



Social Science

Grade IX - Political Science

Lesson 3. Electoral Politics

Solved Question Bank

Objective Type Questions

- By-elections are held in one constituency to
 - fill the seats in Vidhan Sabha
 - to select a capable candidate.
 - to fill the vacancy caused by death or resignation of a member.
 - to elect two leaders in the constituency.
- What is the Electoral Roll?
 - The list of those who are eligible to vote
 - The list of those who are contesting election
 - The list of those who are not eligible to vote
 - None of the above
- Which of the following does not include election procedure?
 - Voting
 - Nomination of Candidate
 - Booth capturing
 - Canvassing
- What makes an election democratic? Select the correct option.
 - Universal Adult Franchise
 - Fundamental Rights
 - Directive Principles of State Policy
 - Free and fair Election
 - (ii)
 - (iii)
 - both (ii) and (iii)
 - (i) and (iv)
- Analyze the following statements regarding the fair electoral practice and select which one is a fair electoral practice.
 - A minister flags off a new train in his constituency a week before polling day.
 - A candidate promises that she will get a new train for her constituency if she is elected.





- c. Supporters of a candidate take the voters to a temple and make them take an oath that they will vote for him.
- d. The supporters of a candidate distribute blankets in slums in return for a promise for vote.

6. Is it good to have Political Competition? Which of the following statements justify this?

- i. It creates a sense of disunity and factionalism
- ii. Political Competition helps to force political parties and leaders to serve people
- iii. It gives fair chance to people for the responsible government
- iv. Political competition causes divisions and some ugliness

- a. (i) b. (iv) c. (ii) and (iii) d. (i) and (iv)

1. (c)	2. (a)	3. (c)	4. (d)	5. (b)	6. (c)
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Fill in the Blanks

- 7. _____ is the largest legislative assembly in India.
- 8. The Chief election Commissioner of India is appointed by the _____ of India.
- 9. The full form of NOTA is _____.

7. Uttar Pradesh	8. President	9. None of the above
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True or False

- 10. The final stage of an election is the day when the voters cast or "poll" their vote.
- 11. Legal declaration of Affidavit includes details of the assets and liabilities.
- 12. Smaller parties and independent candidate suffer a huge disadvantage compared to bigger parties.

10. True	11. False	12. True
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Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Which party had been ruling Haryana since 1982?

The Congress party had been ruling Haryana since 1982.

2. Who was Chaudhary Devilal? Name the party formed by him.

Chaudhary Devilal was an opposition leader. He formed a new party called the Lok Dal.

3. Which promises of Devilal draw in election campaign attracted the people?

He promised to waive the loans of small farmers and small businessmen.

4. What was the result of the elections in Haryana in 1987?

Lok Dal and its partners won 76 out of 90 seats, with Lok Dal alone winning 60 seats. The Congress could win only 5 seats.

5. Why did the Chief Minister resign?

His party lost the elections. Only the leader of the majority party can form a government.

6. Why do we have representatives in most democracies?

In most democracies people rule through their representatives because it is not possible for everyone to have time and knowledge to take decisions on all matters.

7. What is election?

It is a mechanism by which people can choose their representatives at regular intervals and change them if they wish to do so.

8. How can we ensure that elections are held in a democratic manner? Give two conditions.

a. Everyone should be able to choose. Everyone should have one vote and every vote should have equal value.

b. Elections must be held regularly and the voters should have something to choose from i.e. enough parties and candidates.

9. Elections are all about 'political competition'. Give two reasons.

a. There is competition among political parties.

b. At the constituency level there is competition among several candidates.





10. When does the term of all the elected representatives come to an end?

After five years.

11. What is a constituency?

The country is divided into different areas for the purpose of elections. These areas are called electoral constituencies.

12. Into how many constituencies is the country divided for Lok Sabha elections?

543 constituencies, Members of Parliament (MPs).

13. What are the members of State Assemblies called?

In Panchayat and municipal elections each village or town is divided into several 'wards' that are like constituencies. Each ward elects one member of the village or the urban local body.

14. How has the constitution ensured that the weaker sections of society also get representation in the Parliament and state assemblies?

This is ensured by having a special system of reserved constituencies for the weaker sections, for those who belong to scheduled castes (SC) and scheduled tribes (ST).

15. How many seats are reserved for women in local bodies?

One third of the total seats are reserved for women in the local bodies.

