

**CLASS : 8**

**SUB : CIVICS**

**CH. 2 : UNDERSTANDING SECULARISM**

**EXERCISE SOLUTION**

**BY : RKY**

**Q1. 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?**

**Ans.** The different types of religious practices that we can see in our neighbourhood are as follows:

**(i) Hindus visit temples. They perform puja and worship the idols of their Gods and Goddesses.**

**(ii) Muslims visit mosques and worship their sacred book the Quran. They offer namaaz.**

**(iii) Sikhs visit Gurudwaras, worship their sacred book Guru Granth Sahib by offering prayers and listening to shabad-kirtan.**

**(iv) Christians visit Churches and worship Jesus Christ.**

**Yes, this indicates freedom of religious practice as the people in India have the freedom to practice the religion of their choice while living together in peace and harmony.**

**Q2. Will the government intervene if some religious group says that their religion allows them to practise infanticide? Give reasons for your answer.**

**Ans.** Yes, the Government will definitely intervene if some religious group says that their religion allows them to practice infanticide. Infanticide involves the killing of an infant (a small child) which is clearly a cruel crime. This practice violates the human right ' Right to Life'. Also it creates a threat to social harmony.

**Q3. Complete the following table:**

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Why is this important?</b>	<b>Example of violation of this objective</b>
One religious community does not dominate another.	?	?
The State does not enforce any particular religion nor take away the religious freedom of individuals.	?	?
That some members do not dominate other members of the same religious community.	?	?

**Ans.**

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Why is this important?</b>	<b>Example of violation of this objective</b>
<b>One religious community does not dominate another.</b>	<b>This is important for maintaining harmony in the country.</b>	<b>The massacre of Kashmiri Pandits in the state of Jammu and Kashmir in 1990.</b>
<b>The State does not enforce any particular religion nor take away the religious freedom of individuals.</b>	<b>This is important to uphold the ideals of a democratic nation which gives its citizens freedom to follow any religion of their choice.</b>	<b>France government banning the Muslim headscarves and Sikh turbans in public places.</b>
<b>That some members do not dominate other members of the same religious community.</b>	<b>This is important to establish the sense of equality in a society.</b>	<b>Dalits being looked down upon by the upper caste Hindus.</b>

**Q4. Look up the annual calendar of holidays of your school. How many of them pertain to different religions? What does this indicate?**

**Ans.** The annual calendar of our school marks several holidays that pertain to different religions. Various festivals for which holidays are declared are as follows :

**(i) Hindu festivals: Diwali, Holi, Dussehra, Shivratri, Ram Navmi**

**(ii) Muslim festivals: Id-ul-zuha, Id-ul-fitar, Muharram**

**(iii) Sikh festivals: Guru Nanak Jayanti, Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti, Vaisakhi, Lohri**

**(iv) Christian festivals: Christmas, Good Friday**

**This clearly proves that India is a secular country and here all the religions are equally respected.**

**Q5. Find out some examples of different views within the same religion.**

**Ans. Many religions in our country are further divided into groups and communities that hold opinions differing from each other. Some examples of such groups and communities existing within the same religion are given below:**

