

Section 2

Constitution of Pakistan



Unit-4

Citizenship and Sustainable Society

In this unit the students will be able to:

- Discuss the significance of the rule of law as a fundamental principle of a democratic state and propose methods to enhance the law and order situation in Pakistan.
- Explore the concepts and importance of participation of citizens in community services or volunteer works.
- Determine the modes of acquiring and losing citizenship. (Immigration, emigration, marriages)
- Understand the importance of free press, justice and equality for a prosperous country.
- Highlight the importance of being a knowledgeable digital citizen in today's world of social media and technology, emphasizing that media messages are influenced by various contexts, including economic, social, political, historical, and aesthetic factors.

Fundamentals of Rule of Law

The rule of law has been defined differently throughout history, reflecting its evolving significance in ensuring social justice and order. Aristotle questioned whether it is better to be ruled by the best man or the best laws, emphasizing the importance of both the nature of laws and the regime that enacts them. British jurist Albert Venn Dicey described the rule of law as the absolute supremacy of regular law over arbitrary power, excluding arbitrary authority and broad government discretion.

Varied Definitions of Rule of Law

Other definitions highlight the rule of law as a set of principles ensuring that the government treats all individuals equally and fairly, regardless of differences in race, gender, education, or economic status. This includes accountability to pre-existing laws, equal treatment before the law, protection of human rights, access to efficient dispute resolution, and maintenance of law and order.

The United Nations Secretary-General defined the rule of law as a governance principle where all public and private entities are accountable to publicly promulgated, equally enforced, and independently adjudicated laws consistent with international human rights standards. This encompasses legal supremacy, equality, accountability, fairness, separation of powers, participation in decision-making, legal certainty, avoidance of arbitrariness, and transparency.

Categories of Rule of Law

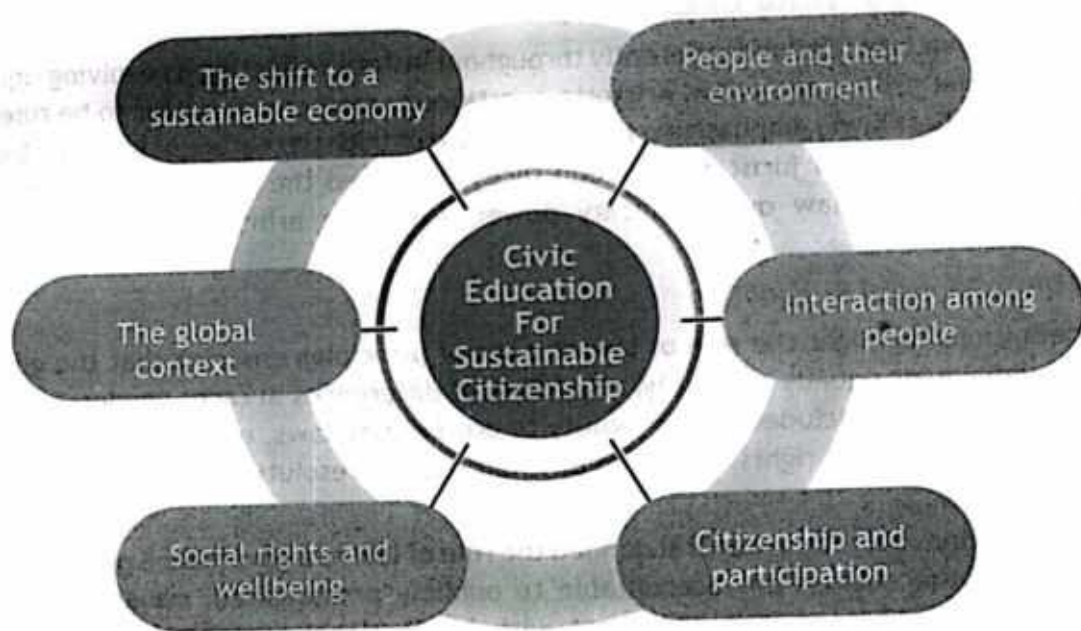
Definitions of the rule of law fall into two broad categories:

1. **Functional Focus:** Emphasizes the rule of law's role in ensuring law and order, and predictable, efficient judgments by courts and tribunals.
2. **Institutional Focus:** Highlights the need for comprehensive laws, well-functioning courts, and well-trained law enforcement agencies.

Both categories view the rule of law as comprising different socially constructed culminations leading to predictable and efficient rulings.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Promoting the Rule of Law

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development envisions a world where all people live free of violence and fear, where hunger and poverty are eliminated, and the planet is protected for future generations. Pakistan is also signatory to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). This global transformation is predicated on the understanding that human rights, peace and security, and development are deeply interlinked and mutually reinforcing. The SDG-16 aims to create a peaceful, just and inclusive societies that live under the rule of law. This is the necessary condition in which all other goals - including those related to health, education, economic activity, and other aspects of development - can be achieved. As such, this global aspiration ushers in a new kind of development, in which people make and influence the decisions that affect their lives.



Citizen and Citizenship

A citizen is an individual who is recognized as a legal member of a particular country or nation-state. This status comes with certain rights and responsibilities. Definitions of citizenship vary slightly, but all agree on the core concept. Merriam-Webster dictionary emphasizes historical roots, referring to a citizen entitled to freedoms within a city or town. The Oxford English Dictionary focuses on legal recognition by a state. Cambridge Dictionary highlights the dual meaning, encompassing national membership and local town or city affiliation. Finally, Britannica emphasizes the legal belonging and associated rights and protections offered by a country to its citizens. These definitions generally emphasize the legal status and membership in a state or nation, often entailing certain rights, privileges, and responsibilities. Linking citizenship to the rule of law, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development emphasizes legal recognition and active participation in governance. SDG-16 seeks to ensure that citizens' rights are protected and responsibilities are upheld, empowering individuals to influence policies and decisions, thus fostering a just and inclusive society.

Citizenship

Citizenship encompasses a relationship between an individual and a state to which the individual owes allegiance and in turn, is entitled to its protection. Citizenship implies the status of freedom with accompanying responsibilities. Citizens have certain rights, duties, and responsibilities that are denied or only partially extended to aliens and other noncitizens residing in a country. In general full political rights, including the right to vote and to hold public office, are predicated upon citizenship. The usual responsibilities of citizenship are allegiance, taxation, and military service.

Citizenship is a privileged form of nationality. The term citizenship denotes various relations

between an individual and a state that do not necessarily confer political rights but imply other privileges, particularly protection abroad. In international law, citizenship signifies all persons whom a state is entitled to protect. Nationality also serves to denote the relationship to a state of entities other than individuals, including corporations, ships, and aircraft. All of these entities possess a nationality.

The Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship

Citizenship confers certain rights, privileges, and responsibilities upon individuals within the jurisdiction of the country to which they belong. These rights and responsibilities may vary depending on the laws and regulations of the specific nation. Here we discuss different types of citizenship rights:

Rights of Citizen:

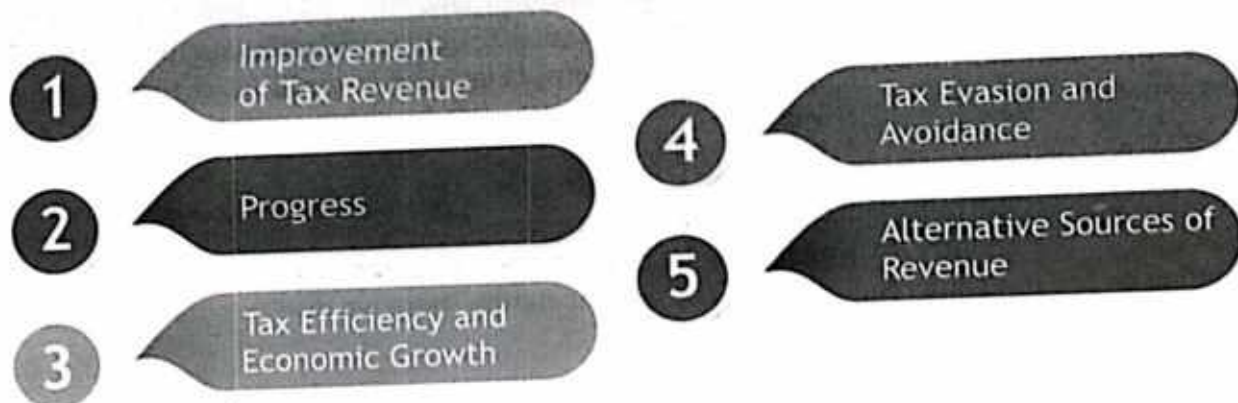
- i. **Legal Rights:** Citizens have legal protections granted by the constitution. This includes the right to a fair trial, freedom of speech, religion, and peaceful gatherings and congregations.
- ii. **Social Benefits:** Citizens may be entitled to various social benefits provided by the government, such as access to healthcare, education, social security, and welfare programs. These act as support systems for citizens.
- iii. **Political Participation:** Citizenship often entails the right to participate in the political process, such as voting in elections, running for public office, and engaging in political activism including protests to express their views.
- iv. **Economic Rights:** The Constitution of Pakistan grants its citizens several economic rights, including the right to own property, protection from compulsory acquisition, and freedom to engage in any trade or profession. It also mandates the state to provide basic necessities like food, housing, education, and healthcare, ensure equitable wealth distribution, and promote social and economic justice for all.

Responsibilities:

Alongside rights, citizenship also entails certain responsibilities, such as:

- i. **Rule of Law:** Obeying the laws of the country is considered the responsibility of the citizens. This ensures a fair and orderly society for all.
- ii. **Paying Taxes:** Taxes contribute to funding public services like roads and schools that everyone uses. Paying taxes is a key responsibility of citizenship.
- iii. **Jury Duty:** In some cases, citizens may be called upon to serve on juries and help decide court cases. It's a significant responsibility, but also a way to participate in the justice system.
- iv. **Compulsory Conscription:** Certain countries require citizens to serve in the military during times of need. This helps ensure the country's safety and security.

The Role of Tax Revenue in Funding Public Services



Impacts of Citizenship on National Identity and Democracy

Ideally, citizenship plays a significant role in shaping an individual's sense of national identity and belonging. Citizenship provides a framework for understanding one's place in a community and how one can participate in cultural, social, and political activities. Moreover, citizenship is crucial to the functioning of a democratic society as it defines the relationship between individuals and the state. The rights of citizens form the backbone of democracy, enshrined in constitutions and laws to protect individuals from arbitrary government actions and ensure their freedom, equality, and dignity. These rights provide the necessary tools for participating in the democratic process and pursuing a fulfilling life. In the context of Pakistan, democracy has been pivotal yet tumultuous, with periods of progress and setbacks. While democratic institutions have provided avenues for political expression and representation, challenges such as political instability, corruption, and governance issues have at times hindered its full realization of democratic ideals. In addition to the privileges of citizenship, there are several duties and actions that citizens are expected to fulfill. The table provides a comprehensive breakdown of these key obligations and responsibilities, empowering citizens to effectively navigate their role in upholding a well-functioning society.

Duties and Responsibilities of a Citizen

Duties of Citizens An action that is required by law	Rights and Responsibilities of Citizens An action that benefits the community/people
• Obeying laws • Paying taxes • Defending the nation • Registering for selective service • Serving on juries	• Voting • Attending civic meetings • Petitioning the government • Running for offices • Performing community services

Duties of Citizens • Obeying the laws • Paying taxes • Jury duty • Defending the nation	How the Duties Relate to the Common Good Obeying laws keeps order so that people are safe Taxes pay for large programs that benefit everyone (roads, schools, and libraries, among others) By participating in jury duty, one is protecting the Constitutional right to be tried by one's peers. Defending the nation benefits the entire country and protects the nation
Responsibilities of a Citizen • Voting • Attending civic meetings • Petitioning the government • Community service	How the Responsibilities Relate to the common Good Voting relates to the common good because voting is one way for citizen views to be heard by representatives of the people. By attending civic meetings one can have one's voice heard by public officials. Petitioning the government allows one to voice one's opinion to the government. Community service helps the common good. It benefits everyone when a citizen sees a need in their community and takes an extra step to find the solution.

Importance of Voluntary Work and Community Service

Voluntary work is intended to help people in a particular area. Volunteering is unpaid work that benefits the community. It's freely chosen, meaning people do it because they want to help, not because they have to. This is different from regular jobs. It has three characteristics:

1. **Voluntariness:** The activity is free, autonomous, and independent.
2. **Non-profit status:** Volunteer work constitutes a not-for-profit system that adds value to society.
3. **Meaningful activity:** Voluntary work is a meaningful activity that emphasizes the contribution to the common good. Volunteers can develop expertise for their work.

Participation in community service and volunteering is essential for building a healthier, more resilient, and compassionate Pakistan. Examples of community service platforms include



Note For Teachers: Whole Class Discussion

Discussion Topic: Reflect on your experience of voluntary community work. Discuss the type of work you did, why you chose it, and what impact it had on you and the community.

Alkhidmat Foundation Pakistan, Edhi Foundation (founded by Abdul Sattar Eidhi), Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital, Aga Khan Foundation, and Baithak School Network set up by a non-profit organization, Society for Educational Welfare (SEW), in 1996.