16. Seats reservation was later extended to other weaker sections at the district and local level. What are they called?

Other Backward Classes.

17. What is the principle of Universal Adult Franchise?

It means that everyone should have one vote and each vote should have equal value. All the citizens of 18 years and above have the right to vote.

18. What is the Photo Identity Card System?

Every voter is issued a photo Identity Card by the Election Commission. The voters are required to carry this card when they go out to vote, so that no one can vote for someone else.





19. Anyone who can be a voter can also become a candidate in elections, but there is one difference. What is it?

In order to be a candidate in election the minimum age is 25 years, while it is only 18 years for being a voter.

20. What is a party ticket?

Political parties nominate their candidates nomination is also called the party ticket.

21. How does a person file his/her nomination papers?

Every person who wishes to contest elections has to fill a nomination form and give some money as "security deposit". This is how nomination papers are filed.

22. What are the legal declarations made by every party candidate?

Details of assets and liabilities of the candidate and his or her family and educational qualifications of the candidate.

23. Why was personal information of a candidate to be made public?

The personal information of a candidate needs to be made public as it provides an opportunity to the voters to make their decisions on the basis of the information provided by the candidates.

24. What is the main purpose of election?

It is to give the people a chance to choose the representatives, the government and the policies they prefer.

25. Why are election campaigns needed?

The main purpose of elections is to give people a chance to choose their representatives, the government and the policies they prefer. Therefore it is necessary to have a free and open discussion about which is better government or what is a good policy. It is possible during election campaigning.

26. What is the time period of campaigning for elections?

In our country such campaigns take place for a two-week period between the announcement of the final list of candidates and the date of polling.





27. How do the candidates attract the public during election?

Political leaders address election meetings and political parties mobilise their supporters. Campaigning is also done through newspapers and television. Nowadays, the campaigning is also done through social media. Political parties try to focus public attention on some big issues.

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

- a. GaribiHatao (Remove poverty), slogan of the Congress party led by Indira Gandhi in the 1971 elections.
- b. Save Democracy was the slogan given by Janata Party under the leadership of Jayaprakash Narayan in 1977 Lok Sabha elections.

29. Where is 'polling booth' located on election day?

On the election day every person, whose name is on the voters list, can go to the nearby "Polling Booth," situated usually in a local school or a government office.

30. What is an electronic voting machine? (EVM)

It is a machine that shows the names of the candidates and the party symbol. This machine is used to record the votes.

31. Who is the head of the Election Commission (EC)?

The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) is the head of the Election Commission.

32. Mention one function of the Election Commission?

The Election Commission implements the code of conduct and punishes those candidates or parties that violate it.

33. How is people's participation in election measured?

People's participation in election is usually measured by voter turnout figures which indicate the percentage of eligible voters who actually cast their vote.

34. Why do common people in India attach a lot of importance to elections?

They feel that they can bring pressure on political parties to adopt policies and programmes favourable to them.





35. Who vote in larger proportion in India?

In India, the poor, the illiterate and the underprivileged vote in larger proportion as compared to the rich and the privileged sections.

36. Are elections in India free and fair?

Yes, elections in India are free and fair because these are conducted by an independent Election Commission and all parties accept the outcome of the elections. Usually, the party that loses the election does not accept the outcome of rigged election.

37. Give any one challenge of Indian Elections.

Some families tend to dominate political parties, tickets are distributed to members of these families.

38. What is meant by booth capturing?

Supporters or hired muscleman of party or candidate gain physical control of a polling booth and cast false votes by threatening everyone or by preventing genuine voters from reaching the polling booth.

39. Who can be denied the right to vote?

Criminals and persons with unsound mind can be denied the right to vote.

40. What slogan was given by Janata Party under the leadership of Jayaprakash Narayan in 1977 LokSabha election?

Save Democracy.

41. Who used the Slogan 'Protect the Self-Respect of the Telugus' in Andhra Pradesh Assembly elections in 1983?

N.T. Rama Rao, the Leader of the Telugu Desam Party.

42. What was the slogan of the Left Front in the West Bengal Assembly elections held in 1977?

Land to the Tiller.

Next Generation School





43. What is the meaning of free and fair elections?

It means people participate in the electoral process and give votes according to their choices. The parties are free to contest elections and candidates preferred by the people are elected.

44. When is National Voters' Day celebrated in India?

25th January every year.

