

03. Electoral Politics

Q.1. Which of the following statements about the reasons for conducting elections are false?

- (a) Elections enable people to judge the performance of the government.**
- (b) People select the representative of their choice in an election.**
- (c) Elections enable people to evaluate the performance of the judiciary.**
- (d) People can indicate which policies they prefer.**

Ans. (c) Elections enable people to evaluate the performance of the judiciary. (False)

Q.2. Which of these is not a good reason to say that Indian elections are democratic?

- (a) India has the largest number of voters in the world.**
- (b) India's Election Commission is very powerful.**
- (c) In India, everyone above the age of 18 has a right to vote.**
- (d) In India, the losing parties accept the electoral verdict.**

Ans. (a) India has the largest number of voters in the world.

Q.3. Match the following:

(a) It is necessary to keep the voters list up to date because	(iv) some people may have moved away from the area where they voted last.
(b) Some constituencies are reserved for SCs and STs so that	(i) there is a fair representation of all sections of our society.
(c) Everyone has one and only one vote so that	(ii) everyone has equal opportunity to elect their representative.
(d) Party in power is not allowed to use government vehicles because	(iii) all candidates must have a fair chance of competing in elections.

Q.5. Role of Election Officer (Surekha):

(a) Election Campaign:

She should ensure a level playing field, verify code of conduct, prevent bribery, misuse of government resources.

(b) Polling Day:

Ensure polling booths have security, prevent booth capturing and rigging, secure EVMs, provide amenities for voters.

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(c) Counting Day:

Secure EVMs, transparent counting process, timely and accurate declaration of results.

Q.6. Underrepresentation in US Congress:

Hispanics are underrepresented (5% in Congress vs. 15% population). A reservation system could ensure fair representation.

Q.7. Analysis and Conclusions:

- (a) False - Election Commission has strong powers (code of conduct, independent staff, punishment for misconduct).
- (b) True - High voter turnout, growing political awareness and participation.
- (c) False - Power shifts frequently, free and fair elections prevent easy wins.
- (d) True - Reforms are needed (e.g., criminal candidates, lack of internal party democracy).

Chapter 3: Electoral Politics – Important Question-Answers

Q1. What is an election?

An election is a process where people choose their representatives by voting. It allows voters to select leaders who will form the government and take decisions on public issues.

Q2. Why do we need elections in a democracy?

1. Elections allow people to choose their rulers.
2. They give a chance to change government peacefully.
3. Hold leaders accountable for their work.

Q3. What is the significance of Universal Adult Franchise?

Universal Adult Franchise gives every citizen of 18+ years the right to vote without discrimination of caste, religion, gender, or wealth. It ensures equality and fairness in democracy.

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Q4. Explain the main stages of the election process in India.

1. Voters' list preparation.
 2. Announcement of election date.
 3. Filing of nominations by candidates.
 4. Election campaign.
 5. Polling and voting.
 6. Counting of votes & declaration of results.
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Q5. What are election campaigns?

Election campaigns are organized efforts by political parties and candidates to convince voters to support them. Campaigns include rallies, speeches, posters, and media promotions within a fixed 2-week period before voting.

Q6. What is the Code of Conduct for election campaigns?

The Code of Conduct is a set of rules that political parties must follow during elections, such as no use of government resources, no bribing voters, no hate speech, and no religious appeals.

Q7. What makes an election democratic?

1. Free and fair voting system.
 2. Choice of real alternatives (different parties/candidates).
 3. Equal voting rights.
 4. Impartial and independent Election Commission.
 5. Transparent counting of votes.
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Q8. What are the functions of the Election Commission of India (ECI)?

1. Conducts and controls elections.
2. Prepares and updates voter lists.

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3. Monitors election campaigns and enforces Code of Conduct.
 4. Orders re-polls if needed and ensures fairness.
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Q9. What is a reserved constituency? Why is it needed?

Reserved constituencies are seats set aside for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) so they can elect their representatives fairly. It ensures equal political representation for weaker and marginalized groups.

Q10. What is a voter list?

A voter list is an official record of all eligible voters who can vote in an election. It is regularly updated to add new voters and remove names of deceased or shifted people.

Q11. What is the Model Code of Conduct?

It is a set of guidelines for political parties and candidates to maintain fairness and discipline in elections, preventing misuse of power, violence, and unfair influence on voters.

Q12. Why can elections be considered a political competition?

Elections are competition because parties and candidates fight for votes and power. This competition ensures better performance, accountability, and improvement in policies to win public support.

Sources: Notes by ANKIT KR SAHA based on NCERT.
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