There are several advantages to volunteering and community services:

i. Connecting with Others

Volunteering is an excellent way to meet new people and strengthen existing relationships through shared activities. It helps develop social skills by regularly interacting with a group, making it easier to branch out and make more connections. Engaging in community service as a family can teach children the value of helping others and create shared experiences.

ii. Improving Mental and Physical Health

Volunteering boosts self-esteem and life satisfaction by providing a sense of accomplishment and pride. Regular interaction with others through volunteering can reduce social isolation, a key risk factor for depression. It can also improve physical health, especially in older adults, by reducing symptoms of chronic pain or heart disease.

iii. Career Advancement

Volunteering provides experience in new fields, helping to explore potential career paths without long-term commitment. It offers opportunities to practice and improve skills such as teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and task management. Additionally, volunteering can lead to connections with professional organizations and internships.

iv. Personal Fulfillment

Volunteering allows exploration of interests and passions, providing a break from daily routines. Engaging in meaningful activities can renew motivation and creativity, benefiting both personal and professional life. Overall, community service enhances connection with the community, boosts mental and physical health, advances careers, and brings joy and fulfillment to people's lives. It's a powerful way to make a difference while enriching personal experience.

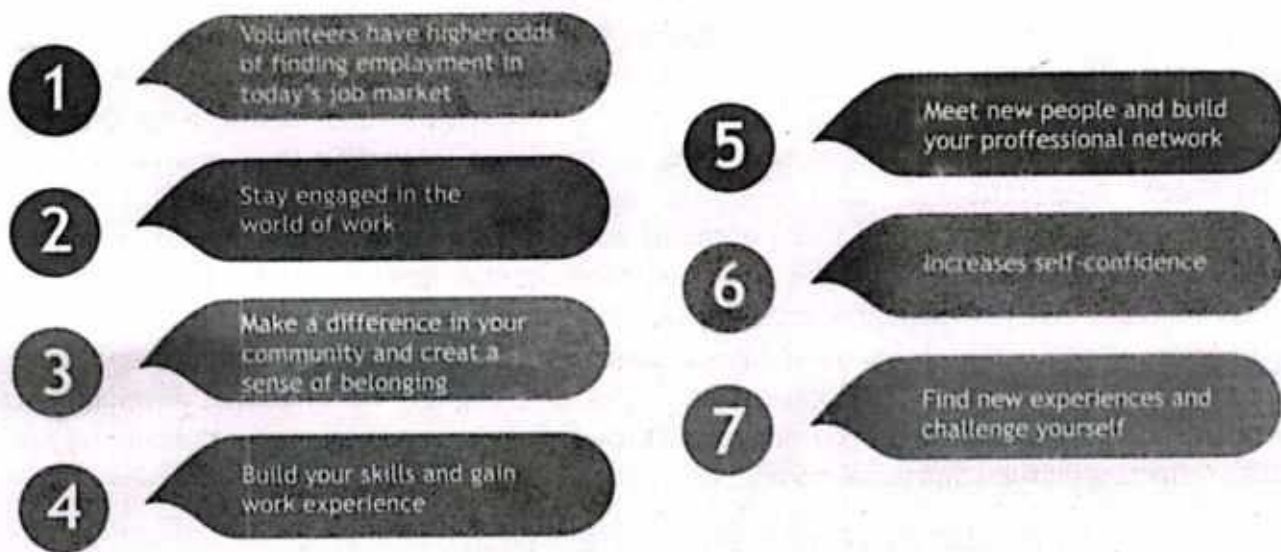
Traits of a Citizen

Sociologists view good citizens as well-rounded individuals who actively make their communities better. They do this by volunteering their time, speaking up for what is good for society, and even getting involved in local government. This shows a strong sense of civic responsibility. Respect for diversity is another key trait. Good citizens appreciate the different backgrounds and cultures that make up their community. They promote inclusivity, which means making everyone feel welcome and respected, and they challenge unfair prejudices.

As discussed earlier, in democracy, active citizens make their voices heard by voting, staying informed about current events, and expressing their opinions on issues that affect their community. The active and effective citizens participate thoughtfully in civic life and exhibit following traits:

- i. Protecting the Environment:** Encouraging taking care of surroundings and understanding the impact of actions on the planet.
- ii. Helping Neighbours and Fellow Community Members:** Teaching the value of kindness and support within the community.

How Could Volunteering Help You?



- iii. **Being Responsible for One's Own Actions:** Instilling accountability and the importance of owning up to mistakes.
- iv. **Being Empathetic:** Promoting understanding and compassion towards others' feelings and situations.
- v. **Respecting Other People's Space, Rights, and Property:** Emphasizing the importance of boundaries and the rights of others.
- vi. **Abiding by the Law:** Highlighting the necessity of following rules and regulations for a harmonious society.
- vii. **Being an Active Member of Society:** Encouraging participation in community and civic activities.
- viii. **Being Aware of One's Surroundings:** Teaching mindfulness and awareness of the local and global environment.
- ix. **Standing Up for Right and Standing Against Wrong:** Instilling a sense of justice and the courage to speak out against injustices.
- x. **Honesty:** Promoting truthfulness and integrity in all actions.

By incorporating these traits into education, a strong ethical foundation is developed, guiding behaviour and interactions, and fostering a generation of responsible and conscientious citizens.

Traits and Responsibilities of a Responsible Pakistani Citizen

The primary duties of a Pakistani citizen revolve around respecting the country's religious values, its laws, observing socio-cultural norms, and cooperating with others within the society for the common good. Religion plays an important role in shaping personal identity. Islam, for example, provides a framework for distinguishing right from wrong. This framework encourages individuals to behave ethically within society, such as respecting others, practicing good manners, and offering help to those in need. These values of honesty, kindness, and fair treatment extend to

everyone, regardless of their religious beliefs, gender, or race. Ultimately, these qualities align perfectly with a citizen's responsibility to follow the law and contribute positively to society.

The foremost responsibility of a Pakistani citizen's is to demonstrate loyalty and trust towards their country. *They must abide by the laws and regulations in place, such as Article 5 of the Constitution of Pakistan which states allegiance to Pakistan as a fundamental duty.* Citizens should actively engage in beneficial activities, as mandated by various laws promoting civic engagement. Respectfulness, tolerance, and avoiding arguments are essential traits in accordance with laws promoting social harmony and peaceful coexistence. Upholding human worth and dignity, as enshrined in laws protecting fundamental rights, is crucial. Citizens should display courage, take responsibility, and educate others about environmental issues, in line with environmental protection laws. Keeping surroundings clean, assisting those in need, and contemplating the country's development are important, aligning with national development plans and policies. Furthermore, showing respect towards elders and praying for the country are duties reflecting cultural and social norms.

