

1. What is a Constituency?

Ans. The Country is divided into different areas for the purpose of Elections. These areas are called Electoral Constituencies.

2. Mention any two slogans given by different parties in various elections.

Ans. (a) Garibi Hatao (Remove Poverty), slogan of the Congress party led by Indira Gandhi in the 1971 elections.

(b) Save Democracy was the slogan given by the Janata Party under the leadership of Jayaprakash Narayan in 1977 Lok Sabha elections.

3. Enumerate the demerits of an electoral competition ?

Ans. The demerits of electoral competition are :

- a) It creates disunity and factionalism in every locality.
- b) Different political parties and leaders often allegations against one another. Parties and candidates often use dirty tricks to win elections.
- c) It is often said that the pressure to win electoral fights does not allow sensible long term policies to be formulated . Some good people do wish to serve the country but do not like to do so because of being dragged into unhealthy competition.

4. What is meant by 'seat' in elections? Explain with example.

Ans. The electoral constituencies are counted as 'seats', for each constituency represents one seat in the assembly. For example, when we say that 'Lok Dal won 60 seats' in Haryana, it means that candidates of Lok Dal won 60 assembly constituencies in the state and thus Lok Dal had 60 MLAs in the state assembly.

5. Explain any three conditions which make the election process more democratic.

Ans. In order to have election process more democratic there are few pre-requisites like:

- a) **One vote, one value:** To choose/elect the representative every one must have one vote with equal value. This is to avoid any type of conflicting situation.
- b) **Regular Election:** There should be regular elections in every democratic country so that people have their choice at regular intervals.
- c) **Free and Fair Election:** In order to ensure a fair chance to the people there should be free and fair election in every democratic country.
- d) **Political Competition:** In order to have democratic election parties, candidates should be free to contest elections and should offer some real choice to the voters.

6. What legal declaration is required to be submitted by each candidate who wishes to contest an election ?

Ans. Every candidate has to make a legal declaration ,giving full details of the following:

- a) Serious criminal cases pending against the candidate.
- b) Details of his/her asset and liabilities and those of his\her family.
- c) Educational qualification of the candidate this information is made public. This provides an opportunity to the voters to make their decisions on the basis of the information provided by the candidates.
- d) Spend more than 25 lakh in a constituency for the Lok Sabha election or 10 lakh in in constituency in an assembly election.

If they do so and are elected, their election can be rejected by court.

7. What is meant by Code of Conduct? How does it control the activities of parties and candidates?

Ans: Code of Conduct means a set of norms and guidelines to be followed by political parties and candidates during the election time. According to it no party or candidate can:

- (a) Use any place of worship for election propaganda.
- (b) Use government vehicles, aircraft and officials for elections.
- (c) Once elections are announced, ministers shall not lay foundation stones of any project, take any big policy

decisions or make any promises to provide public facilities.

8. What is an election commission? Who appoints the chief election commissioner and how can he/she be removed?

Ans.

- (a) Election commission in India is an independent body that conducts elections India. It enjoys the same kind of independence that the judiciary enjoys.
- (b) The chief election commissioner is appointed by the president of India. But once appointed, He is not answerable to the president or the government.
- (c) Even if the ruling party or the government does not like the chief election commissioner it is virtually impossible to remove the CEC.

9. What do you mean by “voters list ”? What is its significance?

Ans.

- (a) In a democratic election, the list of those who are eligible to vote is prepared much before the election and is available to everyone.
- (b) The list is officially called the electoral roll and is commonly called the voters' list.
- (c) It is an important step for its is linked to the first condition of a democratic election i.e everyone should get an equal opportunity to choose representatives. It is revised every year to add names of those who turn 18 on 1st January of that year or have moved out of the

constituency and to remove the names of those who have died.

10. What do you know about voter id card?

Ans: (a) Voter id card is also called Election Photo Identity Card (EPIC)

(b) The government makes efforts to give this card to every person on the voters' list.

(c) The voters are required to carry their card when they go out to cast their vote so that no one else can vote in their place.

(d) An agent of each candidate is allowed inside the polling booth to ensure that the voting takes place in free and fair atmosphere.

(e) A ballot paper is placed in which the names of the candidates along with their symbols are listed. Nowadays EVMs are used to record the votes.

(f) The machine i.e EVM shows the names of the candidates and party symbols. Even the independent candidates have their own symbol allotted by the election commission. A voter presses the button against the name of the candidate he/she wants to vote for.

11. Describe the challenges to Free and Fair Elections in India.

Ans. Challenges to the elections in India are:

- (a) Candidates and parties with a lot of money may not be sure of their victory, but they do enjoy an advantage over smaller parties and independent candidates.
- (b) In some parts of the country, candidates with criminal connection have been able to secure a ticket from major parties.
- (c) Some families tend to dominate the political parties. Tickets are distributed to members of these families.
- (d) Very often elections offer little choice to ordinary citizens as both the major parties are similar to each other in their policies and practices.
- (e) Smaller parties and independent candidates suffer a huge disadvantage as compared to the bigger parties

List the ways to regulate and ensure free and fair elections.

- (a) Misuse of government facilities should be prevented.
- (b) Rigging on the polling day should be checked.
- (c) Role of money and muscle power should be checked.
- (d) Contesting candidates should not be allowed to use caste or religion during elections.