

CIVICS

2

ELECTION, POLITICAL PARTIES
AND PRESSURE GROUPS

I. CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER.

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1. India has adapted the electoral system followed in the

- a) USA b) United Kingdom c) Canada d) Russia

Ans: b)

2. The Election Commission of India is a/ an

- a) Independent body b) Statutory body
c) Private body d) Public corporation

Ans: a)

3. Which Article of the Constitution provides for an Election Commission?

- a) Article 280 b) Article 315 c) Article 324 d) Article 325

Ans: c)

4. Which part of the constitution of India says about the election commission?

- a) Part III b) Part XV c) Part XX d) Part XXII

Ans: b)

5. Who accords recognition to various political parties as national or regional parties?

- a) The President
b) The Election Commission
c) The Parliament
d) The President in consultation with the Election Commission

Ans: b)

6. Assertion (A) : Indian Constitution provides for an independent Election Commission

Reason (R) : To ensure free and fair elections in the country.

- a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) explains (A)
b) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) does not explain (A)
c) (A) is correct and (R) is false
d) (A) is false and (R) is true

Ans: a)

7. NOTA was introduced in the year

- a) 2012 b) 2013 c) 2014 d) 2015

Ans: c)

8. The term pressure groups originated in

- a) USA b) UK c) USSR d) India

Ans: a)

9. Assertion (A) : A large number of pressure groups exist in India.

Reason (R) : Pressure Groups are not developed in India to the same extent as in the USA.

- a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) explains (A)
b) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) does not explain (A)
c) (A) is correct and (R) is false
d) (A) is false and (R) is true

Ans: a)



ADDITIONAL

10. elections are less expensive.

- a) Direct b) Indirect c) Nomination d) Un Opposed **Ans: b)**

11. People over the age of years participate in the electoral process in India.

- a) Twenty one b) Eighteen c) Sixteen d) Twenty two **Ans: b)**

12. Voters Verified Paper Audit Trial (VVPAT) system was first introduced in the year

- a) 2014 b) 2015 c) 2016 d) 2017 **Ans: a)**

13. The largest democracy in the world is

- a) China b) USA c) England d) India **Ans: d)**

14. Kudavolai was the system of voting following during the period.

- a) Chera b) Chola c) Pandya d) Pallava **Ans: b)**

15. Election Commissioners are appointed by the

- a) Prime Minister b) Chief Justice of India
c) President d) Chief Minister **Ans: c)**

II. FILL IN THE BLANKS.

- The Election Commission of India is a body of members. **Ans: Three**
- National Voters day has been celebrated on **Ans: 25th January**
- In India party system is followed. **Ans: Multi**
- In 2017, there were recognised national parties. **Ans: Seven**
- Narmada Bachao Andolan is a **Ans: Pressure Group**

ADDITIONAL

- In India, there are one Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners. **Ans: Two**
- are the link between government and the people. **Ans: Political parties**
- There are types of party system in the world. **Ans: Three**
- The parties reflect genuine demands and concern of the people. **Ans: Opposition**

III. MATCH THE FOLLOWING.

- National Party - a) Trade Unions
- Single-party system - b) USA
- Two-party system - c) China
- Pressure groups - d) Seven

Ans: 1-d 2-c 3-b 4-a

ADDITIONAL

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 6. Congress | - a) Pressure Group |
| 7. Telugu Desam | - b) National party |
| 8. Vested Group | - c) Voting system |
| 9. Kudavolai | - d) Regional party |
| 10. Lok Sabha | - e) House of People |

Ans: 6-b, 7-d, 8-a, 9-c, 10 - E

IV. GIVE SHORT ANSWERS.**1. Explain the electoral system in India.**

The electoral system in India has been adapted from the system followed in the United Kingdom.

- Article 324 of the Constitution provides for an independent Election commission in order to ensure free and fair elections in the country.
- The Parliament may make provisions with respect to all matters relating to elections to the Parliament.

