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SFG 2024 | LEVEL 1 | Test #8 - Solutions | Forum AS

Q.1) For election to the Lok Sabha, a nomination paper can be filed by:

- a) anyone residing in India.
- b) a resident of the constituency from which the election is to be contested.
- c) any citizen of India whose name appears in the electoral roll of a constituency.
- d) any citizen of India.

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

According to section 4 (d) of the Representation of People Act, 1951, for election to Lok Sabha, a nomination paper can be filed by any citizen whose name appears in the electoral rolls of any parliamentary constituency.

The Constitution lays down the following qualifications for a person to be chosen a member of the Parliament:

- 1) He must be a citizen of India.
- 2) He must make and subscribe to an oath or affirmation before the person authorized by the election commission for this purpose. In his oath or affirmation, he swears
 - (a) To bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India
 - (b) To uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India
- 3) He must be not less than 30 years of age in the case of the Rajya Sabha and not less than 25 years of age in the case of the Lok Sabha.
- 4) He must possess other qualifications prescribed by Parliament.

The Parliament has laid down the following additional qualifications in the Representation of People Act (1951):

- 1) He must be registered as an elector for a parliamentary constituency. This is same in the case of both the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha.
- 2) He must be a member of a scheduled caste or scheduled tribe in any state or union territory, if he wants to contest a seat reserved for them. However, a member of scheduled castes or scheduled tribes can also contest a seat not reserved for them.

Source: UPSC CSE PRE. 2017

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Every eligible adult having a single vote of equal value.
- 2. Any number of political parties having the liberty to participate in elections.
- 3. Reservation of seats in the legislature for the marginalized sections of society.

How many of the statements given above are the minimum necessary conditions for conducting democratic elections in general?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: In a democratic election, every adult having the right to cast a single vote with equal worth is a fundamental requirement to ensure that the electoral process is fair and unbiased. This principle upholds the core democratic values of equality and representation, giving each eligible citizen an equal say in the outcome of the election.

Statement 2 is correct: In a democratic system of elections, granting any number of political parties and candidates the freedom to participate in elections is essential. It ensures diversity of choices for voters, fostering a competitive and representative electoral process. This liberty empowers citizens by offering authentic alternatives, a cornerstone of democratic governance, promoting a responsive and accountable political landscape.

Statement 3 is incorrect: While it is a valuable and desirable aspect of democracy to ensure that minorities and marginalized groups are adequately represented, **not all democratic systems have specific provisions for this in their electoral processes.** The representation of these groups **can be addressed through other democratic institutions, such as legislative bodies and laws that protect minority rights.** Therefore, while important, it is not universally considered a minimum requirement for the conduct of democratic elections. Source: NCERT Class IX: Democratic Politics Chapter 3: Electoral Politics - page **no:** 36

Q.3) Consider the following statements about the removal of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) from his office:

- 1. CEC can be removed based on the grounds of proved misbehavior or incapacity.
- 2. The President can remove the CEC if both Houses of Parliament pass such resolution with a majority of members present and voting in the house.
- 3. A motion for the removal of the CEC can be introduced only in Lok Sabha.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: The grounds for removal of the CEC are the same as those for removal of a judge of the Supreme Court:

- 1) Proved misbehaviour
- 2) Incapacity

Option 2 is incorrect: The President can remove the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) if both Houses of Parliament pass a resolution with a special majority (majority of the total strength of the house and majority of 2/3rd members present and voting) to that effect. This procedure is provided for in Article 324(5) of the Constitution of India. This is to ensure that the CEC's independence is protected and that he/she can only be removed from office for serious misconduct or incapacity.

Option 3 is incorrect: A motion for the removal of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) can be introduced in either of the houses of Parliament, i.e., the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha.

Source: Class XI NCERT- "Indian Constitution at Work" - Chapter 3 - "ELECTION AND REPRESENTATION" Pg 68

Laxmikanth - Indian Polity - Chapter 42 - "Election Commission"

- **Q.4)** Which of the following statements is **not** correct about a Reserved Constituency of Lok Sabha for Scheduled Tribes?
- a) Article 330 of the Indian Constitution provides for reservation of seats for Scheduled Tribes in Lok Sabha.
- b) The current Lok Sabha has 47 seats reserved for the Scheduled Tribes.
- c) Each State in India has at least one seat reserved for Scheduled tribes in the Lok Sabha.
- d) Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of seats reserved for Schedule Tribes in Lok Sabha.



Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement a is correct: Article 330 of the Indian Constitution guarantees representation for Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha, the lower house of the Indian Parliament. It mandates that a specific number of seats in the Lok Sabha be reserved for Scheduled Tribes, ensuring that their voices are heard in the legislative process. This provision aims to address the historical marginalization of Scheduled Tribes and promote their participation in the political sphere.

Statement b is correct: The Lok Sabha, with 543 elected representative seats, designates 84 for Scheduled Castes and 47 for Scheduled Tribes, reflecting the 2011 Census data, which recorded SCs at 16.7% and STs at 8.6% of the population. Similarly, at the state level, 614 MLAs represent SCs and 554 represent STs out of a total of 4,120 seats to ensure proportional representation.

Statement c is incorrect: Not every state has at least one seat reserved for Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha. The number of seats reserved for Scheduled Tribes varies from state to state, depending on the population of Scheduled Tribes in that state. For example, Madhya Pradesh has 6 seats reserved for Scheduled Tribes while Goa has no seats reserved for Scheduled Tribes.

Statement d is correct: Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of seats reserved for Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the Lok Sabha, the lower house of the Indian Parliament.

Source: NCERT Class IX: Democratic Politics I

Chapter 3: Electoral Politics - page 40

https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/legislative-and-judicial-contours-of-sc-st-quota-101696273398768.html

Q.5) With respect to the Indian Constitution, which of the following statements regarding the 'Doctrine of Pleasure' is / are correct?

- 1. Every person who is a member of the civil service of a state holds office during the pleasure of the Governor of the state.
- 2. Members of the defense services in India are excluded from the purview of the doctrine of pleasure. Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The doctrine of Pleasure is a concept derived from English common law, under which the crown can dispense with the services of anyone in its employ at any time.

Statement 1 is correct: In Indian context, Article 310 of the Constitution says every member of the civil service in the States holds office during the pleasure of the Governor. Hence the statement is correct.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Article 310 (1) of Constitution of India states that "Except as expressly provided by this Constitution, every person who is a member of a defence service or of a civil service of the Union or of an all-India service or holds any post connected with defence or any civil post under the Union, holds office during the pleasure of the President. Hence the members of defense services are not out of purview of the Doctrine of Pleasure.

Knowledge Base:

The following are expressly excluded by the Constitution from the Doctrine of Pleasure. They are:

- Supreme Court Judges (Article 124)
- Auditor General (Article 148)



- 3) High Court Judges (Article 217, 218)
- 4) A member of Public Service Commission (Article 317)
- 5) The Chief Election Commissioner.

Source: https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/explained-what-is-the-doctrine-ofpleasure/article66070566.ece

Q.6) With respect to Electoral Constituencies of the Lok Sabha in India, consider the following statements:

- 1. Reserved constituencies for Scheduled Castes are distributed uniformly across the nation.
- 2. Currently, the number of seats allocated to various states in Lok Sabha is based on the 2001 census.
- 3. Uttar Pradesh currently has the highest number of Lok Sabha constituencies.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The allocation of reserved seats is based on the population of SCs and STs, resulting in variations among states. For instance, Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of SC seats (17), while Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of ST seats (6), reflecting the population distribution of these communities.

Statement 2 is incorrect: According to the 84th Amendment Act of the Constitution, the number of seats allocated to various state in the Lok Sabha is based on the 1971 census, not the 2001 census, and this allocation remains unchanged until the first census conducted after 2026.

Statement 3 is correct: Currently, Uttar Pradesh has the largest number of Lok Sabha electoral constituencies, totaling 80 seats.

Source: NCERT Class IX: Democratic Politics I Chapter 3: Electoral Politics

https://knowindia.india.gov.in/profile/the-union/legislature.php

Q.7) With respect to Electoral System in India, which of the following statement is **not** correct?

