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<b>CLASS: VIII</b>	<b>SUB: SOCIAL SCIENCE</b>	<b>TOPIC: CIVICS</b>	<b>CH-2</b>
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**Understanding Secularism & Fundamental Rights**

**Multiple Choice Type Questions**

1. What does secularism mean? **Separation of government institutions from religious institutions.**
2. What will happen if a particular religion and politics both become integral to our country? **There will be strife in society.**
3. Ulemas controlled political affairs in the **medieval** period.

**Fill in the blanks**

1. The opposite of secularism is **fundamentalism.**
2. Power and **resources** are bound to be misused for the advantage of the majority once political power and religion become one.
3. The dominance of **religion** leads to strife in society.
4. There is no state **religion** in India.

**Write “T” for true or “F” for false statements**

1. Secularism means religion and politics go hand in hand. **F**
2. India is a secular and Democratic Republic. **T**
3. Religious dominance of one community over another is in accordance with the principles of democracy. **F**
4. The American constitution strictly prohibits both state and religion from interfering in each other's affairs. **T**
5. Fundamental rights are based on secular principles. **T**

**Short Answer Questions**

1. **Define secularism?**  
Secularism means non-interference or non-involvement of religion in matters relating to polity, society, education etc.
2. **When can a country be called secular?**

A secular country possesses the following features:

- It does not propagate or sponsor a religion, nor does it preach about a particular religion in government run institutions.
  - It does not force people to convert to a religion nor does it charge a fine or penalty on someone who decides to choose another religious faith.
  - It does not differentiate between people on the basis of their religion for any profession they want to follow. In other words, the state has an unbiased approach towards all religions.
3. **What are the problems faced by the people of non secular states?**
- Non secular states are the states that sponsor a state religion.
  - Such a country divides its society because the followers of state religion live more confidently as compared to the ones who do not follow state religion. People belonging to religions other than the religion supported by the state may face a lot of difficulties in living a peaceful life in society.
4. **What does the Indian constitution guarantee?**
- The Indian constitution guarantees fundamental rights that are based on secular principles.
  - Our constitution guarantees freedom of religion and the right to preserve one's culture.

## **Long Answer Questions**

1. **What are the drawbacks of the majority of a particular religion in a country?**
- Oppression of the minority.
  - Infringement on the right to practice the religion of one's own preference.
  - Once political power and religion became one, then the power and the resources are bound to be misused for the advantage and interest of the majority.
  - There can be a possibility that minorities will be unable to practice their religion the way it wants to.
  - The dominance of a religion leads to strife in society because of the feeling of superiority of the majority. This, at times, leads to violence against the minority.
  - Such a state cannot be termed a democracy as the religious dominance of one community over another leads to the discrimination which is against the principle of democracy.
2. **How is secularism in India different from that in America?**
- In America the legislature cannot pass any law that restricts freedom of religion. So, the Americans enjoy the freedom to profess any religion. But, Most importantly, the American constitution strictly prohibits both state and religion from interfering with each other's affairs.
  - In Indian secularism, if a religion is unjust towards the weaker sections of the society or it infringes on their rights, then the state has a right to intervene. At

other times, the state keeps away from religious affairs of any community, religion is a personal matter of an individual's spiritual advancement.

3. **When does the state intervene in religious matters?**

The state, sometimes, intervenes in religious matters to protect the rights of the common people. For example, ensuring the entry of Dalits in temples, as earlier, they were debarred from the temples. Similarly, child marriage is illegal, as per the law girls should be 18 years of age or above and boys should be 21 years of age and above at the time of marriage.