

The Supreme Court in the Classroom
Diversity and Discrimination
NCERT 6.1

SECTION 1: General

1. What are the different ways in which people can be diverse? Circle:

Answer: e

Hint: Take a look at Article 15 of the Constitution of India

Link: https://cadindia.clpr.org.in/constitution_of_india/fundamental_rights/articles/Article%2015

2. Write down words for other ways in which people can be diverse. Think of your classmates.

Answer: Check your answers with your classmates. Do they agree with you?

3. Our Constitution says, “The State shall **not** discriminate against any citizen [because of their] religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth”. Who is “The State”? Who are “citizens”?

Answer: d

Hint: “State” = country/nation; “citizen” = person who can vote

4. Is this an example of discrimination? Divya is **not** allowed to enter a government building. She asks, “Sir, why are you **not** allowing me inside?” She is told she is **not** allowed inside because she is a woman.

Answer: a

Hint: Take a closer look at Questions 1 and 2

SECTION 2: In the Court

Temple XYZ is located in Kerala. It did **not** allow women to enter. The Temple says that its custom of excluding women is very important: “It is essential”.

5. Some citizens went to court and complained that the Temple’s custom is unfair. They said, “our Constitution does **not** allow discrimination”. What kind of discrimination are they talking about? Discrimination on the basis of _____

Answer: d

Hint: Look at Question 1 again

6. The Supreme Court is the highest Court in India. There are more than 20 judges who belong to the Supreme Court. How many of them are women? [Search the Supreme Court Observer website to find your answer]

Answer: b

Hint: Go to Judges page

Link: <https://scobserver.clpr.org.in/judges>

7. The judge Indu Malhotra said, “the role of Courts in matters concerning religion and religious practices...is to afford protection...to those practices which are regarded as ‘essential’”¹. What would she say to the citizens from Question 5? They wanted the Court to stop Temple XYZ’s custom.

Answer: d

Hint: Does Temple XYZ think its custom is “essential”? Look at the beginning of Section 2 again

8. The judge Dipak Misra said, “The right to practice religion...is equally available to both men and women of all age groups professing the same religion.” Does the “right to practice religion”² include entering religious places like temples?

Answer: a

Hint: Example of “practicing” religion = Muslim performing Namaz (prayer)

9. What do you think judge Dipak Misra would say to the citizens from Question 5?

Answer: a

Hint: Temple XYZ denies women their right to practice religion. Is this discriminatory?

¹ *Indian Young Lawyer Association & Ors. v. State of Kerala & Ors.* [2018] WP (C) 373/2006, [10]

² *Ibid.*, [101]