- a) A person subjected to preventive detention cannot cast their vote.
- b) Aadhar number is not mandatory for inclusion of eligible voter in electoral roll.
- c) Voter ID issued by Election Commission is not mandatory for the voter to cast his/her vote.
- d) Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) used in Indian election are manufactured by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement a is incorrect: The Representation of the People Act, 1951, denies voting rights to individuals in police custody and those serving imprisonment. This is as per Section 62 (5) of RPA, 1951 Act but there is an exception as this clause will not apply to a person subjected to preventive detention. Thus they can cast their vote.

Statement b is correct: Aadhaar number is not mandatory for inclusion of eligible voter in electoral roll. The ECI has stated that the purpose of providing the Aadhaar number is to assist in the purification of the electoral roll by linking voter ID cards with Aadhaar numbers. However, it has also emphasized that the absence of an Aadhaar number will not be grounds for rejecting an application for voter registration.

Statement c is correct: The possession of an Election Photo Identity Card (EPIC)/ Voter ID is not mandatory for voting. In India, voters can use a variety of other photo identity cards to vote, such as a passport, driving license, or ration card. The EPIC is simply one of the many acceptable identification cards.

Statement d is correct: Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) in India are manufactured by Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).

Source: NCERT Class IX: Democratic Politics I Chapter 3: Electoral Politics

https://www.epw.in/engage/article/prisoners-right-vote-citizen-without-vote

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the right to vote in India:

- 1. Article 326 of the Indian Constitution does not prescribe any specific educational qualifications as a prerequisite for exercising the right to vote.
- 2. The Constitution (Sixty-first Amendment) Act, 1988, lowered the voting age of elections to the Lok Sabha and to the Legislative Assemblies of States from 21 years to 18 years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The Indian Constitution, as per Article 326, supports universal adult suffrage by not mandating any specific educational qualifications for citizens to exercise their right to vote. This ensures that all eligible citizens have an equal opportunity to participate in the democratic process.

Statement 2 is correct: The Sixty-first Amendment of the Constitution of India, officially known as The Constitution (Sixty-first Amendment) Act, 1988, lowered the voting age of elections to the Lok Sabha and to the Legislative Assemblies of States from 21 years to 18 years.

Source: NCERT Class IX: Democratic Politics I Chapter 3: Electoral Politics

- **Q.9)** Consider the following personal details of candidates contesting in Lok Sabha or state assembly elections in India:
- 1. Educational qualifications
- 2. Assets and liabilities of self and family members
- 3. Pending criminal cases
- 4. Sources of income

How many of the above-mentioned personal details are mandatory for candidates to disclose in the declaration form submitted to the Election Commission, for contesting Lok Sabha or State Assembly elections?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Candidates in Lok Sabha or State Assembly elections must disclose specific information to ensure transparency and accountability:

- Educational qualifications: Recent Supreme Court directives require candidates to declare their educational qualifications, which was not previously mandatory. This enhances the transparency of a candidate's background.
- 2) Assets and liabilities: Candidates must disclose their assets and liabilities, as well as those of their family members. This disclosure helps voters understand a candidate's financial interests and potential conflicts of interest.
- 3) Pending criminal cases: Candidates are legally obligated to provide information about serious pending criminal cases against them. This transparency assists voters in making informed decisions and allows authorities to assess a candidate's suitability for office.
- 4) **Sources of income**: Candidates and their associates must disclose their sources of income. **Non-disclosure is considered a corrupt practice under the Representation of the People Act of 1951**, falling under the category of 'undue influence.' This regulation aims to prevent candidates from using hidden financial influence in elections, promoting fairness and integrity in the electoral process.

All the mentioned personal details, including educational qualifications, assets and liabilities of self and family members, pending criminal cases, and sources of income, are mandatory for candidates contesting elections in India to include in the declaration form submitted to the ECI.

Source: NCERT Class IX: Democratic Politics I Chapter 3: Electoral Politics

https://www.adrindia.org/sites/default/files/Order_Assests_Affidavits.pdf

Q.10) With respect to the provisions regarding public servants in India, consider the following statements:

- 1. The recruitment rules of all types of public servants in India are made by the Parliament.
- 2. The Constitution empowers only the Parliament to impose reasonable restrictions on the fundamental rights of public servants.

Which of the above statements is / are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Parliament frames the rules only with regards to recruitment of public servants belonging to the All-India services and the Central Services. The recruitment of public servants belonging to the third category - i.e., State Services is regulated by the laws and rules framed by the Legislative Assembly of the state concerned.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Constitution empowers the Parliament or the State Legislature to impose "reasonable restrictions" on the Fundamental Rights of public servants in the interest of the integrity, efficiency, and impartiality of the public servants. For example, the Central Services (Conduct) Rules put restrictions on the Right to Freedom of speech and Expression of public servants as they are barred from revealing classified matters to the public or writing or speaking against the policies of the government etc. Source: M Laxmikanth

Q.11) Which one of the following is **not** a source of political legitimacy?

- a) Consent
- b) Rational prudence
- c) Political will of the ruler
- d) Public reason



Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement a is correct: Consent refers to the voluntary agreement of the governed to be governed and to accept the authority of the government. When people willingly consent to be governed, it contributes to the legitimacy of the political system.

Statement b is correct: Rational prudence involves the use of reason and prudence in decision-making, taking into account the best interests of the society. It is a source of political legitimacy.

Statement c is incorrect: Political will of the ruler implies that the ruler or the government has authority because of its own power or interests. In fact, this option could be seen as a form of illegitimate rule, especially if it contradicts the other sources of legitimacy.

Statement d is correct: Public reason refers to the use of impartial and justifiable reasoning in political decision-making. It involves considering the common good and the interests of all citizens when making policy choices. Public reason can enhance political legitimacy by ensuring that decisions are fair, transparent, and grounded in rationality.

Source: UPSC CAPF 2016

Q.12) Which of the following statements is incorrect with respect to the Election Campaigning of a Lok Sabha candidate and the Model Code of Conduct in India?

- a) The MCC remains in effect from the polling date until the announcement of the results of the election.
- b) Candidate cannot use places of worship for election propaganda.
- c) Candidate can utilize All India Radio for election campaign for prescribed time.
- d) Candidates cannot use public property for election-related advertisements.

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement a is incorrect: The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) remains in effect from the date of the announcement of the election schedule until the date when the election results are declared, not just from the polling date. This ensures fair and ethical conduct during the entire election process.

Statement b is correct: According to our election law, no party or candidate can:

- 1) Bribe or threaten voters;
- 2) Appeal to them in the name of caste or religion;
- 3) Use government resources for election campaign; and
- 4) Use any place of worship for election propaganda;

Statement c is correct: Time is allocated for Lok Sabha candidates for election campaigning on All India Radio (AIR). The time allocation is done by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

Statement d is correct: Under Model Code of Conduct (MCC), candidates and political parties are not allowed to use public property or places, including railway stations, airports, and post offices, for electionrelated advertisements. They are prohibited from defacing public spaces with posters, banners, or other campaign materials during elections.

Source: NCERT Class IX: Democratic Politics I

Chapter 3: Electoral Politics and https://www.livemint.com/politics/news/election-commissionincreases-expenditure-limit-for-candidates-contesting-lok-sabha-state-assembly-polls-11641521016673.html

Q.13) A civil servant cannot be removed without giving a "reasonable opportunity of being heard" through an enquiry. But this safeguard will not be available to a civil servant in which of the following situations? 1. If s/he is removed on the grounds of conviction on a criminal charge.

- 2. If the removing authority is satisfied that it is not practicable to hold such an inquiry.
- 3. If President or Governor is satisfied not to hold an inquiry in the interest of state security, Select the correct answer from the code given below:
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Article 311 places two restrictions on the 'Doctrine of Pleasure'. In other words, it provides two safeguards to civil servants against any arbitrary dismissal from their posts:

- 1) A civil servant cannot be dismissed or removed by an authority subordinate to that by which he was appointed.
- 2) A civil servant cannot be dismissed or removed or reduced in rank except after an inquiry in which he has been informed of the charges against him and given a reasonable opportunity of being heard in respect of those charges.

