

## Chapter-2 Understanding Secularism

1. *List the different types of religious practice that you find in your neighbourhood. This could be different forms of prayer, worship of different gods, sacred sites, different kinds of religious music and singing etc. Does this indicate freedom of religious practice?*

*The different types of religious practices that we find in our neighbourhood are:*

- i. *puja at the temples,*
- ii. *bhajans at temples*
- iii. *namaz at mosques*
- iv. *sufi songs at shrines*
- v. *prayer at church*
- vi. *kirtan at gurdwaras*
- vii. *different procession by different communities.*

*Yes, it truly indicates the freedom of religious practise in India.*

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2. *Will the government intervene if some religious group says that their religion allows them to practise infanticide? Give reasons for your answer.*

*Yes, the government will intervene if infanticide is promoted by any religion. In this case the government has to intervene as these practices exploit the right to live mentioned in the fundamental right.*

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3. Complete the following table:

- a. So that the right to freedom of religion is not violated by the majority.(Example:- Demolition of Babri Masjid)
  - b. As Indian state is not ruled by any religious group and it cannot support any religious groups as it is secular.  
(Example:- Promotion of Islam by Saudi Kingdom.)
  - c. So that the members of the same community do not discriminate others and everyone should have the right to interpret religion by their own belief.  
(Example:- Dalits not allowed to enter in the Temples.)
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Look up the annual calendar of holidays of your school. How many of them pertain to different religions? What does this indicate?

In our school, we have holidays for different religious festivals such as Holi, Diwali, Id, Guru Nanak Jayanti, Christmas, etc. It indicates that there is a freedom of religion in India.

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Find out some examples of different views within the same religion?  
Some examples of different views within same religion are:-

. *In Hindu religion many support the caste system saying that god made these, but many also depromote it arguing that caste is man-made.*

. *Within Muslim community many women practice 'parda' which means to hide themselves from stranger mens, while some women think it as interference in the rights of women.*

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6. *The Indian State both keeps away from religion as well as intervenes in religion. This idea can be quite confusing. Discuss this once again in class using examples from the chapter as well as those that you might have come up with.*

*Examples when government distances itself from the religion:*

- a. The government doesn't promote any particular religion.*
- b. It does not depromote any religion.*
- c. It doesn't functions on the basis of another function.*

*Examples when government can interfere:*

- d. It interfares when it finds that any religion is exploiting Fundamental Rights.*
  - e. It interfares in religion to protect caste distinctions.*
  - f. It interfares if any religion practices infanticide or killing widows.*
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• **Extra Questions:-**

1. *Write down the meaning of secularism mantioned as in the preamble of Indian Constitution?*

*Secularism as mentioned in the constitution states that an indivisual is free to live by their religious beliefs and practices as they interpret these. It also seperates religious from the state.*

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2. *What happened in Germany during Hitler's reign?*

*In Germany during Hitler's reign thousands of hundreds of Jews were persecuted and executed without any trial or guilty, just because of Hitler's hate towards them.*

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3. *What is not allowed in Saudi Arabia?*

*In Saudi Arabia, non-Muslims are not allowed to build a temple or gather out open in public.*

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4. *Why is it important that government schools do not promote any religion?*

*It is important that government schools do not promote any religion because government schools is a property of the government and our constitution does not allow the government sectors to promote any religion.*

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5. *Mention any two fundamental rights which make India a secular state?*

*Two fundamental rights which make India a secular state are:*

- i. Right to freedom of Religious.*
  - ii. Right to constitutional remedies.*
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6. *Mention any two features of Indian secular state.*

*Two features of Indian Secular state are:*

- i. One religious community does not dominate other.*
  - ii. The state does not enforce any particular religion nor take away the religious freedom of Individual.*
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7. *Why do you think retaliation is not the proper response to a provocation? What would happen if different groups followed this*

*path?*

*Retaliation is not a proper response to a provocation because if the majority of a place mistreat minority people and in the other place minorities of that group will face the same action and this whole cycle will continue till no end thus problem for all.*

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8. *Is secularism suitable for India?*

*Yes, secularism is very suitable for India as India many religious thrive here with some majority who can force other people of different religions. The consequences of these action will not be good for the both communities or we can say the whole state or country. Thus, secularism is suitable as well as very important for the Indian state.*

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9. *What is the essence of secularism?*

*The essence of secularism is the separation of religion from the state, prevent the domination of the majority on the minority and prevent other discrimination on the basis of religion, caste, etc.*

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10. *Why is it important to separate religion from state?*

*It is important to separate religion from state to prevent the government to interfere in or violate the Fundamental Rights which give freedom to all to freely choose their religion.*

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