

## CBSE Class 8 Civics Chapter 2 Understanding Secularism

### Important Questions

1. What is Secularism? Explain about Indian Secularism and its difference from other democratic countries.
2. Why is it Important to Separate Religion from the State?
3. Can you think of a recent incident, from any part of India, in which the secular ideals of the Constitution were violated and persons were persecuted and killed because of their religious backgrounds?
4. In India, can the State discriminate against citizens on the grounds of their religion?
5. What is Religion? What are the major religions practised all over the world?
6. What is the 4th point of the Fundamental Rights of the Indian Constitution? ‘
7. Describe the main objectives of the Secular State. Mention three.
8. 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?
9. Give some historical examples of discrimination.
10. Will the government intervene if some religious group says that their religion allows them to practise infanticide? Give reasons for your answer.
11. One religious community does not dominate another. Why is this objective important? Give one example of a violation of this objective.
12. Why is it important that government schools not promote any one religion? What are the provisions made by the government to follow religious equality in schools?
13. What is meant by the freedom to interpret?
14. How many of the holidays from the annual calendar of your school pertain to different religions? What does this indicate?
15. Give some examples of different views within the same religion.
16. Explain the term coercion.
17. What does intervene mean?
18. Describe about the law passed by France in Feb 2004 banning students from wearing any conspicuous religious or political signs or symbols.
19. Write a short note on the “Pledge of Allegiance.”
20. Imagine yourself as a Hindu or Muslim living in a part of the United States of America where Christian fundamentalism is very powerful. Suppose that despite being a US citizen, no one is willing to rent their house to you. Do you think retaliation is not the proper response to this problem? What would happen if different groups followed this path?