However, the second safeguard (holding inquiry) is not available in the following three cases:

Option 1 is correct: Where a civil servant is dismissed or removed or reduced in rank on the ground of conduct which has led to his conviction on a criminal charge; or

Option 2 is correct: Where the authority empowered to dismiss or remove a civil servant or to reduce him in rank is satisfied that for some reason (to be recorded in writing), it is not reasonably practicable to hold such inquiry; or

Option 3 is correct: Where the President or the Governor is satisfied that in the interest of the security of the state, it is not expedient to hold such inquiry.

Source: M Laxmikanth

Q.14) With reference to Elections in India, consider the following statements:

- 1. Until now, simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies were held only once.
- 2. The Communist Party of India was the single largest opposition party after the first Lok Sabha elections.
- 3. Kerala became the first non-Congress ruled State in 1957.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: - In India, simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha (House of The People) and Vidhan Sabhas (State Legislative Assemblies) were held in the years 1951-52, 1957, 1962 and 1967 (four times not once). Thereafter, however, the schedule could not be maintained and the elections to the Lok Sabha and the Vidhan Sabhas have still not been realigned.

Statement 2 is correct - The Indian National Congress (INC) won a landslide victory, winning 364 of the 489 seats and 45% of the total votes polled. Communist Party of India was the second largest with 16 seats followed by Socialist Party with 12 seats. Hence Communist Party of India was the largest opposition party after the first Lok Sabha elections.

Statement 3 is correct - Indian National Congress, for a long time, ruled in center and at states. Kerala in 1957 became the first non-INC ruled state. The Communist Party of India won the election with 60 seats. The election led to the formation of first democratically elected communist government in India.

Source: NCERT Class IX: Democratic Politics I Chapter 3: Electoral Politics

4th statement taken from https://eci.gov.in/about/about-eci/the-setup-r1/

https://loksabhadocs.nic.in/Refinput/New_Reference_Notes/English/Simultaneous_election_to_Lok _Sabha_and_State_Legislative_Assemblies.pdf

Q.15) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Postal voting is the facility through which voters can cast votes by sending ballot paper to the election officer.
- 2. Proxy voting is a facility through which a registered elector can delegate his/her voting power to a representative.
- 3. Members of armed forces can vote both through postal voting and proxy voting.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Currently Voting in an Indian election can be done through three ways- in person, by post and through a proxy.

Statement 1 is correct. Postal voting is a facility through which a voter can cast her vote remotely by recording her preference on the ballot paper and sending it back to the election officer before counting. **Statement 2 is correct.** Under proxy voting, a registered elector can delegate his voting power to a representative. This was introduced in 2003 for elections to the Lok Sabha and Assemblies, but on a limited scale.

Statement 3 is correct. Members of armed forces can vote both through postal voting and proxy voting. A "classified service voter" is allowed to nominate a proxy to cast vote on his behalf in his absence. A "classified service voter" includes members of the armed forces, BSF, CRPF, CISF, General Engineering Reserve Force and Border Road Organisation. They can appoint a proxy as long as the proxy, too, is a registered voter in the same constituency. Members of the armed forces like the Army, Navy and Air Force, members of the armed police force of a state (serving outside the state), government employees posted outside India and their spouses are entitled to vote by post i.e., through postal voting.

Knowledge Base:

Other categories who are entitled to vote by post:

- 1) Voters under preventive detention can vote only by post.
- 2) Special voters such as the President of India, Vice President, Governors, Union Cabinet ministers, Speaker of the House and government officers on poll duty have the option to vote by post. But they have to apply through a prescribed form to avail this facility.
- 3) Recently, the Law Ministry, at the Election Commission's behest, introduced a new category of 'absentee voters', who can now also opt for postal voting. These are voters employed in essential services and unable to cast their vote due to their service conditions. Currently, officials of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, Northern Railway (Passenger and Freight) Services and media persons are notified as absentee voters.

Source: https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/remote-voting-the-hindu-editorial-on-postal-ballot-for-nris/article66096200.ece

Q.16) Mr. X contested an election for the Lok Sabha seat and had won the same. Later, Mr. Y, the opponent, accused Mr. X of some electoral malpractices and intended to file an election petition. In the given situation, who/which among the following can admit an election petition and declare the election result as valid/invalid?

- a) The President of India
- b) The Election Commission of India
- c) The High Courts
- d) Speaker of the Lok Sabha

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

According to the Constitution of India (Article 329), no election to the Parliament or a State Legislature can be questioned, except by filing an election petition duly filed with the appropriate authority and in such a manner provided by the appropriate legislature. Accordingly, Parliament has enacted the Representation of Peoples Act, 1951, which gives powers to the High Courts to decide the election petitions. So, in the given case, Mr. Y can choose to file an election petition before the High Court. The Supreme Court has appellate jurisdiction in such cases.

Source: M. Laxmikanth (Chapter 71: Elections)

https://www.indiacode.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/2096/1/A1951-43.pdf

Q.17) Which of the following statements is correct regarding the pressure groups?

- a) These groups essentially erode the principles of democracy by exerting influence on a duly elected government.
- b) To be recognized as a pressure group, it must have a formal structure with clearly defined roles and responsibilities.
- c) A pressure group can be affiliated with a political party.
- d) Their activities essentially establish the dominance of a particular section of society.

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement a is incorrect: Putting pressure on the government through pressure groups strengthens the democratic system. Exerting influence on those in power is a legitimate activity within a democratic framework, provided that it is accessible to all. Sometimes, the government may face excessive pressure from a select group of wealthy and influential persons. Pressure groups counter this influence and may serve the interests of the general public. This strengthens the ethos of democracy.

Statement b is incorrect: It is not mandatory for a pressure group to have a formal structure with clearly defined roles and responsibilities.

Statement c is correct: There are instances where pressure groups are affiliated with a political party. They might be formed by the leaders of the political party or act as an extended arm of political parties. For example, trade unions and student unions are affiliated with some or the other major political party

Statement d is incorrect: It is incorrect to say that the activities of pressure groups essentially establish the dominance of a particular section of society. They may serve specific segments of society, but no single group can monopolize societal influence. If one group exerts pressure on the government to shape policies in its favor, another will exert opposing pressure to resist those policies. This creates a balance of power in society.

Source: https://ncert.nic.in/ncerts/l/jess405.pdf

NCERT Class X: Democratic Politics II (Chapter 5: Popular Struggles and Movements)



Q.18) Consider the following statements:

- 1. A pressure group, unlike political parties, does not aim to directly acquire political power.
- 2. Unlike movement groups, interest groups depend mostly on spontaneous mass agitation on a particular

Which of the statements given above is / are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The fundamental difference between a pressure group and a political party is that a pressure group does not aim to directly control or share the political power. Political parties contest elections, whereas pressure groups campaign for their preferred candidate or political ideology. So, a pressure group may support a particular political party (eg. Affiliation of trade unions with political parties), they do not aim to directly control the political power.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Interest groups do not necessarily depend on spontaneous mass agitation. Interest groups may employ various strategies, including lobbying, advocacy, and public relations, to achieve their goals. Mass agitation is often associated more with movement groups or social movements. Source: NCERT Class X: Democratic Politics II (Chapter 5: Popular Struggles and Movements)

Q.19) Consider the following pairs:

Events or actions by some Nature of the popular organizations/ mentioned

groupings organization/grouping Movement Group

1. Narmada Bachao Aandolan mobilized citizens to stop the construction of Sardar Sarovar Dam.

Political Group

2. The protests led by Bhartiya Jana Sangh against the Central Government.

3. Self Employed Women's **Promotional Group**

Association (SEWA) working for the promotion of women's

How many pairs mentioned above are correctly matched?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correctly matched: The Narmada Bachao Aandolan was a people's movement with a spirit of collective action. It had a loose organization structure and intended to arouse masses through emotional

appeals. It had a specific issue i.e. displacement of people and to stop the construction of Sardar Sarovar Project. Hence, it can be called a movement.

