

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.4. Election-related activities in time sequence:

Step I: Making of voters' list

Step II: Announcing election schedule

Step III: Filing nomination

Step IV: Releasing election manifestos

Step V: Election campaign

Step VI: Casting of votes

Step VII: Counting of votes

Step VIII: Declaration of election results

Step IX: Ordering of re-poll (if required)

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

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(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.

(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).

– THE END –

Sources: Notes by ANKIT KR SAHA based on NCERT.