



Question 1. List the different types of religious practices 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?

Answer:

Different types of religious practice:

- (i) Jagran
- (ii) Kirtan
- (iii) Namaj
- (iv) Mass
- (v) Havan

Yes, this indicates freedom of religious practice.

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

Answer: The government will surely intervene if some religious group says that their religion allows them to practice infanticide. Needless to say that the practice of infanticide is a crime. Under this practice the life of a newly-born child is killed. The law does not allow anyone to kill a life.

Question 3. Complete the following table:

Answer:

Objective	Why is this important?	Example of a violation of this objective
One religious community does not dominate another.	<i>It is important for establishing harmony in the society.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Muslim family living among Hindu people in a locality is forbidden to offer namaz. • A Hindu religious procession is not allowed to cross along the road passing through a mosque.
The State does not enforce any particular religion nor take away the religious freedom of individuals.	<i>It is essential in order to stabilise the ideals of the Indian Constitution.</i>	<i>Demolition of Babri Masjid</i>
That some members do not dominate other members of the same religions.	<i>It is important in order to establish equality in the society.</i>	<i>Dalits are discouraged to enter a temple.</i>

Question 4. Look up the annual calendar of the holidays of your school. How many of them pertain to different religions? What does this indicate?

Answer: Holidays in a school calendar for different religions:

<i>Religions</i>	<i>Holidays</i>
Hindu	Holi, Dussehra, Deepawali
Muslim	Id-ul-zoha, Id-ul-fitr, Muharram
Sikh	Lohri, Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti, Guru Parv
Christian	Christmas, Good Friday

Question 5. Find out some examples of different views within the same religion.

Answer: Different views are followed even within the same religion. As for example, only in the Hindu religion, we have hundreds of deities worshipped by different groups of people. Similarly, in the Muslim community, there are Shiyas and Shunnis. In Jainas, there are Shwetambar and Digambar sects. In Buddha Dharma, there are Hinayaans and Mahayaans.

Question 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.

Answer: India is a land of complex ideas. It is difficult to understand what it really wants. There are many ideals in the Constitution but practices are quite different from them. In many cases we see laws explain a concept in a different way. But people interpret it differently. Law itself in some cases acts differently. As for example, in secular state law has nothing to say in any of the practices of the religion but when the dominance of upper castes in religion was brought to question the law took favour of the lower castes. This interference of the State creates confusion.