Pair 2 is correctly matched: Bhartiya Jana Sangh had been a political party. So, the protests led by such an organization is a form of political activity and the organization is an example of a 'political group'.

Pair 3 is correctly matched: "Promotional pressure groups" refers to a type of pressure group that actively promotes a particular cause, idea, or interest. These groups work to raise awareness about their issues, build support, and influence public opinion and policy decisions. Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) working for the promotion of women's rights is an example of a promotional interest group (also called a public interest group). They provide handholding support to women and lobby to improve their working conditions.

Source: NCERT Class X: Democratic Politics II (Chapter 5: Popular Struggles and Movements)

Q.20) A Constitutional Amendment Bill duly passed by both the Houses of the Parliament is presented to the President for assent. What are the options available with President in this regard?

- a) S/he must give his/her assent to that Bill.
- b) S/he can either give his/her assent or withhold his/her assent
- c) S/he can give his/her assent, withhold the assent or return the bill for reconsideration.
- d) S/he can give his/her assent, withhold the assent or refer the bill to the Supreme Court to decide its constitutionality.

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Article 368 provides that when a Constitutional Amendment Bill is presented to the President then 's/he shall give his/her assent'. This implies that it is mandatory for the President to give his/her assent to the Constitutional Amendment Bill passed by both the Houses of the Parliament. S/he can neither withhold his/her assent nor can return the bill to Parliament for reconsideration. The 24th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1971 made it mandatory for the President to give assent to the Constitutional Amendment Bill.

Source: https://www.mea.gov.in/Images/pdf1/Part20.pdf

Q.21) Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Election Commission of India is a five-member body.
- 2. Union Ministry of Home Affairs decides the election schedule for the conduct of both general elections and bye-elections.
- 3. Election Commission resolves the disputes relating to splits/mergers of recognized political parties. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 3 only

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Election Commission consists of a Chief Election Commissioner and such number of Election Commissioners as the President may deem it necessary subject to the law made by Parliament in this regard. Currently, it consists of the Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners. **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The Election Commission (not the Ministry of Home Affairs) decides the election schedule for the conduct of both general elections and bye-elections.

Statement 3 is correct. Election Commission resolves the disputes relating to splits/mergers of recognized political parties.

Source: UPSC CSE Pre 2017

Q.22) Consider the following statements regarding the functions of a political party:

- 1. Enacting and amending laws for a country.
- 2. Mobilize opposition against the ruling government.
- 3. Launching movements in the interest of the public.

How many options given above represent the appropriate functions of a political party?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

A political party reflects fundamental political divisions in a society. They are known for their policies, programs and ideology.

Option 1 is incorrect: Enacting the laws or amending the existing laws is a primary function of the legislature (Parliament) of a country. The elected candidates of a political party become members of the legislature and they frame and amend laws; the political party in itself does not frame laws.

Option 2 is correct: The political parties that lose majority seats in a legislature or do not ally with the government are collectively called opposition parties. They criticize government actions and take up matters affecting the general public, ask questions to the ministers and use mechanisms like no-confidence motion, against the government. In this way, they mobilize opposition against the ill actions of the ruling government.

Option 3 is correct: Political parties may launch movements, especially the opposition parties, to build an opinion against the ruling government. Parties have activists spread all over the country and many pressure groups function as an extended arm of the political parties. Hence, the given option is correct.

Source: NCERT Class X: Democratic Politics II (Chapter 6: Political Parties)

Q.23) Which of the following statements is **not** correct regarding the recognition of a political party as a 'National Party'?

- a) The Election Commission of India (ECI) is the competent authority to grant national party status to a political party.
- b) Once a party gets the status of national party, it will continue to be a national party irrespective of its performance in the future elections.
- c) A political party gets national status if it is recognized as a state party in four states.
- d) A national party enjoys the privilege of free broadcast time on state-run television during the elections.

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The recognition as a national or a state party is accorded as per the rules made under the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order 1968.

Statement a is correct: The Election Commission of India (ECI) is the designated authority to grant recognition to the political parties. Accordingly, ECI is empowered to declare a political party as a national (or a state) party.

Statement b is incorrect: A political party in India can lose its national party tag if it fails to meet the criteria specified under the Representation of People Act 1951 and the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order 1968. According to Paragraph 6C of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order 1968., amended with effect from January 1, 2014, a party will continue to be a national or state party if it fulfils the criteria laid down in Paragraphs 6A and 6B in the "next election", after the one in which it "got recognition". For example, in April 2023 the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) was recognized as a National Party by the Election Commission of India (ECI). At the same time, the Trinamool Congress (TMC), Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and Communist Party of India (CPI), however, lost their national party status. The EC's decision was based on a review of the parties' poll performances in the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha polls and 21 state assembly polls since 2014.

Statement c is correct: There are separate criteria specified for the recognition of a party as a state party. So, if a party is recognized as a 'state party' in four or more states, it can be granted the status of a national party.

Statement d is correct: A recognized party (National/ State) enjoys certain privileges. These include a reserved party symbol, **free broadcast time on state-run television and radio**, consultation in the setting of election dates, and giving input in setting electoral rules and regulations. Hence, the given statement is correct.

Source: https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/election-commission-grants-national-party-status-to-aap-withdraws-status-of-trinamool-congress-cpi/article66721271.ece
NCERT Class X: Democratic Politics II (Chapter 6: Political Parties)

Q.24) Why is Gram Sabha often regarded as the closest example of Direct Democracy?

- a) Members of the Gram Sabha are directly elected by the adult population in a village.
- b) It uses all four devices of direct democracy namely, Referendum, Initiative, Recall and Plebiscite.
- c) It represents a system where the people of a village directly participate in the decision-making process.
- d) Decisions in the Gram Sabha are made based on the consensus method, where the support of every member is required.

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Direct democracy means citizens' direct participation in democratic decision-making. It is also known as pure democracy, in which the people decide on policy ideas without the assistance of elected representatives.

Gram Sabha is an example of direct democracy, where the citizens directly participate in the day-to-day decision-making. In Gram Sabha meetings, residents come together to discuss and decide on various local issues, including rural development projects, resource management, and social welfare programs. This allows for direct involvement in decision-making without the need for elected representatives. Hence statement c is correct.

Statement a is incorrect: Gram Sabha is not an elected body.

Statement b is incorrect: There are four devices of direct democracy:

- 1) Initiative: Under this, citizens can **propose new laws** or amendments to existing laws.
- 2) Referendum: This involves putting a proposed law or a significant decision directly to the voters.
- 3) Recall: Citizens can petition to **remove an elected official** from office before their term is completed.
- 4) Plebiscite: It is a direct vote by the people on a specific issue, often used to decide constitutional changes or major policy decisions.

Gram Sabha does not use all of the above-mentioned tools of direct democracy. In no case Plebiscite has been used as a tool by Gram Sabha.

Statement d is incorrect: Decisions may or may not be taken based on the consensus method. But it is not the main reason for considering it as an example of direct democracy.

Source: NCERT Class XI: Indian Constitution at work (Chapter 3: Election and Representation)

Q.25) In the event of the Upper House of the Parliament (Rajya Sabha) rejecting a Constitutional Amendment Bill passed by the Lower House of the Parliament (Lok Sabha):

- a) The Bill will have to be dropped.
- b) A joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament may be convened to consider and pass the Bill.
- c) The Bill shall be deemed to have been passed by both the Houses of the Parliament if the Lok Sabha passes it again by a two-third majority.
- d) The Bill shall be deemed to have been passed by both the Houses of the Parliament despite the disapproval of the Bill by the Upper House.

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Bill will have to be dropped. This is because a Constitutional Amendment Bill requires the approval of both the Houses of Parliament. Therefore, if the Upper House rejects such a Bill, it cannot be passed by a joint sitting or by a re-passage by the Lower House. The Bill will have to be dropped or reintroduced with changes acceptable to both Houses.