Short Answer Type Questions

1. What do you mean by election? Why is it needed in a Democracy?

Election is a mechanism by which people can choose their representatives at regular intervals and change them if they wish to do so. Elections are essential because:

- a. In any large community it is not possible for all people to sit together every day and take all the decisions. Nor it is possible for everyone to have the time and knowledge to take decisions on all matters. Therefore, in most democracies people choose their representatives who rule on their behalf.
- b. Elections are fought on party basis. The party which gets a majority forms the government. If the government fails to work as per its promises, people can change it. This change can be brought about through elections. Thus elections enable people to have control over the government.

2. What choice are given to voters during elections?

- a. They can choose who will make laws for them.
- b. They can choose who will form the government and take major decisions.
- c. They can choose the party whose policies will guide the government and law-making.

3. Enumerate the demerits of an electoral competition?

The demerits of an electoral competition are:

- a. It creates disunity and factionalism in every locality.
- b. Different political parties and leaders often level allegations against one another. Parties and candidates often use dirty tricks to win elections.





c. It is often said that the pressure to win electoral fights does not allow sensible long term policies to be formulated. Some good people do wish to serve the country but do not like to do so because of being dragged into unhealthy competition.

4. How is electoral competition helpful to political parties and leaders to win elections?

- a. Regular electoral competition provides incentives to political parties and leaders.
- b. They know that if they raise issues that the people want to be raised, their popularity and chances of victory will increase in the elections.
- c. But if they fail to satisfy the voters with their work, they will not be able to win again.

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

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

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

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

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

7. Why were the Constitution makers worried about certain weaker sections of the country? What did they do to bring them in the mainstream?

- a. The Constitution makers were worried that the weaker sections may not have the required resources, education and contacts to contest and win elections against





the influential and resourceful people who may prevent them from winning the elections.

- b. Therefore, they thought if a special system of reserved constituencies for the weaker sections. The seats reserved for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the Lok Sabha are 84 and 47 respectively. This reservation does not take away the legitimate share of any other social group.
- c. Seats are reserved in rural and urban local bodies for women and other backward classes as well.

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

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

- a. Serious criminal cases pending against the candidate.
- b. Details of his/her assets and liabilities and those of his/her family.
- c. Educational qualification of the candidate. This information is made public. This provides an opportunity to the voters to make their decisions on the basis of the information provided by the candidates.

9. How does our Election Law regulate campaigns?

It may prove dangerous if political parties and candidates are allowed to conduct their election campaigns the way they want to. So it is essential to regulate campaigns to ensure that every political party and candidate gets a fair and equal chance to compete. According to our election law, no party or candidate can:

- a. bribe or threaten voters.
- b. appeal to them in the name of caste or religion.
- c. use government resources for election campaign.
- d. spend more than 25 lakhs in a constituency for the Lok Sabha election or 10 lakh in a constituency in an assembly election.

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





10. What is meant by code of conduct? How does it control the activities of parties and candidates?

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

- a. use any place of worship for election propaganda.
- b. use government vehicles, aircraft and officials for elections.
- c. once elections is announced, Ministers shall not lay foundation stones of any project, take any big policy decisions or make any promised to provide public facilities.

11. What is an Election Commission? Who appoints the Chief Election Commissioner and how can he/she be removed?

- a. Election Commission in India is an independent body that conducts elections in India. It enjoys the same kind of independence that the judiciary enjoys.
- b. The Chief Election Commissioner is appointed by the President of India. But once appointed, he is not answerable to the president or the government.
- c. Even if the ruling party or the government does not like the Chief Election Commissioner it is virtually impossible to remove the CEC.

12. Explain the role of the Election Commission in the election.

The Election Commission conducts elections in India. Its role is as follows:

- a. It takes decisions on every aspect of conduct and control of elections from the time of announcement of elections to the declaration of results.
- b. It implements the code of conduct and punishes the parties and candidates who violate it.
- c. During the elections, Election Commission can order the government to follow some guidelines, to prevent misuse of governmental powers to enhance its chances to win the elections its chances to win the elections or to transfer some government officials.





13. How can you say that free and fair elections are held in India?

The outcome of India's election shows the free and fairness of election.

- The ruling parties routinely lose elections in India, both at the national and state levels.
- In India half of the sitting MPs and MLAs lose elections.
- Candidates who spend a lot of money in 'buying votes' and those with criminal connection often lose elections.
- Barring a few incidents of disputed elections, the electoral outcomes are usually accepted as 'people's verdict' by the defeated party.

