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Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

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Q4(a)

"Representative democracy is not an absolute principle, rather a question of time, place and circumstances." Analyze the statement. Mention the major challenges to representative democracy

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2026 · PSIR GS 1 · 20 marks · Democracy: Classical and contemporary theories; different models of democracy

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Democracy: Classical and contemporary theories; different models of democracy - representative, participatory and deliberative.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round.

Direct Democracy vs Representative Democracy (C.B. Macpherson)

Scholarly critique highlighting how liberal-democratic representation serves elite interests unless supplemented by participatory mechanisms.

Deliberative Democracy (Jürgen Habermas)

Theoretical framework emphasizing communicative rationality and public sphere discourse as a remedy for representative stagnation.

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