Source: M Laxmikanth

Q.26) Consider the following statements:

- 1. We cannot have democracy without holding elections.
- 2. We cannot have elections without having democracy.
- 3. We may not have democratic elections in the absence of the rule of law.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Since all citizens cannot directly participate in the decision-making process, representatives are elected for smooth governance. This is an indirect form of democracy where elections are held to elect the representatives. However, in the direct form of democracy, citizens may directly participate in the decision-making process. For instance, Gram Sabha (village assembly of adult population) is not an elected body, but takes important decisions regarding village development, resource management, and so on. Hence, it is incorrect to say that we cannot have democracy without holding elections.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Democracy is a form of government in which political power is vested in the hands of the people. While elections are a common feature of democratic systems, it is possible to have elections in non-democratic or authoritarian systems as well. For example, China holds regular elections at various levels of government, including the local and village levels. However, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) maintains strict control over the political system, and opposition parties are not allowed at the national level. Thus, these elections are criticized for not being free and fair. In this example, elections are being held but they are not following the ideals of democracy. Thus, we can say that there can be elections without democracy.

Statement 3 is correct: For democratic elections, it is essential that everyone should be given equal opportunity to choose or to get chosen by the people. Without rule of law, the rulers will degenerate the electoral process in their favor through manipulations and other malpractices. Rule of law (through Constitution of the country, etc.) will ensure law above men and also ensures fair opportunity to all. Source: NCERT Class XI: Indian Constitution at work (Chapter 3: Election and Representation)

Q.27) Which of the following statements is **not correct** regarding the 'First Past the Post System' of elections?

- a) In this system, the candidate who secures the greatest number of votes in a constituency wins the election.
- b) In this system, each party is allotted seats in Parliament in proportion to its share of votes.
- c) This system is followed in the Lok Sabha elections.
- d) It may not always ensure that the winning candidate has received an absolute majority of votes.

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement a is correct: The 'First Past the Post System' is characterized by a winner-takes-all approach, where the candidate who secures the most votes in a specific constituency or electoral district is declared the winner, regardless of whether they achieve an absolute majority of votes.

Statement b is incorrect: The system where each party is allotted seats in Parliament in proportion to its share of the vote is called a system of proportional representation. Proportional representation systems aim to ensure that the legislative body is more reflective of the overall popular vote.

Statement c is correct: First Past the Post System is used in elections of the members of Lok Sabha and elections of the members of the state legislative assembly.

Statement d is correct: In the 'first past the post system,' a winning candidate may secure the most votes but not necessarily more than 50% of the total votes, meaning they do not always have an absolute majority. This is one of the characteristics of this system, and it can sometimes lead to representation that does not reflect the preferences of the majority of voters.

Source: NCERT Class XI: Indian Constitution at work (Chapter 3: Election and Representation)

Q.28) Which of the following are the features of service delivery which needs to be enshrined in the Citizen's Charter?

- 1. Open and transparent about the services offered.
- 2. Clear and measurable standards of service.
- 3. Details of Grievance Redressal Mechanisms.
- 4. Choice and consultation provisions for citizens.
- 5. Insulation between service provider and citizen.

Select the correct option using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 3 and 5 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Option 1 is correct: Transparency, not secrecy, is a feature of good governance. Citizen charters must be designed to be as open and transparent about the services offered and their various related details and

aspects, as possible. It should be in simple language, as to what services are available, level of quality to expect, definition of roles, etc.

Option 2 is correct: The main aim of a citizen charter is to ensure that public services delivered to the citizen are of a uniform and high standard. A citizen charter must have clear standards mentioned so that governance providers know the standards they are expected to uphold, and the citizens are informed of the standard of services they have the right to demand. These standards should not be vague and generic, rather they should be measurable, timebound, relevant, specific, and accurate.

Option 3 is correct: The second main aspect of service delivery is provision of channels for feedback, including, but not limited to grievance redressal. In order to make governance a smooth and good experience for citizens, there should be well prepared mechanisms in place to promptly and easily receive their complaints and concerns.

Option 4 is correct: Like any good service provider, a good government must also give options to its citizens regarding the kind of service they would prefer and would find convenient to make their lives easy and mold public service delivery according to their needs and not the other way round. So, mechanisms to provide choices in service delivery and consultation are inbuilt in a good citizen charter.

Option 5 is incorrect: Citizen Charter is all about citizen centric approach to governance and public service delivery. While e-governance reduces interaction between the government/ administration and the citizens, some interaction is always necessary. A good citizen charter does not insulate the government/ administration by placing it above the citizen, rather it treats citizens as customer and administration as service provider, who have to be courteous and helpful to the citizen at all times.

Source: https://goicharters.nic.in/public/website/home

Q.29) Consider the following statements with reference to The First past the post system (FPTP) and Proportional Representation (PR):

- 1. Unlike FPTP system, PR systems are more likely to produce a legislature that reflects the diversity of views in the electorate.
- 2. Under FPTP system, votes are generally cast for the candidate whereas under PR system votes are cast for the political parties.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer

Proportional representation (PR) and first past the post (FPTP) are two different electoral systems. First Past the Post System or otherwise known as Simple Majority System is an electoral system in which the candidate with the highest number of votes in a constituency is declared elected. Ex - UK, India. Proportional Representation or commonly known as Single Transferable Vote System, implies an electoral system where the parties are awarded a number of seats in proportion to the percentage of votes each received. Ex - Israel, Netherlands.

Statement 1 is correct- Proportional representation is more likely to **produce a legislature that reflects the diversity of views** in the electorate than the first-past-the-post system. This is because under PR, parties are more likely to win seats if they can appeal to a broad range of voters. Under the first-past-the-post system, on the other hand, parties are more likely to focus on winning votes in a small number of swing constituencies.

Statement 2 is correct- Under the First-Past-the-Post (FPTP) voting system, voters typically cast their votes for a specific candidate running in their electoral district or constituency. The candidate who receives the most votes in that district wins, regardless of whether they secured an overall majority of all votes cast. Conversely, in a Proportional Representation (PR) system, voters typically cast their votes for a political party rather than for individual candidates. The number of seats a party receives in the legislature is proportional to the percentage of votes that party receives. This allows for a more proportional distribution of seats based on the overall vote share for each party.

Source: NCERT class 11th page no 59

https://ncert.nic.in/ncerts/l/keps203.pdf

Q.30) With reference to the star campaigners in elections, consider the following statements:

- 1. Electioneering Expenditure incurred by a star campaigner is not added to a candidate's poll expenditure.
- 2. The appointment of star campaigner needs to be approved by the Election Commission of India. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Star campaigners can be described as persons who are nominated by political parties to campaign in a given set of Constituencies.

Statement 1 is correct. Expenditure incurred on electioneering by the star campaigner is not added to a candidate's poll expenditure giving him/her more leeway. According to the Representation of People's Act, these expenses will be borne by the political parties.

Statement 2 is incorrect. A star campaigner is nominated by the concerned political parties specifying their constituencies and duration of the status. ECI has no role in appointment of star campaigners for political parties.

Source: https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/who-is-a-star-campaigner-why-is-this-status-significant-in-elections-1737308-2020-11-02

Q.31) Right to vote and to be elected in India is the:

- a) Fundamental Right
- b) Natural Right
- c) Constitutional Right
- d) Legal Right

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The right to vote has been recognised under Article 326 of the Indian Constitution and thus it is a Constitutional Right. India is a democratic country and right to vote and to be elected is granted to every citizen of India under the Constitution of India. Under Article 326 of the Constitution of India it is provided that "The elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assembly of every State shall be on the basic of adult suffrage; that is to say every person who is a citizen of India and who is not less than eighteen years of age and is not disqualified on the ground of non-residence, unsoundness of mind, crime or corrupt or illegal practice shall be entitled to be registered as a voter".

Under Section 62 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 it is provided that "every person who is,

for the time being entered in the electoral roll of any constituency shall be entitled to vote in that constituency".