The modes of acquiring and losing citizenship

Citizenship refers to the legal status that grants a person certain rights and responsibilities within a particular country. There are different ways people can acquire citizenship, and in some cases, they can even lose it.

Acquiring Citizenship:

- i. **Birthright Citizenship:** Many countries automatically grant citizenship to anyone born within their borders, regardless of their parents' citizenship status. This is called *jus soli* (right of soil). For instance, in the United States, anyone born on U.S. soil is a citizen, even if their parents are not.
- ii. **Citizenship by Descent:** Another way to acquire citizenship is through your parents. This is called *jus sanguinis* (right of blood). If you are born to citizens of a particular country, you may inherit their citizenship even if you are born outside that country. For example, a child born to Italian citizens in another country is entitled to Italian citizenship.
- iii. **Naturalization:** This is the process by which immigrants become citizens of a new country. They must meet certain requirements, such as living there for a specific period, learning the language, and passing a citizenship test. In the United States, for example, immigrants can apply for naturalization after meeting residency requirements, passing a test, and demonstrating good moral character.
- iv. **Citizenship by Marriage:** Some countries allow foreign spouses of their citizens to become citizens after marriage. This may happen automatically or through a faster naturalization process. For instance, in some European countries, a foreign spouse can apply for citizenship after being married and living there for a certain period.



Note For Teachers: Divide the class in small groups and assign them case studies based on "The Fight Against Bullying in Schools". Students will draw mindmaps and show how the traits of a good citizen are applied in such situation and how they can contribute positively to their school environment. *Students' mindmaps may be evaluated through peer assessment.*

- v. **Citizenship by Migration:** Anyone seeking citizenship under section 6 of the Citizen Act of Pakistan 1951, must apply in duplicate using Form 'B' to the Provincial Government, including an affidavit, a domicile certificate (rule 23), and evidence of migration to Pakistan between April 13, 1951, and January 1, 1952. The Provincial Government will investigate and decide on the application. If exemption from the domicile certificate is claimed, the Provincial Government will forward the application to the Federal Government with recommendations. The Federal Government will then make the final decision. These decisions will also apply to the applicant's spouse and dependent minor children, provided the citizenship claim includes them and sufficient evidence of marriage and dependency is presented.

Losing Citizenship:

Renunciation: People can voluntarily give up their citizenship through a formal process. This usually involves submitting a document to the government. For example, a U.S. citizen who wants to renounce their citizenship must complete a specific form and appear before a U.S. official abroad.

Revocation Due to Criminal Activity: Some countries can take away citizenship from people convicted of serious crimes or acts that threaten national security. This typically involves legal proceedings and depends on the country's laws. For example, someone who commits terrorism may lose their citizenship in certain countries.

Discretionary Loss by Authorities: In some cases, authorities may have the power to revoke citizenship if they believe it was obtained through fraud, misrepresentation or by twisting the facts. This might happen if someone provided false information during the application process. The authorities would then take legal action to revoke citizenship.

Automatic Loss through Dual Citizenship Restrictions: Some countries don't allow dual citizenship, meaning you can only be a citizen of one country at a time. If you acquire citizenship in a country that doesn't allow dual citizenship and don't renounce your original citizenship, you may automatically lose your citizenship in the first country. For example, a Japanese citizen who becomes a citizen of a country that doesn't allow dual citizenship may automatically lose their Japanese citizenship.

Scenario Building

In the 1970s and 80s, some Bengalis migrated to Pakistan without proper documents. Following the introduction of the digitalization of the citizenship acquisition process in 2000, these Bengalis have faced significant challenges. They are struggling to obtain Pakistani identity cards, which are necessary for accessing basic services. Limited educational opportunities often force them to rely on fishing as their primary source of income.

Prompt:

Ask students to conduct a brief research on the challenges faced by Bengalis in Pakistan who lack citizenship and how this affects their daily lives.

Checks & Balances by the Citizens & Parliament

The government of Pakistan, like any other country, is responsible for making important decisions such as making laws, managing public resources, and representing the nation internationally. This power allows the government to build roads, fund schools, and ensure public safety. To ensure the fair use of this power, citizens and parliament must play their roles. Citizens are represented by the government, and parliament consists of elected officials working on their behalf. Together, they hold the government accountable.

Citizen Participation

In Pakistan, citizens can make their voices heard and hold the government accountable in several ways:

1. **Voting in Elections:** According to the Election Act 2017, citizens express their approval or disapproval of the government's actions and decisions by voting in elections. This allows them to choose leaders who reflect their views.
2. **Public Discourse and Advocacy:** Under Article 19 of the Constitution of Pakistan, citizens have the right to freedom of speech and expression. They can engage in public discourse, raise awareness about issues, and advocate for change through letters, town hall meetings, and social media.
3. **Participation in Oversight Mechanisms:** Citizens can participate in oversight mechanisms like public hearings, investigations, and audits to ensure government transparency and accountability. They can submit complaints to the Federal Ombudsman as per the Ombudsman Institutional Reforms Act 2013 regarding government services or conduct.

Parliamentary Oversight

The parliament of Pakistan serves as a crucial check on government power. Parliamentarians, the elected officials, act as representatives of the people. According to Article 66 of the Constitution of Pakistan, they can question government officials, investigate government programs, and debate proposed laws. This holds the government accountable for its decisions and performance. Additionally, under Article 160, parliament reviews the government's budget to ensure wise spending. Other relevant articles include:

- **Article 50:** Establishes the composition of the Parliament, including the Senate and the National Assembly, ensuring representation from across the nation.



Note For Teachers: Ask student to discuss the following in pairs:

- How does losing citizenship affect an individual's identity and sense of belonging?

- **Article 73:** Details the legislative process for money bills, including budget approvals.
- **Article 89:** Provides for the power of the President to promulgate Ordinances when Parliament is not in session, subject to later approval by Parliament.
- **Article 95:** Governs the procedure for a vote of no confidence against the Prime Minister, enabling parliament to hold the executive accountable.

Working as a Team

In Pakistan, citizens and parliament work together to create a system of checks and balances on government power. This system helps ensure that the government remains transparent, responsive, and accountable to the people it serves. By actively participating in the democratic process, citizens play a vital role in shaping the country's future.

