

### CONCEPTS

#### NEED OF ELECTION

Elections are a democratic way of selecting representatives. They ensure that the representatives rule as per the wishes of the people.

Elections help voters to choose representatives who will make laws for them, form the government and take Major decisions.

The voters can choose the party whose policies will guide the government and law making.

Thus election is a mechanism by which people can choose their representatives at regular intervals And change them if they wish to.

#### What Makes an Election Democratic?

Everyone should be able to choose, i.e. everyone should have one vote and every vote should have equal value. Universal Adult Franchise. There should be parties and candidates to choose from, freedom to contest and a wide choice for people. Elections must be held at regular intervals.

Candidate preferred by the people should be elected.

Elections should be held in a fair and free atmosphere to be democratic.

#### Political Competition: Demerits

Creates a sense of disunity and 'party politics'.

Parties level allegations against each other of using dirty tricks to win elections.

Long-term policies cannot be formulated.

Good people do not enter politics.

**Merits:** Elections are good because they force the ruling party to perform. The government is aware that it will be voted out of power if it does not perform as the people expected. It forces parties and leaders to perform, so competition is good.

#### Our Election System

First a voters list is compiled.

Then the election date is announced.

The country is divided into constituencies for purpose of elections.

The voters have to elect one representative for the Lok Sabha from each constituency (Lok Sabha has 543 constituencies), called Member of Parliament. The constituencies are formed on basis of population.

Similarly, each state is divided into constituencies and a specific number of members called Members of the Legislative Assembly are elected.

The dates of General Elections are announced.

Each party declares its Manifesto and prepares a list of nominations. The people behind them. But in non-democratic countries elections are not free or fair (as in Mugabe's Zimbabwe) or allow everyone to vote (as in China). You have to be a member of the Chinese Communist Party to be able to vote.

#### MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS [1 MARK]

**Q.1. Who led the 'Nyaya Yudh'?**

(a) Chaudhary Charan Singh (b) Chaudhary Devi Lal (c) Ajit Singh (d) None of these

**Q.2. What was the promise Devi Lal made to the farmers and small businessmen?**

- (a) He would waive the loans of farmers and small businessmen
- (b) He would lessen the rate of interest on their loans
- (c) He would modernise agriculture
- (d) He would provide free seeds and pesticides to them

**Q.3. Which of these is not a feature of Indian democracy?**

- (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 refuse to accept the electoral verdict

**Q.4. Which of these is not a condition of a democratic election?**

- (a) Everyone is allowed to vote
- (b) There are political parties to contest elections
- (c) The candidate not preferred by people gets elected
- (d) Elections are held at regular intervals

**Q.5. What is meant by the term 'constituency'?**

- (a) Place where the copy of constitution is kept
- (b) A particular area from where voters elect a representative to the Lok Sabha / Vidhan Sabha
- (c) A body of voters
- (d) None of the above

**Q.6. Which of the options below is the demerits of the electoral competition?**

- (a) Creates a sense of factionalism
- (b) Parties use dirty tricks to win elections
- (c) Parties respect each other
- (d) both (a) and (b)

**Q.7. In India, elections for which of these bodies are held after every five years?**

- (a) Rajya Sabha
- (b) Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha
- (c) Vidhan Parishad
- (d) Only Lok Sabha

**Q.8. Elections held after the term of 5 years of Lok Sabha are called-**

- (a) Mid-term elections
- (b) General elections
- (c) By-elections
- (d) Special elections

**Q.9. What is an election held for only one constituency to fill the vacancy caused due to the death or resignation of a member called?**

- (a) By-election
- (b) Mid-term election
- (c) General election
- (d) None of these

**Q.10. Into how many constituencies is the country divided for Lok Sabha elections?**

- (a) 544
- (b) 543
- (c) 560
- (d) 535

**Q.11. Constituencies called 'wards' are made for the election to**

- (a) Parliament
- (b) State Legislative Assembly
- (c) State Legislative Council
- (d) Panchayats and municipal bodies