In simple words "every Citizen of India who is not less than eighteen years of age is entitled to get enrolled into electoral roll and is entitled to vote in the constituency in which his name is entered in the electoral roll irrespective of caste, creed, religion or gender unless he is disqualified under the Constitution or any other law on the ground of non-residence, unsoundness of mind, crime or corrupt or illegal practice.

Source: UPSC CSE 2017

Q.32) With reference to election system in India, consider the following assertion and reason:

Assertion: India adopted the First Past the Post (FPTP) system for elections to the Lok Sabha, instead of Proportional Representation (PR).

Reason: The FPTP system promotes stability and ensures the majority government.

Which of the following options given below is correct?

- a) Both Assertion and Reason are true and Reason is the correct explanation of Assertion
- b) Both Assertion and Reason are true but Reason is not the correct explanation of Assertion
- c) Assertion is true but Reason is false.
- d) Assertion is false but Reason is true.

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer

Assertion is correct- India adopted the First Past the Post (FPTP) system for elections to the Lok Sabha, instead of proportional representation (PR). FPTP system is easier to understand even for illiterate people and this will bring the sense of inclusivity among the common people.

Reason is true and the correct explanation of Assertion-The Constitution makers of India considered various factors when choosing an electoral system, including:

- 1) The size and diversity of the country
- 2) The need for a stable government
- 3) The level of literacy and political awareness among the electorate

They concluded that the FPTP system was the best option for India, as it was simple to understand and implement, and it was more likely to produce a majority government.

Source: NCERT class 11th page no 60

Q.33) With reference to the Delimitation Commission of India, which of the following statements is correct?

- a) It is appointed by the Election commission of India.
- b) It draws/redraws the boundaries of constituencies for parliamentary, state legislature and Panchayati raj elections.
- c) In India, total five Delimitation Commissions have been set up till now.
- d) Its orders have the force of law and cannot be called in question before any court.

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer

Option a is incorrect-The Delimitation Commission is **appointed by the President of India** and works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India.

Option b is incorrect-It is **appointed for the purpose of drawing up the boundaries of constituencies** all over the country including only parliamentary and assembly constituencies. It is not responsible for redrawing the boundaries of the constituencies for Panchayati Raj elections. The State Governments are responsible for setting up of different State Delimitation Commissions through the acts of state legislature. For example, the Tamil Nadu Delimitation Commission Act, 2017.

Option c is incorrect- Delimitation commissions have been set up four times (not five times) in the past i.e. in 1952, 1962, 1972 and 2002, respectively under Delimitation Commission Acts of 1952, 1962, 1972 and 2002.

Option d is correct- The orders issued by the Delimitation Commission do **have the force of law**. They are legally binding and are to be followed for the purpose of elections and representation. Further, as per the Delimitation Act, 2002, the orders passed by the Delimitation Commission **cannot be called into question before any court**. This provision was introduced to avoid frequent litigations or legal challenges that might arise regarding the boundaries or demarcation of constituencies.

Source: NCERT class 11th page no 65

https://www.indiacode.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/13159/1/7.tamil_nadu_delimitation_commission_act_2017.pdf

Q.34) With reference to the composition of the Delimitation Commission of India, consider the following options:

- 1. A retired Supreme Court judge
- 2. The Chief Election Commissioner
- 3. The State Election Commissioners of the respective states
- 4. A sitting judge of any High Court in India

How many of the given above are part of the Delimitation Commission of India?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer

Option 1, 2 and 3 are correct -The Delimitation Commission of India is a high-power body appointed by the President of India under Article 82 of the Constitution. It is composed of the following members:

- 1) A **retired Supreme Court judge**, who is the chairperson of the Commission.
- 2) The Chief Election Commissioner.
- 3) The State Election Commissioners of the respective states.

Option 4 is incorrect: A sitting judge of any High Court in India is not member of Delimitation Commission of India. The members of the Delimitation Commission are typically retired judges or individuals holding other relevant positions appointed specifically for this purpose but sitting judges of High Courts do not serve on this commission.

Source: https://eci.gov.in/delimitation-website/commission/

Q.35) The Representation of People's Act, 1951 deals with which of the following matters?

- 1. Qualifications and disqualifications for membership of Parliament and State legislatures.
- 2. Allocation of seats in the House of People and State Legislative Assemblies.
- 3. Corrupt practices and Electoral offences
- 4. Delimitation of Parliamentary, Assembly and Council Constituencies

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 4 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 2 and 3 only



Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The **Representation of People's Act, 1951 contains** provisions relating to:

- 1) Qualifications and disqualifications for membership of Parliament and State Legislatures. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 2) Corrupt practices and electoral offences. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

The **Representation of People's Act, 1950 contains** provisions relating to:

- 1) Allocation of seats in the House of the People, the State Legislative Assemblies and the State Legislative Councils. Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.
- 2) Delimitation of Parliamentary, Assembly and Council Constituencies. Hence, statement 4 is incorrect.

Source:

https://ceodelhi.gov.in/WriteReadData/ManualElectionLaw/REPRESENTATION%20OF%20THE%20PE OPLE%20ACT,%201950.pdf

https://www.indiacode.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/2096/5/a1951-43.pdf

Q.36) Consider the following statements with reference to the By-Elections in India:

- 1. By-election to the house of Parliament or a state legislature must be held within three months of occurrence of the vacancy.
- 2. By-elections may not be held if the remainder of the term of the member whose vacancy is to be filled is less than one year.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: In India by-elections to the house of Parliament or a state legislature must be held within six months (not three months) of occurrence of the vacancy. By-election is held with a definite purpose, which is to fill a political office that has become vacant.

Statement 2 is correct: By-elections are not mandatorily conducted where the remainder of the term of the member whose vacancy is to be filled is less than one year. Also, when the Election Commission, in consultation with the Central Government, certifies that it is difficult to hold the by-elections within the said period then By-elections can be deferred.

Knowledge Base:

In India, by elections is held in one or a few constituencies due to the death or resignation of candidates. However, it can also be held if an elected member resigns or gets disqualified under parliamentary law. A member of a legislative assembly often leaves his position vacant on various grounds, especially when he/she becomes inept. It could be the person's untimely death or a criminal conviction, which makes him ineligible to continue in office.

Source: M Laxmikanth

Q.37) Consider the following statements regarding the Election Commission of India (ECI):

- 1. The number of Election Commissioners other than the Chief Election Commissioner in the Commission is determined by the President.
- 2. The Constitution does not specify any qualifications required for the members of the Election Commission.
- 3. As per the Constitution, members of the Election Commission shall have a fixed tenure of 6 years. How many of the statements given above are correct?
- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Article 324 of the Indian Constitution creates the **Election Commission** to oversee elections in India. They are appointed by the President of India on the advice of the Council of Ministers.

Statement 1 is correct: The President decides the number of other Election Commissioners apart from the Chief Election Commissioner. As per article 324(2) of the Constitution of India, the Election Commission shall consist of the Chief Election Commissioner and such number of other Election Commissioners, if any, as the President may from time-to-time fix.

Statement 2 is correct: The Constitution does not specify the qualifications (legal, educational, administrative, or judicial) for Election Commission members.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Article 324 has not specified the term of the members of the Election Commission. The Constitution does not mention the duration of Election Commission members' terms.

Source: Class XI NCERT- "Indian Constitution at Work" - Chapter 3 - "ELECTION AND

REPRESENTATION" Pg 69

Laxmikanth - Indian Polity - Chapter 42 - "Election Commission"

Q.38) Consider the following statements with respect to the Basic Structure Doctrine of Indian Constitution:

- 1. Basic structure doctrine is explicitly mentioned in the Constitution of India.
- 2. President has the power to decide whether a Constitutional Amendment violates basic structure or not.
- 3. The basic structure doctrine has consolidated the balance between rigidity and flexibility of the Constitution.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

In **Kesavananda Bharati vs State of Kerala (1973)**, a 13 judges' bench of the Supreme court held that article 368 of the Constitution does not enable Parliament to amend the basic framework of the document. This judgement came to be known as **basic structure doctrine- a judicial principle that says some essential parts of the Constitution cannot be amended by the Parliament**.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The basic structure doctrine is the result of judicial pronouncements particularly in the Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala case. The **Constitution has no mention of the term "basic structure"**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It is the judiciary that has the power to decide whether an amendment to the Constitution violates the basic structure doctrine or not. Both the **legislative enactments as well as the executive actions are covered under the concept of judicial review**.

