

Name: _____ Date: _____

Understanding Secularism

Q1. When does discrimination occur?

Ans. _____

Q2. How Indian concept of secularism is different from United States?

Ans. _____

Q3. Why government schools are not allowed to celebrate religious festival?

Ans. _____

Q4. What is secularism in Indian context?

Ans. _____

Understanding Secularism

Q1. When does discrimination occur?

Ans. Discrimination occurs when members of one religious community either persecute or discriminate against members of other religious communities. These acts of discrimination take place more easily when one religion is given official recognition by the State at the expense of other religions.

Q2. How Indian concept of secularism is different from United States?

Ans. There is one significant way in which Indian secularism differs from the dominant understanding of secularism as practised in the United States of America. This is because unlike the strict separation between religion and the State in American secularism, in Indian secularism the State can intervene in religious affairs.

Q3. Why government schools are not allowed to celebrate religious festival?

Ans. The celebration of the religious festival within the school would be a violation of the government's policy of treating all religions equally. Government schools cannot promote any one religion either in their morning prayers or through religious celebrations. That's why government schools are not allowed to celebrate religious festival.

Q4. What is secularism in Indian context?

Ans. The Indian Constitution allows individuals the freedom to live by their religious beliefs and practices as they interpret these. In keeping with this idea of religious freedom for all, India also adopted a strategy of separating the power of religion and the power of the State. Secularism refers to this separation of religion from the State.