Citizen Accountability

Citizen accountability in Pakistan includes:

1. **Voting in Elections:** According to the Election Act 2017 and Article 222 of the Constitution of Pakistan, citizens hold the government accountable through periodic elections. By voting in local, provincial, and national elections, citizens express their approval or disapproval of the government's actions and decisions, influencing the composition and direction of governance.
2. **Public Discourse and Advocacy:** Under Article 19 of the Constitution of Pakistan, citizens have the right to freedom of speech and expression. They engage in public discourse, raise awareness about issues, and advocate for change through letters, town hall meetings, and social media. This enables them to influence public opinion and demand accountability from elected representatives.
3. **Participation in Oversight Mechanisms:** Citizens participate in oversight mechanisms such as public hearings, investigations, and audits as outlined by various laws and regulations. Parliamentary committees under Article 66 of the Constitution scrutinize government actions and expenditures, ensuring transparency and accountability. Citizens can also lodge complaints with the Federal Ombudsman as per the Ombudsman Institutional Reforms Act 2013, leading to investigations and corrective actions.

Role of Parliament in Pakistan

The parliament of Pakistan, as defined by Article 50 of the Constitution, serves as a key institution for holding the government accountable. Parliamentarians, elected through democratic processes, act as representatives of the people and they have to play their constructive roles in governance. The Parliament scrutinizes public spending and exercises control of expenditure incurred by the government through the work of the relevant Standing Committees. The Public Accounts Committee has a special role in reviewing the report of the Auditor General. The functioning of Parliament includes the following features:

1. **Question Time:** Parliamentarians, under parliamentary conventions and rules, regularly question government officials during sessions. This mechanism, akin to practices in the UK's House of Commons, allows parliamentarians to hold the government accountable for its policies, actions, and performance.

2. **Committee Oversight:** Parliamentary committees, mandated by Article 73 and other relevant provisions, conduct inquiries and investigations into government policies, programs, and expenditures. They gather evidence through hearings and public consultations, ensuring that government actions align with public interests and legislative mandates.
3. **Budget Scrutiny:** According to Article 160, parliament reviews and approves government budgets, ensuring fiscal responsibility and effective allocation of public funds. Through budget debates and oversight mechanisms, parliament holds the government accountable for its financial decisions and priorities.

Free Press, Justice and Equality

The term "Free Press" refers to the right of newspapers, magazines, and other media outlets to report news without being controlled by the government. The existing Constitution of Pakistan, 1973, contains an explicit provision on freedom of speech and press freedom. The parameters of free speech, media freedom, and the limits on this freedom are mentioned in Article 19 of the Constitution. It states:

Every citizen shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression, and there shall be freedom of the press, subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interest of the glory of Islam or the integrity, security or defence of Pakistan or any part thereof, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality, or in relation to contempt of court, [commission of] or incitement to an offence.

Though the Article has a unique reference to the freedom of the press, it is silent regarding the right to information or freedom of information. However, it was assumed that the freedom of information is given as part of the freedom of speech and expression. The Supreme Court (PLD 1993 SC 473) held that:

"right of citizens to receive information can be spelt out from the freedom of expression guaranteed by Article 19 subject to inhibitions specified therein and such right must be preserved."

In the famous Memo Gate Case (PLD 2012 SC 292), the Supreme Court declared that:

"Article 19A of the Constitution has empowered the citizens of Pakistan by making access to information a justiciable right of people..."

The Court further stated that this Article has:

"enabled every citizen to become independent of power centres, which therefore were in control of information on matters of public interest."

The inclusion of Article 19A in the Constitution of Pakistan significantly changed the paradigm and debate on access to information in the country. Previously, the entire debate revolved around the freedom of information. As a result of Article 19A, the discourse on information moved to the "right to information." This Article requires further legislation to detail the process of access to information and to list "exempted information." Therefore, all provinces, as well as the federal government, are mandated to enact right to information laws for their respective jurisdictions. In response to the requirement of Article 19A, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab introduced

progressive and robust right-to-information laws in 2013. These laws are known as the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Right to Information Act 2013 and the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013.

Print Media Laws in Pakistan

In Pakistan, laws that address the print media, are collectively termed as "Print Media Laws." These laws have various implications for the right to information and the functioning of the print media industry.

The Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Services) Act, 1973

This law addresses the working conditions of newspaper employees, including journalists. While it does not contain express provisions related to the right to information, the Act's focus on improving working conditions can directly affect the performance of journalists. Enhanced working conditions can help journalists perform their duties with the necessary zeal and satisfaction. Since journalists are responsible for keeping the public informed, an enabling work environment is crucial for them to fulfill this role effectively.

The Press Council Ordinance, 2002

The Press Council Ordinance, 2002, primarily establishes the Press Council of Pakistan. The Council's purpose is to implement the Ethical Code of Practice as outlined in the Schedule to the Ordinance. Additionally, the Press Council is tasked with maintaining the highest professional and ethical standards of newspapers and news agencies, ensuring they are responsive to societal issues and concerns in Pakistan. The preamble of the Ordinance references "public awareness" and the "free flow of information." However, it emphasizes that the "free flow of information and freedom of expression" must not infringe on national interest.

The preamble states:

"And whereas Freedom of the press and public awareness is the foundation of democracy and the function of democracy and the principles of accountability depend inter alia upon free flow of information and freedom of expression without infringing on national interest."

This Ordinance underscores the importance of press freedom and public awareness as essential components of democracy, linking them to the principles of accountability. However, it also highlights that such freedoms are subject to limitations in the interest of national security and public order.

Importance of a Free Press:

A free press serves as the watchdog of society, holding governments, businesses, and other institutions accountable for their actions and decisions. It plays a crucial role in informing the public, shaping public opinion, and promoting transparency and accountability in governance. Here are some key reasons why a free press is important for a prosperous country:

1. **Transparency and Accountability:** A free press exposes corruption, abuse of power, and other wrongdoing, thereby promoting transparency and accountability in government and other institutions. Investigative journalism uncovers scandals, mismanagement, and injustices, leading to reforms and improvements in governance.

2. **Democracy and Civic Engagement:** A free press provides citizens with the information they need to make informed decisions, participate in democratic processes, and hold their leaders accountable. It fosters public debate, encourages diversity of opinions, and strengthens democratic institutions by ensuring that power is not concentrated in the hands of a few.
3. **Protection of Human Rights:** A free press plays a crucial role in protecting human rights by exposing human rights abuses, advocating for justice, and giving voice to marginalized and oppressed communities. Journalists often serve as advocates for social justice and champions of human rights, shining a spotlight on injustices and amplifying the voices of those who are often unheard.
4. **Economic Prosperity:** A free press contributes to economic prosperity by promoting transparency, fostering investor confidence, and facilitating the flow of information in the marketplace. It provides essential economic news, analysis, and insights that help businesses make informed decisions, drive innovation, and create opportunities for growth and development.

Spotlight

In the Watergate scandal in the United States, investigative journalists from “The Washington Post” uncovered a series of illegal activities and abuses of power by the Nixon administration, ultimately leading to the resignation of President Richard Nixon and reforms in campaign finance laws and government transparency.