Statement 3 is correct. A rigid constitution is one that is difficult to amend or cannot be amended, while a flexible constitution is one that can be amended with relative ease. The basic structure doctrine has consolidated the balance between rigidity and flexibility. By pronouncing that some parts of the Constitution which comprise of the basic structure of the Constitution cannot be amended, it has underlined the rigid nature of the Constitution. Also allowing some other amendments to the Constitution on the other hand, it has shown flexible nature of the Constitution.

Source: NCERT, Class-XI, Indian Constitution at Work, chapter-9

https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/explainer-basic-structure-constitution-jagdeep-dhankar-criticism-kesavananda-bharati-supreme-court/article66379371.ece

Q.39) Consider the following features:

- 1. Presence of multiple political parties
- 2. Uncertainty regarding the outcome of the election
- 3. Inclusion of Voice of diverse groups of the society
- 4. Potential to create factionalism in the society

How many of the options given above are features of Competitive Electoral System?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

A competitive electoral process is a system in which multiple parties or candidates vie for power, providing voters with real choices and fostering a dynamic political landscape. This system encourages the articulation of different perspectives and viewpoints, leading to a more inclusive and representative political process.

Option 1 is correct: Multiple Parties or Candidates: A competitive electoral system is characterized by the presence of multiple parties or candidates competing for power. This multiplicity of options allows voters to choose from a diverse range of ideologies and platforms, reflecting the heterogeneity of society.

Option 2 is correct: Uncertainty of Outcome: A competitive electoral system is marked by uncertainty regarding the outcome. The close contest between parties or candidates keeps the electorate engaged and incentivizes them to participate in the political process.

Option 3 is correct: Voice for Diverse Groups: A competitive electoral system provides a platform for diverse groups to express their interests and have their voices heard. This inclusivity fosters a more representative and responsive government.

Option 4 is correct: Potential to create factionalism: The Constitution's framers supported a competitive electoral system despite its potential to create factionalism in society, as it allows diverse voices to be heard. They believed in open political competition, recognizing it as essential for a robust democracy, fostering debate, and ensuring government responsiveness to the varied concerns of the populace.

Source: NCERT Class IX: Democratic Politics I

Chapter 3: Electoral Politics



Q.40) Consider the following statements regarding the Election Commission of India:

- 1. It inquires the disputes arising out of the election of Vice-President of India.
- 2. It cannot disqualify a candidate for violation of the Model Code of Conduct.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Matters related to electoral disputes in case of the Vice President of India are decided upon by the Supreme Court only whose decision is final.

Statement 2 is correct: The members of the Election Commission can only reprimand candidates in case of violation of the Model Code of Conduct, or at most file cases under relevant sections of Civil Procedure Code. They cannot however disqualify them on any grounds, other than those mentioned in the Representation of People Act, which does not include violation of Model Code of Conduct as of now.

Source: M Laxmikanth

Q.41) The power of the President of India to refer a matter back to the Council of Ministers for reconsideration was inserted in the Constitution by:

- a) 44th Amendment
- b) 42nd Amendment
- c) 43rd Amendment
- d) 35th Amendment

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The 44th Amendment Act added a new clause to Article 74 of the Constitution, which gives the President the power to refer a matter back to the Council of Ministers for reconsideration. This power can be exercised by the President only once on a matter. If the Council of Ministers sends the same advice again to the President, the President must accept it.

Source: UPSC CAPF 2018

Q.42) Which of the following statements about elections in India is **not** correct?

- a) According to Constitution, every citizen of India over the age of 18 has the right to vote in Lok Sabha and State Legislative elections.
- b) The Government of India bears all election expenses for candidates contesting for Lok Sabha and State Legislative elections.
- c) Candidates with pending criminal cases can contest Lok Sabha elections.
- d) Currently, in India there is no specific law in place to ensure internal democracy of political parties.

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement a is correct: Every Indian citizen above 18 years old has the right to vote, regardless of caste, religion, gender, or economic status. This right is protected by Article 326 of the Indian Constitution. India was among the first countries to adopt this principle. It became part of the Indian Constitution in 1950, and the first election under these rules happened in 1951.

Statement b is incorrect: Currently there is no Constitutional or legislative provision for state funding of elections. The Government of India does not bear any election expenses of the candidates contesting for the Lok Sabha or State Legislative Assembly elections. The Candidates have to pay for their election campaigns; the government doesn't provide money. The Election Commission of India (ECI) sets spending limits based on the election type and constituency. Candidates must keep a record of their expenses and submit it to the ECI after the election.

Statement c is correct: Candidates with pending criminal cases can contest elections in India. There is no bar on candidates with pending criminal cases from contesting elections.

Statement d is correct: India doesn't have a specific law to monitor political parties and make sure they operate transparently and democratically. This is a big gap in the Indian legal system because political parties are crucial in a democracy.

Source: Class XI NCERT- "Indian Constitution at Work" - Chapter 3 - "ELECTION AND REPRESENTATION" Pg 72

Q.43) With reference to the anti-defection law, consider the following statements:

- 1. The anti-defection law is not applicable to nominated members of Parliament if they join any political party after six months of their nomination.
- 2. A member of a House of Parliament belonging to any political party shall be disqualified for being a member of the House, if he has voluntarily given up his membership of such political party.
- 3. Anti-defection law does not apply to the Speaker and Deputy speaker of the Lok-Sabha.
- 4. If independent members of Parliament join a party within six months of oath-taking, they are not subjected to anti-defection law.

How many of the above given statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Anti-defection law punishes MPs/MLAs for leaving one party for the other. It sets the provision for disqualification of elected members for defection to another political party. It was a response to toppling of multiple state governments by party swapping MLAs after the general election of 1967.

Statement 1 is incorrect. In the case of nominated members, the anti-defection law specifies that within six months of being nominated to the House, they can choose to join a political party. The time is given so that if a nominated MP is not a member of a political party, they can decide to join one if they want. But if they don't join a political party during the first six months of their tenure and join a party thereafter, then they lose their seat in Parliament on the grounds of defection.

Statement 2 is correct: Subject to the provisions of Tenth Schedule of the Constitution and Anti defection law, a member of a House belonging to any political party shall be disqualified for being a member of the House if he has voluntarily given up his membership of such political party.

Statement 3 is correct If a person who has been elected to the office of the **Speaker or the Deputy Speaker of the House of the People** or the Deputy Chairman of the Council of States or the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman of the Legislative Council of a State or the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of a State, shall not be disqualified under the provisions of Tenth Schedule. This exception was provided to **maintain the dignity and impartiality of the office**. A member, after being elected the

presiding officer of the house can voluntarily give up his party membership or rejoin it after he ceases holding the office.

Statement 4 is incorrect. An independent member of a house becomes disqualified if he joins any political party. But in case of nominated member of the house, he can join any political party within 6 months of him taking his seat in the house.

Source: M. Laxmikanth - chapter 72

https://www.mea.gov.in/Images/pdf1/S10.pdf

Q.44) Consider the following pairs:

Constitutional Amendments Acts (CAA) 1. 7th CAA, 1956 Provision of common High Court for 2 or more states 2. 44th CAA, 1978 Term Integrity was added in Preamble 3. 100th CAA, 2015 Land boundary agreement between India and Bangladesh

Provisions

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correctly matched: In 7th CAA, the provision of having a common High Court for two or more states was introduced.

Pair 2 is incorrectly matched: After the 42nd Constitutional Amendment (and not the 44th Constitutional Amendment), three new terms "Socialist, Secular, and Integrity" were added to the Preamble.

Pair 3 is correctly matched: The 100th CAA delt with land boundary agreement between India and Bangladesh which involved exchange of some enclave territories between both nations.