**Q.12. How many seats are reserved in Lok Sabha for the Scheduled Tribes?**

- (a) 40 (b) 41 (c) 51 (d) 71

**Q.13. Which of these is not a part of the district and local level bodies?**

- (a) Panchayats (b) Municipalities (c) Corporations (d) Lok Sabha

**Q.14. Which of the options given below is applicable to the principle of Universal Adult Franchise?**

- (a) Only rich and educated can vote (b) Only men can vote  
(c) All citizens aged 18 and above can vote (d) only employed people can vote

**Q.15. for voting, the voter has to show which of these as identity proof?**

- (a) Ration card (b) Driving license (c) Election Photo Identity Card (d) None of these

**Q.16. What is the minimum age required to contest an election to Lok Sabha?**

- (a) 20 years (b) 18 years (c) 25 years (d) 30 years

**Q.17. What are the details the candidates have to give in the legal declaration before contesting the elections?**

- (a) Serious criminal cases pending against them  
(b) Details of assets and liabilities of the candidate and his or her family  
(c) Educational qualification of the candidate (d) All the above

**Q.18. What is a set of norms and guidelines, which is to be followed by political parties and contesting candidates during the election time, called?**

- (a) Discipline Roll (b) Code of Conduct (c) Conduct rules (d) Both (a) and (b)

**Q.19. Name the body which conducts the elections in India**

- (a) Supreme Court (b) Parliament (c) Cabinet (d) Election Commission

**Q.20. How is the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) chosen?**

- (a) Appointed by the President (b) Elected by the people  
(c) Elected by the MPs (d) Elected by MPs and MLAs

**Q.21. When on election duty, under whose control does the government officers work?**

- (a) Central Government (b) Election Commission (c) District Magistrate (d) District Court

**Q.22. In India, who votes in a larger proportion in the elections?**

- (a) Poor and illiterate (b) Rich and privileged (c) Educated people (d) Women

**Q.23. What does the term 'incumbent' mean?**

- (a) The current holder of a political office (b) The candidate contesting the election  
(c) The outgoing candidate of the dissolved House (d) None of the above

**Q.24. An electoral malpractice in which a person assumes the identity of another for unlawful purpose is**

- (a) Incumbent (b) Rigging (c) Impersonation (d) Turnout

**Q.25. The Election Commission is:**

- (a) An elected body (b) An appointed body (c) An independent body (d) both (b) and (c)

**Q.26. Which of the following is not allowed while carrying out election campaign?**

- (a) Giving money to voters to cast vote for candidates (b) Using TV channels  
(c) Door to door canvassing (d) Contacting voters on phone

**Q.27** Which of the following statement is incorrect?

- (a) All citizens above the age of 21 can vote in an election
- (b) Every citizen has the right to vote regardless of caste religion or gender
- (c) Some criminals and persons with unsound mind can be denied the right to vote in rare situations
- (d) It is the responsibility of the government to get the names of all eligible voters put in the voters list

**Q.28** "Save Democracy" slogan was given by which of the following political party in 1977 Lok Sabha elections?

- (a) Congress Party
- (b) Janata Party
- (c) Telugu Desam Party
- (d) Left Front

**Q.29.** What is the age of a person who can contest election for the Lok Sabha in India?

- (a) 25 years
- (b) 30 years
- (c) 35 years
- (d) 40 years

**Q.30.** In our country, elections are conducted by an independent and powerful body which is known as

- (a) Election Commission
- (b) Parliament
- (c) Judiciary
- (d) Lok Sabha

**Q.31.** Voter's List is also known as:

- (a) Election Number
- (b) Voter Identity Card
- (c) Electoral Roll
- (d) None of these

**Q.32.** What is the tenure of the Lok Sabha?

- (a) 9 years
- (b) 4 years
- (c) 5 years
- (d) 6 years

**Q.33.** Which of the following statements is against the democratic process of elections?

- (a) Parties and candidates should be free to contest elections
- (b) Elections must be held regularly immediately after the term is over
- (c) The right to vote should be given to the selected people only
- (d) Elections should be conducted in a free and fair manner

**Q.34.** Which state has the largest vidhan sabha in the country?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) U.P. (Uttar Pradesh)
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) West Bengal

