

II. Fill In The Blanks

Fill in the blanks with appropriate words to complete each sentence.

(i) The intervention of the State can also be in the form of

(ii) In the United States of America, most children in government schools have to begin their school day reciting the 'Pledge of

(iii) The most important aspect of secularism is its separation of religion from power.

(iv) Government schools don't celebrate any festivals in the school premises.

(v) The Indian State is not ruled by a group and nor does it any one religion.

Answer:

(i) support (ii) Allegiance (iii) state (iv) religious (v) religious, support

III. True/False

State whether each of the following statements is True or False.

- (i) In Indian secularism the State is not strictly separate from religion.
- (ii) Wearing a pagri is central to a Sikh's religious practice.
- (iii) Government schools can promote any one religion.
- (iv) The Indian Constitution does not grant religious communities to set up their own schools and colleges.
- (v) In Indian secularism, the State cannot intervene in religion.

Answer:

- (i) True,
- (ii) True,
- (iii) False,
- (iv) False,
- (v) False.

Question 1.

What examples does history provide us on the grounds of religion?

Answer:

History provides us with several examples of discrimination, exclusion and persecution on the grounds of religion.

Question 2.

What happened in the Jewish state of Israel?

Answer:

Muslim and Christian minorities were treated badly in the Jewish state of Israel.

Question 3.

How are non-Muslims treated in Saudi Arabia?

Answer:

In Saudi Arabia, non-Muslims are not allowed to build a temple, church etc. They also cannot gather in a public place for prayers.

Question 4.

What does the term 'secularism' refer to?

Answer:

The term 'secularism' refers to the separation of the power of religion from the power of the State.

State.

Question 5.

What do you mean by freedom to interpret'?

Answer:

'Freedom to interpret' means an individual's liberty to develop his own understanding and meaning of the religion that one practises.

Question 6.

Why cannot government schools celebrate religious festivals?

Answer:

Government schools cannot celebrate religious festivals because it will be a violation of government's policy of treating all religions equally.

Question 7.

Why is Paramjit allowed to drive in pagri?

Answer:

Paramjit is a Sikh youth and for him wearing a pagri is a very important part of his religion.

Question 8.

How is Indian secularism different from that of American secularism?

Answer:

Unlike Indian secularism, there is strict separation between religion and the State in American secularism.

Question 9.

What is meant by 'principled distance'?

Answer:

This means that any interference in religion by the State has to be based on the ideals laid out in the Constitution.