Source: NCERT Class XI: Indian Constitution at work, Chapter 9: Constitution as a Living Document, Page

https://www.india.gov.in/my-government/constitution-india/amendments/constitution-indiaseventh-amendment-act-1956

Q.45) Which of the following is common to the election for the membership of both Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha?

- a) Every citizen above the age of 18 is an eligible voter.
- b) A voter can cast vote for multiple candidates.
- c) The candidate contesting election must be registered as an elector from any parliamentary constituency.
- d) The winner must get more than half of the votes polled.

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Option a is incorrect. While any Indian citizens above the age of 18 years can register themselves as voters and are eligible to vote in Lok Sabha election, it is not so in case of Rajya Sabha. The members of Rajya Sabha are elected indirectly by the elected members of the Legislative Assembly of that State and by the members of the Electoral College for that Union Territory. The minimum age for becoming a candidate for Lok Sabha election or State Legislative Assembly is 25 years. Thus, minimum age for being a voter in Rajya Sabha elections is 25 years.

Option b is incorrect. The voters can give preference order for different candidates only in Rajya Sabha election and not in Lok Sabha. In Lok Sabha elections, each voter only vote for one candidate of his/her choice and candidates with maximum votes wins the election (first past the post system). However, in Rajya Sabha elections, every voter is required to rank candidates according to her or his preference.

Option c is correct. The candidate for election to parliament must be registered as an elector for a parliamentary constituency. This is same in the case of both, the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha. The requirement that a candidate contesting an election to the Rajya Sabha from a particular state should be an elector in that particular state was dispensed with in 2003. In 2006, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of this change.

Option d is incorrect. In Lok Sabha elections, candidates with maximum number of votes is declared winner, irrespective of whether he gets half the votes or not. However, in Rajya Sabha elections, to be declared the winner, a candidate must secure a minimum quota of votes, which is determined by a formula:

$$\left(\frac{\text{Total votes polled}}{\text{Total number of candidate to elected+1}} \right)$$

Source: https://ncert.nic.in/ncerts/l/keps203.pdf M Laxmikanth

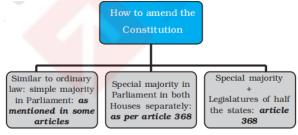
Q.46) According to Article 368 of the Indian constitution, for the amendment to which of the following provisions of the constitution, the majority of total members in each house and the two-third majority of the members present and voting in each house of the parliament and the ratification of not less than half of the state legislatures is required-

- a) Fundamental rights
- b) Salaries of Members of the Parliament
- c) Procedure of appointment of Supreme Court Judges
- d) Delimitation of Constituencies

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Article 368 of the Indian Constitution provides for different methods of amendments of constitution.



Some provisions of the Constitution which are related to the federal structure of the polity can only be amended by a special majority of the Parliament and also with the consent of half of the state legislatures by a simple majority.

Provisions that require ratification by the states include such as:

- 1) the election of President,
- 2) Supreme Court and High Courts,



- 3) representation of states in Parliament,
- 4) distribution of legislative powers between the Union and the states, and
- 5) the extent of executive power of the Union and the states.
- 6) amendment to Article 368 itself requires ratification by the states etc.

For example, the 99th Amendment constitutional Act Established the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) for the appointment of Supreme Court judges. It was passed after the ratification of half of the states. (Although, the Constitution Bench (4:1 Majority) of the Supreme Court declared the 99th Constitutional Amendment and National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) unconstitutional on the ground that it violates the Basic Structure of the Constitution of India.)

Source: NCERT Class XI: Indian Constitution at work, Chapter 9: Constitution as a Living Document, Page 200, 201, 202, 203, 204

Q.47) With respect to a Constitutional Amendment Bill, consider the following statements:

- 1. It can be introduced only by a minister in Parliament.
- 2. It can be introduced in either Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha.
- 3. Prior approval of the President is required for introduction of the bill in the Parliament.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

A Constitutional Amendment Bill is a special type of bill that seeks to amend the Constitution of India. The procedure for introducing and passing a Constitutional Amendment Bill is different from that of an ordinary bill.

Statement 1 is incorrect: A Constitutional Amendment Bill can be introduced by either a minister or a private member in Parliament.

Statement 2 is correct: A Constitutional Amendment Bill can be introduced in either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha.

Statement 3is incorrect: Prior approval of the President is not required for the introduction of a Constitutional Amendment Bill in Parliament.

Source: NCERT Class XI: Indian Constitution at work, Chapter 9: Constitution as a Living Document, Page 202

Q.48) Consider the following statements regarding the Election Commission of India:

- 1. An Election Commissioner can be removed by the President from his/her office based on the recommendation of the Chief Election Commissioner.
- 2. The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners receive different pay and allowances as decided by the President.
- 3. In case of disagreement between the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners, decisions are made by a majority vote within the Commission.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None



Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer

Option 1 is correct: An Election Commissioner (other than the Chief Election Commissioner) can be removed from office by the President on the recommendation of the Chief Election Commissioner. However, the Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from office by the President, on the recommendation of both Houses of Parliament, by a majority of not less than 2/3rd members present, and voting supported by more than 50% of the total strength of the house. This is the same procedure that is used to remove a judge of the Supreme Court.

Option 2 is incorrect: The Chief Election Commissioner and two other Election Commissioners have equal powers and receive similar salaries and allowances. This equality ensures the Election Commission's independence and impartiality. Their salary, allowances and other perquisites will be similar to those of a judge of the Supreme Court.

Option 3 is correct: In case of a difference of opinion amongst the Chief Election Commissioner and/or two other Election Commissioners, the matter is decided by the Commission by majority vote. This ensures that the Election Commission can function effectively even when there is a difference of opinion amongst its members.

Source: Class XI NCERT- "Indian Constitution at Work" - Chapter 3 - "ELECTION AND

REPRESENTATION" Pg 69

Laxmikanth - Indian Polity - Chapter 42 - "Election Commission"

Q.49) What will happen in a case when a candidate contesting the election dies before the actual polling?

- a) Adjournment of the poll only if the nominee was a candidate of a recognized political party.
- b) Adjournment of the poll only if the nominee was a candidate of only a registered political party.
- c) Adjournment of the poll only if the contesting person was an independent candidate
- d) There is no adjournment of the poll in any case.

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

In case of the death of a candidate before poll, the Election Commission countermands the election only in case of recognized political party. It has no obligation to countermand an election on the death of candidate of a registered political party or an independent candidate. As per the Section 52 (1) of the RoPA 1951, the Returning officer (RO) after receiving report of death of a candidate of recognized political party shall announce the order for the adjournment of the poll/countermanding the poll. Further, the date of poll has to be notified later. The Report of the countermanding the election has to be produced to the Election Commission. Then the ECI, call upon the recognized political party to nominate another candidate for the said poll.

Source: M Laxmikanth

Q.50) Which of the following committees submitted reports on Electoral reforms?

- 1. Dinesh Goswami Committee
- 2. Tarkunde Committee
- 3. Indrajit Gupta Committee
- 4. Balwantrai Mehta Committee

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 3 and 4 only
- b) 2 and 4 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3 only
- d) 3 and 4 only



Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The following committees submitted reports on electoral reforms in India:

- 1) Dinesh Goswami Committee (1990): This committee made several recommendations on issues such as the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner, the anti-defection law, the voting system, the model code of conduct, the security deposit, etc.
- 2) Tarkunde Committee (1975): This committee was headed by Justice V.M. Tarkunde and consisted of eminent citizens such as Jaya Prakash Narayan, A.G. Noorani, R.D. Desai, etc. The committee suggested changes in the procedure of appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner, the reduction of voting age to 18 years, the use of electronic voting machines, etc.
- 3) Indrajit Gupta Committee (1998): This committee was headed by former Home Minister Indrajit Gupta and dealt with the issue of state funding of elections. The committee recommended partial state funding of elections in kind such as petrol, paper, vehicles, etc. to recognized political parties and candidates.

The Balwantrai Mehta Committee (1957) was not related to electoral reforms, but to Panchayati raj institutions.

Source: M laxmikanth