**Q.35.** Reserved Constituencies ensures

- (a) Right to equality
- (b) Proper representation to all religious groups
- (c) Proper representation to the weaker sections of society
- (d) None of these

**Q.36.** Which of the following has the largest Lok Sabha constituency in India?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) U.P.
- (c) Himachal Pradesh
- (d) Bihar

**Q.37.** Who has given the slogan 'Garibi Hatao'?

- (a) Indira Gandhi
- (b) Rajiv Gandhi
- (c) Sonia Gandhi
- (d) Pt. Nehru

**Q.38.** The number of Lok Sabha constituencies at present is

- (a) 541
- (b) 546
- (c) 543
- (d) 540

**Q.39.** Who appoints the Chief Election Commissioner of India?

- (a) The Chief Justice of India
- (b) The Prime Minister of India
- (c) The President of India
- (d) The people of India

**Q.40.** Who is responsible for free and fair elections in India?

- (a) Prime Minister
- (b) President
- (c) Election Commissioner
- (d) Council of Ministers

**Q.41.** The number of seats reserved for Scheduled Castes in the Lok Sabha is:

(a) 59

(b) 79

(c) 89

(d) 99

## **SHORT QUESTIONS [3 MARKS]**

**Q.1. Mention the provisions laid down under the Model Code of Conduct to regulate the election campaign.**

**Ans.** According to the Model Code of Conduct, no party can:

- (i) Use any place of worship for election propaganda.
- (ii) Use government vehicles, aircraft and officials for elections.
- (iii) Once elections are announced ministers shall not lay foundation stones of any projects, take any big policy decisions or make any promises of providing public facilities.

**Q.2. What are the choices that voters make in an election?**

**Ans.** In an election, the voters make many choices:

- (i) They can choose who will make laws for them.
- (ii) They can choose who will form the government and take major decisions.
- (iii) They can choose the party whose policies will guide the government and law-making.

**Q.3. In which way does the Election Commission enjoy the same kind of independence as the judiciary?**

**Ans.** The Election Commission enjoys the same kind of independence that the judiciary enjoys. The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) is appointed by the President of India. But once appointed, he is not answerable to the President or the government. Even if the ruling party or the government does not like what the Commission does, it is virtually impossible for it to remove the CEC.

**Q.4. Mention any three techniques of election campaign.**

- Ans.** (i) Candidates contact their voters (ii) They address election meetings  
(iii) Use newspapers and TV for publicity

**Q.5. Discuss the importance of elections in a democracy.**

**Ans.** Elections give people a chance to choose the representatives the government and policies they prefer. The democratic way of selecting representatives can be had by holding elections. The voters can make their choice.

**Q.6. Discuss the importance of an election manifesto.**

**Ans.** An election manifesto is a statement by a political party explaining its policies, saying what they will do if they win the election.

**Q.7. What is a reserved constituency? How does it strengthen democracy?**

**Ans.** In a reserved constituency only someone who belongs to the scheduled caste or scheduled tribe community can stand for election. In the Lok Sabha, 79 seats are reserved for SC and 41 for ST Communities. This reservation system makes our democracy a representative democracy

**Q.8. What are the demerits of political competition?**

**Ans.** The political competition has many demerits –

- (i) It creates a sense of disunity and factionalism in every locality. Different political parties and leaders often level allegations against one another. Parties and candidates often use dirty tricks to win elections.
- (ii) This pressure to win electoral fights does not allow sensible long-term policies to be formulated.

(iii) Some good people who wish to serve the country do not enter this area as they do not like to be dragged into unhealthy competition.

## **LONG QUESTIONS [5MARKS]**

### **Q.1 state how the elections are held in India?**

**Ans.1-**For elections, the country is divided into different areas called 'electoral constituencies'.

2-The voters who live in an area elect one representative.

3- For Lok Sabha elections, the country is divided into 543 constituencies.

4-The representative elected from each constituency is called a Member of Parliament (MP).

Similarly, each state is divided into Assembly constituencies. In this case, the elected representative is called the Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA).

