

Understanding Secularism

Secularism

I answer in a sentence

1) Name the religious community that was persecuted in Hitler's Germany.
Ans Jews was the religious community that was persecuted in Hitler's Germany.

2) Name the political concept that refers to the separation of religion ^{from} state.
Ans secularism is the political concept that refers to the separation of religion from state.

3) On what basis can the Indian state intervene in religious affairs?
Ans The Indian state only intervenes if some wrong religious or superstition creates problem for

children or woman.

4) How did the French state interfere in religious matters in February, 2004?

Ans France passed a law banning students from wearing any religious or political signs or symbols in school.

5) What is generally the most important reason behind religious based discrimination practised in many countries?

Ans The acts of discrimination takes place more easily when one religion is given official recognition by the state at the expense of other religions.

P-T-D

II Answer the following

1) What are the different ways by which the Indian state prevents religion based domination?

Ans ★ It distances itself from religion.

★ It uses the strategy of non-interference.

★ It uses the strategy of intervention.

2) Why is it important to separate religion from state?

Ans ★ For the successful functioning of the democracy.

★ This is important so that the majority religion does not dominate over the religions in minorities.

★ To give fundamental right to every individual to interpret their religion as they want, to exit their religion and embrace another religion.

3) Which three objectives does the secular Indian state try to achieve?

Ans ★ That one religious community does not dominate another.

★ That some members do not dominate other members of the same religious community.

★ The Indian state does not enforce any particular religion nor take away the religious freedom of individuals.

4) How does the Indian state maintain distance in religious matters?

Ans ★ The Indian state is not ruled by a religious group and nor does it support any one religion.

5) Discuss in brief the policy of non-intervention by the Indian state over the religious affairs.

- Ans ★ The Indian state in order to respect the religious sentiments of different religions and allow every religion to practise their religion freely follows the policy of non-interference in religious affairs.
- ★ However, the state makes certain exceptions in this case. The wearing of helmets while driving two wheelers is mandatory in many cities of India.
- ★ However, as wearing a turban is central to the Sikh religion, they can drive without helmets.
- ★ The Indian state thus does not interfere with this.

6 ★ In what ways does the Indian state support religious communities by intervention?

Ans The Indian state supports religious communities by financial aid. The religious communities are allowed

to set up their own schools* and colleges.

7) How is Indian different from American secularism?

American	Indian
★ prohibits the legislature from making laws ★ No official religion ★ No preference of religion one over another ★ strict separation of state & religion	★ can interfere in the religious matter if it violates the ideals of the constitution ★ No strict Separation of state from and religion ★ state maintains principled difference from religion