In countries with authoritarian regimes, independent journalists and media outlets often face censorship, harassment, and imprisonment for reporting on government abuses, corruption, and human rights violations. In Pakistan, despite these challenges, courageous journalists such as Wali Khan Baber, Arshad Sharif, Sohail Khan, and Malik Mumtaz Khan, risked their lives to expose the truth and hold those in power accountable.

Justice and Equality

Justice, at its core, is the ideal of fair and equitable treatment for everyone. This ideal is multifaceted, with concepts like **corrective justice** (punishing wrongs) and **distributive justice** (fair allocation of resources) guiding its pursuit. However, achieving perfect justice is a complex challenge. Disagreements on fairness, limited resources, and our own biases can all hinder it. Nevertheless, striving for justice is essential. It fosters social **stability**, encourages **cooperation**, and safeguards individual **rights**.

The concept of equality generally refers to the fact of being equal, of having the same value. Equality before the law, also known as equality under the law, legal equality, or legal egalitarianism, is the principle that all people must be equally protected by the law. This principle requires a systematic rule of law that observes due process to provide equal justice and ensures equal protection, preventing any individual or group from being privileged over others by the law. Sometimes called the principle of isonomy, it arises from philosophical questions

concerning equality, fairness, and justice. Equality before the law is a fundamental principle in some definitions of liberalism and is incompatible with legal slavery.

Article 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) states: "All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law." This statement emphasizes that everyone must be treated equally under the law, regardless of race, gender, color, ethnicity, religion, disability, or other characteristics, without privilege, discrimination, or bias. Most of the world's national constitutions provide a general guarantee of equality, but the specific implementations of this guarantee vary. For instance, many constitutions guarantee equality regardless of race, while only a few explicitly mention the right to equality regardless of nationality.

Overall, justice and equality are intertwined ideals essential for a just society. Justice ensures fair treatment and rights protection, while equality underpins the principle that all individuals should be equally valued and protected by the law, regardless of differences. These principles not only promote societal stability and cooperation but also uphold fundamental human rights across diverse global contexts.

Facts to Know

Difference Between Qualified Right to Justice and Absolute Right to Justice

1. **Qualified Right to Justice:** A qualified right to justice is subject to certain limitations or conditions, balancing the right with other societal or governmental concerns. **Example: Freedom of Speech (Article 19 of the Pakistani Constitution):** Citizens have the right to free speech, but it is subject to reasonable restrictions for national security, public order, or morality.
2. **Absolute Right to Justice:** An absolute right to justice is unconditional and cannot be restricted under any circumstances. **Example: Prohibition of Torture (Article 14 of the Pakistani Constitution):** The right not to be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment is absolute, with no exceptions.

Importance of Justice and Equality

Justice and equality are fundamental principles that underpin the rule of law and ensure that all individuals are treated fairly and have equal opportunities to succeed. When justice and equality are upheld, they contribute to social stability, economic prosperity, and inclusive growth. Here's why they are important for a prosperous country:

- i. **Rule of Law and Legal Certainty:** Justice ensures that laws are applied fairly and impartially, providing individuals and businesses with legal certainty and confidence in the justice system. It guarantees that everyone is equal before the law and that rights are protected regardless of one's status, wealth, or power.
- ii. **Social Cohesion and Stability:** Justice and equality promote social cohesion by fostering



Note For Teachers: Whole class discussion

Discuss the current status of press freedom in Pakistan. Reflect on potential solutions to improve press freedom in your country.

- trust, respect, and solidarity among individuals and communities. When people believe that the legal system is fair and impartial, they are more likely to abide by the law, resolve disputes peacefully, and participate actively in society.
- iii. **Economic Development:** Justice and equality are essential for economic development as they create an enabling environment for investment, entrepreneurship, and innovation. When businesses and investors have confidence in the justice system, they are more willing to invest, create jobs, and contribute to economic growth.
 - iv. **Protection of Human Rights:** Justice ensures that human rights are protected and upheld, regardless of one's race, ethnicity, gender, religion, or socioeconomic status. It safeguards individuals from discrimination, oppression, and abuses of power, promoting dignity, freedom, and equality for all.

Real-World Examples of Justice and Equality Upheld

Scandinavian Countries: Countries like Sweden, Denmark, and Norway are known for their strong commitment to justice and equality. Citizens in these countries have access to robust legal systems, impartial courts, and extensive social welfare programs. As a result, they enjoy high levels of trust in institutions, low levels of corruption, and relatively equal opportunities for education, employment, and social mobility. This conducive environment attracts investments, fosters innovation, and contributes to sustained economic growth.

Canada: Canada is recognized for its multiculturalism and commitment to diversity, justice, and equality. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees fundamental rights and freedoms to all Canadians, irrespective of their background. The country has established mechanisms for resolving disputes through fair and impartial judicial processes. This creates a stable and inclusive society where individuals are treated with dignity and respect, contributing to social cohesion and economic prosperity.

How is Justice and Equality Compromised

Corruption in Developing Countries: In many developing countries, corruption and lack of accountability undermine justice and equality. Government officials often engage in bribery, embezzlement, and nepotism, which erodes public trust in institutions and the rule of law. This situation perpetuates poverty and structural violence among the population. Recently, the World Bank highlighted Pakistan's economic challenges, forecasting a modest growth of 1.8 percent for the fiscal year 2024. The report underscores the urgent need for structural reforms, noting that 40 percent of the population has fallen below the poverty line. Similarly, in countries like Nigeria and Afghanistan, corruption not only undermines public trust but also stifles economic growth by diverting resources away from essential services and infrastructure development. This perpetuates poverty and hinders efforts to achieve justice and equality across these nations.

Systemic Discrimination in the United States: Despite progress in civil rights, systemic discrimination persists in the United States, particularly affecting marginalized communities such as racial minorities and immigrants. Disparities in access to education, healthcare, employment, and criminal justice perpetuate inequality and social injustice. Incidents of police brutality, racial profiling, and mass incarceration highlight the need for systemic reforms to address structural inequities and ensure equal treatment under the law.

Strengthening Law Enforcement

To enhance Pakistan's law and order situation, robust strategies are essential. Strengthening law enforcement involves improving police training and capacity-building programs. This includes initiatives in Punjab where modern policing methods and forensic sciences are integrated into training sessions, equipping officers for effective crime prevention and management. Additionally, community policing efforts such as "Police Awam Saath Saath" in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa foster collaboration between police and communities, enhancing public safety through proactive engagement and swift response mechanisms.

