

Name: _____ Date: _____

Understanding Secularism

Q1. When was law passed by French government banning religious symbols in school? What was its impact?

Ans. _____

Q2. What are the three objectives of a secular State?

Ans. _____

Q3. Why is it important to separate religion from the State?

Ans. _____

Understanding Secularism

Q1. When was law passed by French government banning religious symbols in school? What was its impact?

Ans. In February 2004, France passed a law banning students from wearing any conspicuous religious or political signs or symbols such as the Islamic headscarf, the Jewish skullcap, or large Christian crosses. This law has encountered a lot of resistance from immigrants who are mainly from the former French colonies of Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco.

Q2. What are the three objectives of a secular State?

Ans. The three objectives of a secular State are:

- i. One religious community does not dominate another;
- ii. Some members do not dominate other members of the same religious community;
- iii. State does not enforce any particular religion nor take away the religious freedom of individuals.

Q3. Why is it important to separate religion from the State?

Ans. It is important to separate religion from the State because of the following reasons:

- i. To prevent the domination of one religion over another.
- ii. To protect the freedom of individuals to exit from their religion, embrace another religion or have the freedom to interpret religious teachings differently.