**(i) Muslims are divided into Shias and Sunnis.**

**(ii) Jains are divided into Shwetambar and Digambar.**

**(iii) Buddhist followers are divided into Mahayana and Hinayana.**

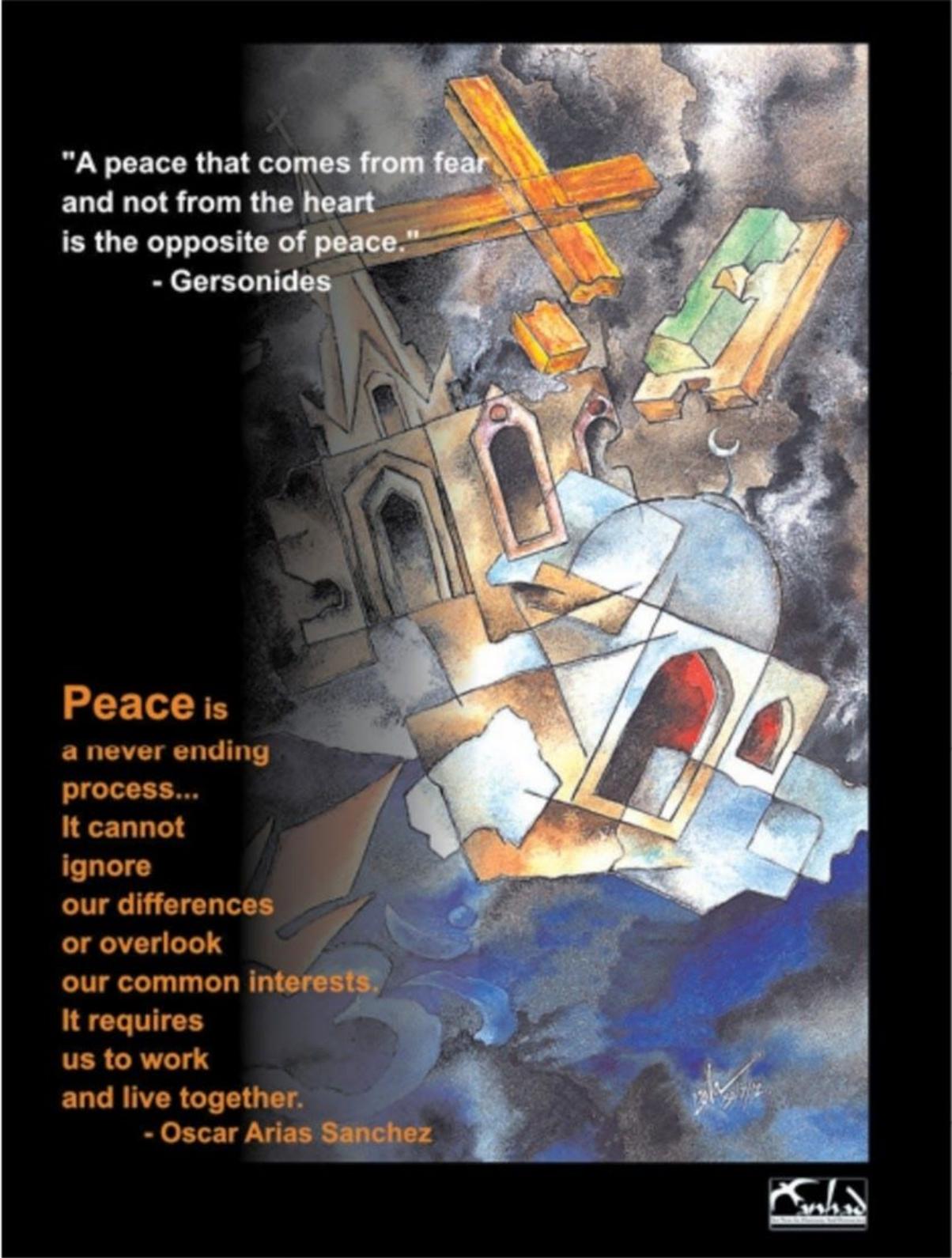
**(iv) In Hindu religion also, there are hundreds of gods and goddesses that are worshipped by different groups of people.**

**Q6. The Indian State both keeps away from religion as well as intervenes in religion. This idea can be quite confusing.**

**Discuss this once again in class using examples from the chapter as well as those that you might have come up with.**

**Ans. The Indian state both keeps away from religion, as well as intervenes in religion. The central as well as state governments declare holidays on the occasions of festivals belonging to different religions, but no religious function is celebrated by any of the governments. People of the country are free to celebrate these religious festivals in their own way. However, the Indian state comes to intervene only if any religious practice disturbs the harmony of the country. If a section of the people belonging to the same religion are denied the right to enter their place of worship then the state can intervene to resolve the issue and help the deprived section regain its rights.**

**Q7. This poster alongside highlights the need for 'Peace'. It says, "Peace is a never-ending process....It cannot ignore our differences or overlook our common interests." Write in your own words what you think the above sentences are trying to convey? How does it relate to the need for religious tolerance?**

A watercolor illustration depicting a scene of destruction. In the foreground, a large, broken cross made of wooden planks is visible. To its right, a green and gold structure, possibly a mosque or a religious building, is partially destroyed. In the background, a mosque with a large dome and a crescent moon is shown in a state of ruin. The sky is dark and cloudy, and the ground is a mix of blue and brown tones, suggesting a desolate landscape. The overall mood is one of devastation and the loss of religious and cultural heritage.

"A peace that comes from fear  
and not from the heart  
is the opposite of peace."

- Gersonides

**Peace is**  
a never ending  
process...  
It cannot  
ignore  
our differences  
or overlook  
our common interests.  
It requires  
us to work  
and live together.

- Oscar Arias Sanchez



**Ans.** This poster conveys a message for the establishment of peace in the society. The message explains that peace is a long-cherished process. But in this process, we cannot ignore the differences or overlook our common

**interests. It means peace can be brought only after establishing coordination between the common interests. Religious tolerance is the most sensitive issue in this sense.**