Judicial Reforms

Reforming the judiciary is pivotal for upholding justice in Pakistan. Efforts include modernizing court systems through e-filing in Sindh High Court, expediting case resolutions and reducing backlog. Specialized courts, like anti-terrorism and family courts, are established to streamline legal proceedings, ensuring timely justice delivery. Moreover, initiatives like Punjab Legal Aid & Assistance Program aim to provide marginalized populations with legal support, ensuring equitable access to justice and reinforcing judicial integrity.

Socio-Economic Development

Addressing socio-economic disparities is crucial for sustainable security improvements in Pakistan. Investments in education and healthcare infrastructure, exemplified by Punjab Education Foundation's school construction, expand access to essential services. Job creation initiatives and infrastructure development projects under CPEC in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has a potential to stimulate Microfinance programs and vocational training schemes empower communities, fostering economic independence and social stability.

Digital Citizenship: Importance in Today's World

What is Digital Citizenship?

Digital Citizenship refers to the responsible use of technology, encompassing behaviors that protect individuals from online dangers and uphold human rights. It involves active participation in digital communities, lifelong learning, and the defense of human dignity across political, economic, social, cultural, and intercultural contexts.

Why is Digital Citizenship Important?

In an era inundated with media and technology, misinformation, fraud, and disinformation are rampant. Research indicates a significant lack of critical online source verification among students, exposing them to manipulation by malicious actors. Digital Citizenship Education is



Note For Teachers: Divide the class in small groups, encourage students to critically analyze the existing issues surrounding justice and equality in Pakistan. A thoughtful discussion on potential solutions and improvements, will foster a constructive dialogue among students about societal values and governance.

Prompt Question: How can Pakistan ensure that justice and equality are upheld for all its citizens, considering the challenges and compromises observed in current practices?

crucial as it empowers individuals to discern credible sources, safeguard privacy, and navigate online spaces responsibly.

Digital Citizenship Education

Education in Digital Citizenship equips individuals with the skills and knowledge to protect human rights online, ensuring freedom, privacy, and security. Programs implemented in schools and communities, such as those in Canada and Saskatchewan, emphasize responsible online behavior from an early age, mitigating the risks posed by fraudulent activities and misinformation.

Do You Know?

The Constitution of Pakistan, Article 19, guarantees freedom of speech and press subject to reasonable restrictions for the integrity of Pakistan and public order.

Influences on Media Messages

Media messages span from clear-cut statements, such as public service announcements, to more subtle reflections of cultural values. Disputes over media content frequently arise due to claims of bias and concealed motives. The impact of mass media on public opinion is deeply rooted in historical propaganda techniques, which still play a significant role in shaping contemporary media. There are several factors that influence media messages:

- a. **Economic Factors:** Economic interests significantly drive media content, as media organizations depend on advertising revenue and sponsorships for funding. Consequently, media outlets may prioritize sensationalism or clickbait headlines to attract viewership and increase profits. For example, tabloid newspapers may sensationalize celebrity scandals to boost sales and advertising revenue, leading to a distortion of information for commercial gain.
- b. **Political Factors:** Media outlets can be influenced by political agendas, biases, and censorship, shaping the narrative presented to the public. Governments or political parties may control media narratives to manipulate public opinion or suppress dissenting voices. For instance, state-owned media outlets in authoritarian regimes may serve as propaganda tools to promote government agendas and suppress opposition viewpoints.
- c. **Social Factors:** Social norms, values, and cultural beliefs influence media representations of various social groups, identities, and issues. Media messages can perpetuate stereotypes, reinforce biases, or challenge societal norms, shaping public perceptions and attitudes. For example, the portrayal of gender roles in advertising or entertainment media can reinforce traditional gender stereotypes and contribute to gender inequality.
- d. **Historical Factors:** Historical events, collective memories, and cultural heritage influence media narratives and interpretations of past events. Media representations of historical events may vary depending on cultural perspectives, historical contexts, and ideological biases. For example, depictions of colonial history in textbooks or films may differ significantly between former colonial powers and colonized nations, reflecting divergent interpretations and narratives.

- e. **Aesthetic Factors:** Aesthetic choices, such as visuals, language, and narrative techniques, shape the presentation and reception of media messages. Aesthetic factors can influence audience engagement, emotional responses, and perceptions of credibility. For example, the use of cinematic techniques, such as lighting, music, and camera angles, can evoke specific emotions or create dramatic effects in film and television productions.

Types of Media Influences and Digital Citizenship

- i. **Social Media Echo Chambers:** Social media algorithms prioritize content based on user preferences and engagement, creating filter bubbles or echo chambers where individuals are exposed to information that reinforces their existing beliefs and perspectives. Digital citizens need to be aware of this phenomenon and actively seek out diverse viewpoints to avoid being trapped in ideological bubbles.
- ii. **Misinformation and Disinformation Campaigns:** The spread of misinformation and disinformation on social media platforms can have significant consequences, from influencing elections to fueling public health crises. Digital citizens must critically evaluate the credibility and reliability of sources, fact-check information before sharing, and be vigilant against manipulation tactics employed by malicious actors.
- iii. **Corporate Influence on News Coverage:** Corporate ownership of media outlets can impact news coverage and editorial decisions, with conglomerates prioritizing profit margins over journalistic integrity. Digital citizens should be mindful of the vested interests behind media conglomerates and seek out independent sources of news and analysis to gain a more balanced perspective.
- iv. **Representation of Marginalized Voices:** Media representations often marginalize or stereotype certain social groups, perpetuating inequalities and erasing diverse experiences. Digital citizens can advocate for greater diversity and inclusion in media representation by supporting independent media outlets, amplifying marginalized voices on social media, and engaging in discussions about representation and identity politics.
- v. **Cultural Sensitivity in Digital Communication:** In an interconnected world, digital citizens must navigate diverse cultural contexts and communication norms when interacting online. While free speech is a fundamental value of human rights, other values can take precedence in certain situations. Obscenity and copyright laws illustrate how cultural values impact media and communication. For example, obscenity definitions have shifted over time, reflecting changing social attitudes. This constant evolution highlights the need for cultural sensitivity in digital communication, where understanding these nuances fosters respectful and inclusive online interactions.

Encouraging media literacy is essential for navigating today's complex media landscape effectively. To fully participate in work, community, and global communications, as well as to consume media intelligently, individuals must grasp how media operates. This includes questioning what they see and read, understanding ownership and biases, and exploiting new media tools confidently. In our 24/7 media environment, where non-professionals' output rivals traditional media, being a mere consumer isn't sufficient. Media literacy empowers individuals to understand, critique, and utilize media to express their own ideas. With the proliferation of media sources, it's crucial to access diverse perspectives and information.

