



Teacher's Guide

What is Democracy? Why Democracy?

Part 1

Based on the NCERT Curriculum for Standard IX



JANAAGRAHA CENTRE FOR CITIZENSHIP & DEMOCRACY

Janaagraha's initiative to improve citizen engagement in India's democracy through their civic learning program Developed in collaboration with Young Leaders for Active Citizenship (YLAC)

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Part 1

Class IX
Board – CBSE
Subject – Social Science
Textbook – Democratic Politics- I for class IX (NCERT)
Chapter 2 – What is Democracy? Why Democracy?
Number of parts – 04
Length – 50-55 minutes (estimated, for a class of 35-40 students)

Section I – What are we going to learn and why is it important?

Learning objectives

Students will:

- Understand the need to define democracy and revisit its definition over time.

Learning outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Analyse examples of different countries and understand the need for a descriptive definition of democracy.

Key Terms

Democracy	Dictatorship	Monarchy

Materials needed

- Projector to show pictures of politicians
- Print outs of activity sheets

Section II – How are we going to learn?

1. Recap of the previous chapter

Time: 5-7 minutes

Facilitation notes:

- Let's do a quick recap of stories about a few countries that we learnt in the previous chapter.

Additional Note: The recap of the following countries and rulers will set context for defining democracy.



Image 1 Source: [Wikipedia](#)



Image 2 Source: [Free World Maps](#)

- *'Discuss with the person sitting next to you and with a raise of hand tell me which country this is? And who is the person next to the map?'*
(Show the above 2 images and take a few answers after 30 seconds)
 - Likely Response - 'The country is Poland and the person is Lech Walesa-the former President of Poland'
- *'How did Walesa become the President of Poland? Was he a dictator? Was he elected?'*
 - Likely Response - He was elected by the people of Poland
- *'Was Poland under Walesa, a democratic country?'*
 - Likely Response - Yes



Image 3 Source: [Wikipedia](#)



Image 4 Source: [Wikimedia](#)

- *'Discuss with the person sitting next to you and with a raise of hand tell me which country this is? And who is the person next to the map?'*
(Show the above 2 images and take a few answers after 30 seconds)
 - Likely Response - Chile and she is Michelle Bachelet - former president of Chile
- *'Great! So how did she come to power? Was she a military dictator? Was she elected?'*
 - Likely Response - She was elected by the people of Chile
- *'And was Chile under Michelle Bachelet a democracy?'*
 - Likely Response – Yes

Conclusion:

- *'So looking at the trend here, for a country to be democratic what is the basic requirement?'*
 - Likely Response - for the ruler/head of the country to be elected by the people of the country.
- *'Excellent! But is that definition sufficient? In both of these cases, we knew the story behind it and we had known that the people before them were dictators, but what if we don't know anything much about the country except a couple of facts. Would we still be able to distinguish between a democratic country and a non-democratic country?'*