words from the text:**

- majority
- possible
- direct

## **Part 3: Grammar**

### **A. Change the following nouns to their plural forms:**

1. citizen
2. society
3. state

### **B. Define the verbs (write the infinitive form):**

1. participated
2. decided
3. implied

### **C. Change the following sentences into indirect speech:**

1. The teacher said, "Democracy is a way of life."
2. The student said, "Switzerland practices direct democracy."

### **D. Fill in the blanks with suitable words:**

1. Democracy is based on \_\_\_\_\_ of the people.
  2. In direct democracy, citizens \_\_\_\_\_ in making decisions.
  3. The United States is a \_\_\_\_\_ state.
- 

***Explain the text in your own words.***