### **Q.2.How can you say that very few Election Commissions in the world have such wide ranging powers as the Election Commission of India?**

**Ans.** (i) Election Commission takes decisions on every aspect of conduct and control of elections.

(ii) It implements the code of conduct and punishes any candidate or party that violates it.

(iii) During the election period, the EC can order the government to follow some guidelines, To prevent use and misuse of governmental power to enhance its chances to win elections, Or to transfer some government officials.

(iv)When on election duty, government officers work under the control of the EC and not the government.

### **Q.3 Explain how the outcome of elections is a final test of free and fair elections.**

**Ans.** (i) The ruling parties routinely lose elections in India both at the national and state level. In fact, in every two out of the three elections held so far, the ruling party lost.

(ii) In the US, an incumbent or 'sitting' elected representative rarely loses an election. In India, about half of the sitting MPs or MLAs lose elections.

(iii) Candidates who are known to have spent a lot of money on 'buying votes' and those with known criminal connections often lose elections.

### **Q.4.What is the main functions of the Election Commission of India?**

**Ans.1-**It takes decisions on every aspect of conduct and control of election

.2- It implements code of conduct. It orders guidelines for the government to prevent misuse of power to win elections.

3-It EC feels unfairness in polling it orders a repoll.

### **Q.5.What is some of the activities undertaken by political parties to carry out election campaign?**

**Ans.1-**In election campaigns, political parties try to focus public attention on some big issues, e.g.,the Congress party led by Indira Gandhi gave the slogan of "Gharibi Hatao" in the Lok Sabha elections of 1971. "Save Democracy" was the slogan of Janata Party in the Lok Sabha election of 1977.

2- Secondly, political leaders contact their voters, address election meetings, and promise to remove the grievances of the people.

3-Thirdly, support of media – TV Channels and newspaper columns – is also taken by the political parties to further their cause to gather more votes.

**Q.6. Explain the nomination process as practised in Indian elections.**

**Ans.1**-Every candidate who wishes to contest an election has to fill a nomination form and give some money as deposit.

2-According to recent directive from Supreme Court every candidate has to make a legal declaration giving full details of assets liabilities, educational qualification & details of any serious criminal cases pending against them.

**Q.7. Describe any four demerits of electoral competition.**

**Ans.** An electoral competition has many demerits.

- (i) It creates a sense of disunity and factionalism.
- (ii) Different political parties level allegations against each other's.
- (iii) Long-term policies cannot be formulated.
- (iv) Some good people who wish to serve do not enter this arena.

**Q.8. Explain any four conditions that make an election democratic.**

- Ans.**
- (i) Every section of citizens should get equal representation.
  - (ii) Everyone should get an equal opportunity to choose representatives.
  - (iii) Voters' list which is revised every five year.
  - (iv) Election Photo-Identity Card.

**Q.9. What is a reserved constituency? Why did India introduce this system?**

**Ans** in a reserved constituency only someone who belongs to the SC/ST or weaker section can stand for election. This was done to give a fair representation to the weaker section who did not stand a good chance to get elected to the Lok Sabha.

**Q.10. Explain any four challenges faced by election system in India.**

- Ans.**
- (i) A few candidates may win purely on the basis of money money power sun four wean.
  - (ii) Are peoples preferences based on real knowledge.
  - (iii) Are the voters getting a real choice?
  - (iv) Is Election leally level playing field for everyone?

**Q.11. Explain any four powers enjoyed by Election Commission in India.**

- Ans.**
- (i) Election Commission takes decisions on every aspect of conduct and control of elections from announcement of elections to declaration of results.
  - (ii) It implements the code of conduct and punishes any candidate or party that violates it.
  - (iii) During Elections EC can order the government to follow some guidelines to use/misuse governmental power, its chances to win.
  - (iv) When on election duty, government officials work under control of EC.

**Q.12.What is Secret Ballot System? Give three reasons why Secret Ballot System is good.**

**Ans.**A ballot paper is a sheet of paper on which the names of the contesting candidates along with party names and symbol are listed.

- (i) The voter can vote in secricies
- (ii) The voter feels secure, safe and fearless

(iii) The voter is free of threat and coercion.