2. Give the meaning of a political party.

- A political party is an organisation formed by a group of people with a certain ideology and agenda to contest elections and hold power in the government.
- A political party has three components. They are a leader, active members and the followers.

3. Distinguish between two-party system and the multi-party system.

S.No.	Two party system	Multi party system
1.	In this system, two parties exist.	In this system, more than two parties exist.
2.	Policy decision can be taken immediately.	It will take time. Policy decision cannot be taken immediately

4. What is a pressure group?

- The term 'Pressure Group' originated in the USA. A pressure group is a group of people who are organised actively for promoting and defending their common interest.
- The pressure groups are also called 'Interest Groups' or 'Vested Groups'. They are different from the political parties in that they neither contest election nor try to capture political power.

ADDITIONAL**5. Write the broad classification of Pressure Groups in India.**

The Pressure Groups in India can be broadly classified into the following categories-

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| • Business groups | • Religious organisations |
|-------------------|---------------------------|

- Trade Unions
- Agrarian groups
- Professional associations
- Student organisations
- Tribal organisations
- Linguistic groups
- Ideology based groups
- Environment Protection groups

5. Name some Pressure Groups in India.

Examples for Pressure Groups in India are

- All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC)
- All India Kisan Sabha
- Indian Medical Association (IMA)
- All India Students Federation (AISF)
- All India Sikh Students Federation
- Young Badaga Association
- Tamil Sangam
- Tamil Nadu Vivasayigal Sangam
- Narmada Bachao Andolan

6. Write about NOTA.

- The people in India who are not willing to elect any candidate can vote for the option called NOTA.
- NOTA means None Of The Above. Rule 49-O in the conduct of Election Rules 1961 of India describes the procedure.
- NOTA was first introduced in the General election held in 2014. India is the 14th country in the world to introduce NOTA.

7. How is the President of India elected?

The President of India is elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of –

- The elected members of both the House of Parliament and
- The elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of all the states and Union territories in India.

8. What are National parties?

The party that has fulfilled any one of the following criteria is recognised as National Party by the Election Commission. They are–

- At least 6% votes in at least four states and members to the Lok Sabha.
- In the election of Lok Sabha, at least 2% members from at least three states are elected to Lok Sabha.
- Recognition as a state party at least four states.

V. ANSWER IN DETAIL.

1. Discuss merits and demerits of direct elections?

Merits of Direct election:

- Direct elections are considered to be a more democratic method of election.
- It educates people regarding the government activities and helps in choosing the appropriate candidates.

- It also encourages people to play an active role in politics.
- It empowers people and makes the rulers accountable for their actions.

Demerits of Direct election:

- Direct elections are very expensive.
- Illiterate voters sometimes get misguided by false propaganda.
- Ensuring free and fair elections at every polling station is a major challenge to the Election Commission.
- There are instances of some political candidates influencing the voters through payments in the form of cash, goods or services.
- Election campaigns sometimes results in violence, tension, law and order problems and affects the day-to-day life of the people.

2. What are the functions of political parties?

- Parties contest elections. In most democracies, elections are fought mainly among the candidates nominated by political parties.
- Parties put forward their policies and programmes before the electorate to consider and choose.
- Parties play a decisive role in making laws for a country. Formally, laws are debated and passed in the legislature.
- Parties form and run the governments.
- The parties that failed to secure majority in the elections play the role of Opposition Party. They criticise the government and ruling party for its failures or wrong policies.
- Parties shape public opinion. They raise and highlight issues of importance.
- Parties function as the useful link between people and the government machinery

3. What are the functions of Pressure groups in India?

Political Participation:

Pressure groups can be called the informal face of politics. They exert influence precisely by mobilising popular support through activities such as petitions, marches, demonstrations and other forms of political protest.

Education:

Many pressure groups devote significant resources by carrying out research, maintaining websites, commenting on government policy and using high-profile academics, scientists and even celebrities to get their views across, with an emphasis to cultivate expert authority.

