

## What is Democracy? Explain any four (4) features of Democracy.

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- Democracy is defined as a form of government in which the people exercise their governing power either directly or through representatives periodically elected by them. Therefore this informs us that democracy provides institution for the expression and the supremacy of the or popular will on basic issues bordering on socio-political decisions and policy making. Other factors such as: political and economic equality, fraternal feeling.

The origin of Democracy is traceable to ancient Greek history. The word 'Demo' in Greek means people and 'kratia' means government. These two words 'Demo' and 'kratia' metamorphosed into the word, democracy.

Abraham Lincoln defined democracy as: 'Government of the people by the people and for the people.' This definition could be broken down into three parts with relevant explanations:

(a) Government of the people refers to government on behalf of the people.

(b) Government by the people refers to representatives government and \_

(c). Government for the people means that government should be carried in by people of high principle, that is, that those trusted with the affairs of government should not be politician who seek to make themselves rich at the expense of those who they are supposed to serve.

Democracy is the most successful political idea in the world. A system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives.

Democracy allows ordinary people a decisive say in who governs a country and how they govern it. It is based on a system of government by all the citizens of a country, typically exercised through elected representatives.

- **Four (4) features of Democracy:**

1. Rule of law
2. Decision making

3. Political parties
4. National wealth
5. Provision of opportunities
6. Secret ballot

- **Rule of law:**

There should be the application of the rule of law and no one should be above the law.

- **Decision making:**

The conception of majority rule and the right of the minority must be recognized in the areas of decision making.

- **Political parties:**

Where democracy is operational, there are more than one political party with different individuals competing for power.

- **National wealth:**

Disparity in the distribution of national wealth is progressively reduced.