**Q.13. What are the conditions which make an election democratic?**

**Ans.** (i) The presence of an independent and very powerful Election Commission (EC). It enjoys the same kind of independence that the judiciary does.

(ii) The Chief Election Commissioner is not answerable to the President or the government.

(iii) It is virtually impossible to remove the CEC, once he is appointed.

(iv) When election officials come to the opinion that polling was not fair in some booths or even in an entire constituency, they order a repoll.

**Q.14. Enumerate any four challenges to free and fair elections.**

**Ans.** (i) Inclusion of false names and exclusion of genuine names in the voters list.

(ii) Misuse of government facilities and officials in ruling party.

(iii) Excessive use of money by rich candidates and big parties.

(iv) Intimidation of voters and rigging on the polling day.

**HOTS**

**Q.1. Why is there a provision of reservation of seats in the legislatures?**

**Ans.1-**The constitution makers were worried that in an open electoral competition, certain weaker sections may not stand a good chance to get elected to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.

2-They may not have the required resources, education and contacts to contest and win elections against the more influential contestants. So seats are reserved for them in the legislature.

**Q.2. What is the check on the political leaders which makes them serve the people?**

**Ans.1-**The check on the political leaders comes from the need to serve the people if they want to win the next elections. Regular electoral competition provides incentives to political parties and leaders.

2-They know that if they raise issues that people want to be raised, their popularity and chances of victory will increase in the next elections.

3- But if they fail to satisfy the voters with their work, they will not be able to win again.

**Q.3. What is the trends of popular participation in India?**

**Ans.**The trends of popular participation in India are:

(i) People's participation in election is usually measured by voter turnout figures. In India the turnout over all these years has either remained stable or gone up.

(ii) In India, the poor illiterate and underprivileged people vote in larger proportion as compared to rich sections.

(iii) Common people in India attach a lot of importance to elections as they feel that through elections they can bring pressure on political parties to adopt policies favouring them.

**Q.4. Write about any three challenges which an ordinary citizen would have to face if he wants to contest an election.**

**Ans** An ordinary citizen would have to face some of the following challenges if he wants to contest the elections:

(i) Candidates with lot of money enjoy a big and unfair advantage over contestants.



(ii) Sometimes candidates with criminal connections push others out of the electoral race and Secure a 'ticket'.

(iii) Some families tend to dominate political parties

**Q.5. Why is there no educational qualification prescribed for the political leaders who hold such an important position of governing the country?**

**Ans.** (i) Educational qualifications are not relevant to all kinds of jobs. Just as a cricketer needs an ability to play well, irrespective of educational qualification, similarly the relevant qualification for an MLA or an MP is the ability to understand people's concerns, problems, and to represent their interests.

(ii) In our country, putting an educational qualification would go against the spirit of democracy as it would mean depriving a majority of the country's citizens the right to contest elections. For example, if graduation is made a compulsory qualification, then 90 % of the citizens will become ineligible to contest elections.

**Q.6. Explain the term constituency. Give reasons why the system of reserved constituencies was introduced by our constitution makers.**

**Ans.1**-The country is divided into different areas for purposes of elections. These are called **Constituencies**. **2**-The voters who live in an area elect one representative. For Lok Sabha elections the country is divided into 543 constituents. The representative elected is called an MP.

3-Similarly, each state is divided into a specific number of assembly constituencies. In this case the elected representative is called an MLA.

4-To give protection to the weaker section, the makers of our constitution thought of reserved constituencies. These are reserved for people who belong to SC or ST. The Lok Sabha has 79 reserved seats for SCs and 41 for STs.

Answer to M.C.Q.

1 (b)2 (a)3 (d)4 (c)5 (b)6 (d)7 (b)8 (b)9 (a)10 (b)11 (d)12 (b)13(d)14 (c)15 (d)16 (c)17 (d)18 (b)19 (d) 20 (a)21(b)22 (a)23 (a)24 (c)25 (d)26 (a)27 (a)28 (b)29 (a)30 (a)31 (c)32 (c)33(c)34 (b)35 (c)36 (b) 37 (a)38 (c) 39 (c) 40 (c) 41 (b)

SCIENCE



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