A media literate society isn't just desirable but necessary in the 21st century. It fosters social inclusion, economic empowerment, and cultural diversity. By promoting media literacy, we enable everyone, regardless of background, to actively participate and contribute to the creative and knowledge economies. This creates a society where individuals are enfranchised and where diverse voices and talents can thrive.

What I have Learned

- **Evolving Definition:** The definition of rule of law has changed throughout history, reflecting its role in social justice and order.
- **Fairness & Equality:** The rule of law emphasizes treating everyone equally before the law, regardless of background.
- **Accountability:** Everyone, including the government, is accountable to pre-existing laws.
- **Transparency:** The law should be clear, accessible, and applied fairly and consistently.
- **Separate Powers:** Power should be divided among different branches of government to prevent abuse.
- **Economic Growth:** A strong rule of law is essential for economic stability and growth.
- **Disparities Within Countries:** The strength of the rule of law can vary within a country, impacting development.
- **Global Development:** The rule of law is a foundation for achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Citizenship:** Citizenship defines the legal relationship between an individual and a state.
- **Citizen Responsibilities:** Citizens have obligations to obey laws, pay taxes, and contribute to society.

Exercise

Answer the following questions by choosing the best answer.

1. "To create a peaceful, just and inclusive societies that live under the rule of law" is part of :
 - i. Millennium Development Goals
 - ii. Vision 2025
 - iii. Sustainable Development Goals
 - iv. Declaration of Human Rights
2. Active citizenship involves:
 - i. Only voting in elections
 - ii. Participating in your community and holding the government accountable
 - iii. Obeying all laws, regardless of their fairness
 - iv. Paying all taxes
3. Citizenship includes:
 - i. Responsibilities like paying taxes
 - ii. Rights like freedom of speech
 - iii. Both rights and responsibilities
 - iv. Neither rights nor responsibilities
4. What is the PRIMARY purpose of the Press Council Ordinance, 2002?
 - i. To improve the working conditions of newspaper employees
 - ii. To regulate the content published by newspapers and news agencies
 - iii. To ensure journalists are paid fair wages
 - iv. To promote public awareness and free flow of information
5. How does a free press contribute to a prosperous country?
 - i. By promoting ethical conduct among journalists
 - ii. By exposing corruption and holding institutions accountable
 - iii. By encouraging censorship to protect national security
 - iv. By ensuring all news reports are positive and optimistic
6. The rule of law means:
 - i. The government can make up its own rules
 - ii. Everyone, including the government, follows the law
 - iii. Only citizens are subject to the law
 - iv. Laws are constantly changing based on public opinion
7. What is a CHALLENGE that social media echo chambers pose for digital citizenship?
 - i. They encourage users to learn new skills.
 - ii. They expose users to a wider range of viewpoints.
 - iii. They limit users' exposure to diverse information.
 - iv. They promote responsible online behavior.
8. The chapter mentions that cultural values can influence what is considered obscene. What does this suggest about digital communication?

- i. All cultures have the same definition of obscenity.
 - ii. Digital citizens should be aware of cultural differences when communicating online.
 - iii. Copyright laws are not relevant to cultural sensitivity.
 - iv. Free speech online has no limitations.
9. A child born in the United States to non-citizen parents would automatically acquire citizenship under which of the following principles?
- i. Jus sanguinis (right of blood)
 - ii. Jus soli (right of soil)
 - iii. Naturalization
 - iv. Citizenship by Marriage
10. Someone who wants to become a citizen of Pakistan but was not born there and does not have Pakistani parents would most likely apply for citizenship through which method?
- i. Birthright Citizenship
 - ii. Jus sanguinis (right of blood)
 - iii. Naturalization
 - iv. Citizenship by Marriage

Answer the following questions briefly

1. What is the significance of the rule of law as a fundamental principle of a democratic state?
2. What methods can be proposed to enhance the law and order situation in Pakistan?
3. Why is citizen participation in community services or volunteer work important?
4. What are the articles defining Justice and equality?
5. How do immigration, emigration, and marriages affect citizenship status?
6. Why are a free press, justice, and equality important for a prosperous country?
7. How the concept of "limited resources" acts as a barrier to achieving both justice and equality. How might this challenge be addressed in a way that respects both ideals?

Answer the following question in detail.

1. How do evolving definitions of the rule of law influence social justice, economic growth, and sustainable development, especially in the context of regional disparities within countries like Pakistan and global initiatives like the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?
2. Citizenship can be gained and lost through various processes. How do these methods of acquiring and losing citizenship impact the concept of dual citizenship? Analyze the potential benefits and drawbacks that dual citizens might experience.
3. How does volunteering for community service projects make people feel more connected to their community and responsible for its well-being?
4. Describe the challenges associated with digital citizenship in the context of media influences. Explain how a responsible digital citizen can address these challenges.
5. Evaluate the relationship between justice, equality, and social and economic well-being. How can these principles be upheld in real-world scenarios, considering the challenges posed by corruption and systemic discrimination?

APPLICATION OF KNOWLEDGE.

Examining the Landscape of Print Media Laws and Press Freedom in Pakistan.

Project-based Learning

Divide the class into large groups. Assign the following Task:

1. Research and summarize the key provisions of the following Pakistani print media laws:
 - The Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Services) Act, 1973
 - The Press Council Ordinance, 2002
2. Discuss how these laws might influence: (Whole Class discussion)
 - i. The working conditions and performance of journalists.
 - ii. The content and quality of reporting in Pakistani print media.
 - iii. The level of press freedom and public access to information.
3. Analyze the limitations placed on press freedom by the Press Council Ordinance, considering the national security and public order concerns.
4. Students will present their findings for evaluation.

Glossary

- **Supremacy** : The state of being superior to all others in authority, power, or rank. (Used in the context of "legal supremacy")
- **Disenfranchisement** : The loss of the right to vote in elections. (Opposed to "enfranchisement" which is granting the right to vote)
- **Alleviation** : The act of making something less severe, serious, or painful. (Used in the context of "alleviate human suffering")
- **Multidimensional** : Having many different aspects or dimensions. (Used in the context of "multidimensional poverty")
- **Intertwined** : Connected or linked in a complex way. (Used in the context of "human rights, peace and security, and development are deeply intertwined")
- **Empowerment** : The process of giving someone more control over their life or situation. (Used in the context of "empowering individuals to influence policies and decisions")
- **Prerogative** : An exclusive right or privilege. (Used in the context of "privileges of citizenship")
- **Reciprocity** : The mutual exchange of something. (Related to the concept of rights and responsibilities)
- **Fortification** : The act of strengthening something. (Related to the concept of building a strong ethical foundation)
- **Discrepancy** : A difference between two things that should be the same. (Used in the context of "disparities in terms of the rule of law")