14. How do general elections differ from by-elections?

General Elections	By-Elections
Elections are held in all the constituencies at the same time, either on the same day or within few days.	Elections are held in the constituencies to fill the vacancy/vacancies caused by death or resignation of a member/members.

15. What do you mean by "voter' list"? What is its significance?

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

16. What do you know about Voter ID card?

- Voter ID card is also called Election Photo Identity Card.
- The government makes efforts to give this card to every person on the voters' list.





- c. The voters are required to carry their card when they go out to cast their vote so that no one else can vote in their place.
- d. This card is not yet compulsory. The voters can show other identity proofs also like the driving licence of their passport, etc.

17. How can we check the quality of the election process?

The quality of an election process can be checked in three ways:

- a. Who conducts the election: Indian elections are conducted an independent Election Commission which has the power to question the government and the administration for the lapses.
- b. Popular Participation: If the elections are not free and fair people do not participate in the electoral process. So the turnout of the polling is also a way to check the quality of the election process.
- c. Acceptance of the outcome: If the election process is not free and fair the outcome always favours the powerful and the losing party does not accept the outcome. So, the quality of election process can be checked on these bases.

18. How are results declared once the polling is over?

- a. On a fixed date all the EVMs from a constituency opened and the votes secured by each candidate are counted.
- b. In general elections, usually the counting of votes in all the constituencies takes place at the same time and on the same day.
- c. Television, Radio and the newspapers report the event. Within a few hours of counting all the results are declared.

19. What does the turnout figure indicate?

- a. People's participation in an election is usually measured by voters' turnout figure.
- b. Turnout indicates the percentage of eligible voters who actually cast their vote.
- c. It indicates the interest of voters in election related activities.

20. Describe the procedure of voting on the polling day.

- a. On the elections day the eligible voters go to the nearest polling booth to vote.





- b. A mark is put on the finger of the voter who votes as an identification mark so as to avoid any person voting more than once.
- c. A ballot paper or EVMs are used to record the votes. A voter presses the button against the name of the candidate he or she wants to vote for.

21. Give three reasons why the system of reserved constituencies was introduced by the constitution makers in India.

The makers of our Constitution introduced Reserved Constituencies for the weaker sections like SC and ST for several reasons like

- a. To provide a fair chance to the weaker section to get elected to the Lok Sabha and state Legislative Assemblies in an open electoral competition.
- b. The reservation is due to those who are influential and resourceful may prevent the weaker sections from winning the elections.
- c. Besides, through reserved constituencies they tried to promote political empowerment among weaker sections.

22. How can you say that Election Commission of India is independent and powerful?

- a. EC can reprimand the government and administration for their lapses.
- b. If the polling is not fair in some booths or even an entire constituency, EC can order a repoll.
- c. Even if the ruling party or government does not like what the commission does, it is virtually impossible for it to remove the CEC.
- d. When on election duty, government officers work under the control of the EC and not the government.

Long Answer Type Questions

1. How are elections held in India?

- a. Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections are held regularly after 5 years.
- b. After 5 years the terms of all the elected representatives comes to an end.





- c. An area based system of representation is followed in our country. The country is divided into different areas, called electoral constituencies, for purposes of elections.
- d. Elections are held in all the constituencies on the same day at the same time or within a few days as in the case of *General Elections*.
- e. Sometimes elections are held only for one constituency to fill up the vacancy caused by the death or resignation of a member. This is called a by-election.
- f. The voters who live in an area elect one representative.

2. How does a party file a nomination for its candidates?

- a. In order to be a candidate a person must be 25 years of age.
- b. Political parties nominate their candidates who get the party symbol and support.
- c. Party 'ticket' is party's nomination.
- d. Every person who contests an election has to fill a nomination form and give some money as security deposit.
- e. Every candidate has to make a legal declaration, giving some necessary information about them.

3. How is campaigning done for elections held in India?

- a. In India, election campaign is carried out for two weeks between the announcement of elections and the date of polling.
- b. During this period, the candidates contact their voters.
- c. Election meetings are organised by political leaders and the political parties mobilise their supporters.
- d. During these days the radio, television and the newspapers are full of election related stories and debates.
- e. During the election campaigns, the political parties try to focus public attention on some big issues. They want the public to vote for their party on that basis.

4. How are polls conducted in India?

- a. The final stage of an election is the day when the voters cast their votes in the polling booth. This is the Election Day.