Policy Formulation:

Though the pressure groups themselves are not policy-makers, yet it does not prevent many of them from participating in the policy-making process.

Many pressure groups are vital sources of information and render advice to the government and therefore they are regularly consulted in the process of policy formulation.

**ADDITIONAL****4. What are the merits and demerits of Indirect Election?**

The people do not directly take part in the election. The people's representatives are the voters here. They elect the members of Rajya Sabha, the Vice-president and President of the country.

Merits of Indirect Election:

- Indirect elections are less expensive.
- It is more suited to elections in large countries

Demerit of Indirect Election:

- If the number of voters is very small, there exists the possibility of corruption, bribery, horse trading and other unfair activities.
- It is less democratic because people do not have a direct opportunity to elect the leader. They do it through their representatives. So, this may not reflect the true will of the people

VI. PROJECT AND ACTIVITY.**1. Compare the policies, programmes and achievements of a national party and a state party.**

(Self Activity)

VII. HOTS.**1. "Elections are considered essential for any representative democracy". Why?**

In a democratic country, elections are essential. During elections, people have the opportunity to choose the right representatives. Without elections, democracy isn't based on the wants and needs of the people.

- If elections are not held, whoever is ruling may become autocratic and despotic.
- Even if the ruler is compassionate, he will not have the first hand situation of the country. The needs of the people are not brought to his notice.
- If elections are held periodically, the heads of the government will keep themselves side by side of the development of the economy.
- Corrective action can be taken. In an autocratic rule, there is no scope for criticism or dissent. Hence the actual situation will not be known by the ruler.
- Periodic election will incentivise the people as well as the leaders.
- Rulers are afraid of the people and take up projects that help the public. They will keep aside their selfish motives.
- People also have an opportunity to change or re-elect the same dispensation. Choice is that of people.

2. What is the principle of universal adult franchise? What is its importance?

India has a parliamentary form of democracy. The Indian Parliament comprises the elected representative of the people. They make laws for the country. They are elected by the process of Universal Adult Franchise.

Every person who is citizen of India and who is not less than 18 years of age can exercise their right to vote in India. This is known as Universal adult franchise. There is no discrimination based on caste, creed, religion, region, gender and education when it comes to providing the right to vote.

Importance of Universal adult franchise:

- It is based on the principle of equality.
- It means that all adult (those who are 18 and above) citizens have the equal right to vote.
- It do not discriminate on the basis of social or economic backgrounds.
- It is an important aspect of democratic societies

3. Discuss merits and demerits of Democracy.

Democracy is a system of government in which the supreme power is vested with the people. They elect their representative either directly or indirectly through fair and free elections. The merits and demerits of democracy are-

Merits of Democracy:

- Responsible and accountable government
- Equality and fraternity
- Sense of responsibility among the people
- Local self-government
- Development and prosperity for all
- Popular sovereignty
- Sense of cooperation and fraternal feeling
- Guaranteed the rights of the people
- No place for rebellion and revolutions.

Demerit:

- Indirect or representative nature of democracy
- Lack of interest in democratic process. So, lower turnout in elections.
- Instability in governance due to fractured mandate
- Delay in decision making process.
- Expensive form of government.
- Corruptions and malpractices are common

4. Discuss the multi-party system.

In this system, there exist more than two political parties with contending ideologies and objectives. France and India come under this category. It also has merits and demerits. The merits of multi party system are:

- Since, there are many parties each one will monitor the other and offer good plans for the benefit of the people.

- In this system, the ruling party gives good administration to capture the in the next election.
- New leaders who may come to power could give us fresh ideas.

The demerits of this system are

- The ruling party care more for the welfare of the party members than common people.
- They could not take concrete decisions on account of members deserting one party and joining the other
- Internal problems in the party led to general deterioration of administration.
- In the multi party system, the ruling party cannot give a good administration.

VIII. LIFE SKILL.

1. Conduct a mock poll in your classroom.

(Self Activity)