- b. Every person whose name is the voters' list goes to the nearby polling booth to cast his/her vote.
- c. Once the votes are in the polling booth, they are recognised by the election officials, they are identified by putting a ink mark on the finger and allowed to cast their vote.
- d. An agent of each candidate is allowed inside the polling booth to ensure that the voting takes place in a free and fair atmosphere.
- e. A ballot paper is placed in which the names of the candidates along with their symbols are listed. Nowadays EVMs are used to record the votes.
- f. The machine i.e. EVM shows the names of the candidates and party symbols. Even the independent candidates have their own symbol allotted by the Election Commission. A voter presses the button against the name of the candidate he/she want to vote for.

5. Describe the challenges to free and fair elections in India.

Challenges to the elections in India are:

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

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

- a. Misuse of government facilities should be prevented.
- b. Rigging on the polling day should be checked.
- c. Role of money and muscle power should be checked.





- d. Voting should be made compulsory.
- e. Contesting candidates should not be allowed to use caste or religion during elections.

7. How is the voters' list prepared?

- a. In our country, all the citizens aged 18 and above are eligible to vote in the election.
- b. Every citizen has the right to vote regardless of his caste, creed, sex, and religion.
- c. The government is responsible for entering the names of all the eligible voters on the voters list.
- d. Names of those who have moved out of the constituency or dead are removed from the voters' list.
- e. A complete revision of the voters' list is done every five years for updating it.

8. How is people's participation in elections measured? How can it be said that elections are becoming popular in India and drawing people's attention?

People's participation in elections is usually measured by voter's turnout. The turnout indicates the percentage of eligible voters who actually cast their vote. Over the last fifty years in India the turnout has either remained stable or actually gone up.

- a. In India the poor, illiterate and underprivileged people vote in larger number proportion as compared to the rich and privileged sections. This is in contrast to United States of America where poor people, African Americans and Hispanics vote much less in comparison to the rich and the Whites.
- b. Common people in India attach a lot of importance to the elections. They feel that through election they can bring pressure on political parties to adopt policies and programmes favourable to them. They also feel that their vote matters in the way things are done in the country.
- c. Interest of people in the vote related activities has been increasing over the years. e.g. in 2004 elections, more than 1/3rd voters took part in the campaign-related activities.





9. Describe the wide ranging powers of the Election Commission in India.

In our country elections are conducted by an independent and very powerful Election Commission (EC). The Chief Election Commissioner is appointed by the President of India. But once appointed the Chief Election Commissioner is not answerable to the President or the government. But if the government does not like what the Commission does, it is virtually impossible for the government to remove the Election Commissioner.

His wide ranging powers are:

- a. Election Commissioner's decisions on every aspect of conduct and control of election are in force from the announcement of election to the declaration of results.
- b. He implements the code of conduct and punishes the candidates and parties that violate it.
- c. During the election period the EC can order the government to follow some guidelines, to prevent use and misuse of governmental powers to enhance their chances to win the elections or to transfer the government officials.
- d. When on election duty the government officials work for the Election Commission not the government.

10. What are the minimum conditions for a democratic election? Enlist them.

The conditions for a democratic election are:

- a. Everyone should be able to choose from. This means that everyone should have one vote and every vote should have equal value.
- b. There should be something to choose from. Parties and candidates should be free to contest elections and offer some real choice to the voters.
- c. The choice should be offered at regular intervals. Elections must be held regularly after every few years.
- d. The candidates preferred by the people should be elected.
- e. Elections should be conducted in a free and fair manner where people can choose as they wish.





11. What are the main functions of the Election Commission of India?

The main functions of the Election Commission of India are among others.

- a. **Control and Conduct of the Elections:** Election Commission takes decision on every aspect of conducting and controlling elections from the time of declaration of elections to the announcement of results.
 - b. **Code of Conduct:** The Election Commission can implement the code of conduct and punish any party or candidates guilty of breaking or violating any rule.
 - c. **Can order the government:** During the period of elections, Election Commission can order the government to follow its guidelines on matters including transfer of government officials.
 - d. **Discharges duty:** During election, Election commission discharges duty to government officials. Thus, on election duty government officers work under the control of election commission.
 - e. **Reprimand the government:** In the present political scenario the election Commission has expanded its power. Now the Election Commission reprimand the government and administration for their lapses. It can even order for repoll.
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Next Generation School

