



# INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

<b>Class: IX</b>	<b>Department: Social Science</b>	<b>Sub: Democratic Politics</b>
<b>Chapter-3</b> <b>Question Bank :3</b>	<b>Topic: Electoral Politics</b>	<b>Year: 2023-24</b>

1	<p><b>What is an Election? Why it is considered essential in a representative democracy?</b></p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Election is a mechanism by which people can choose their representatives at regular intervals and change them if they wish to do so. Any representative democracy needs elections.</li></ul> <p>It provides voters with many choices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• They can choose who will make laws for them.</li><li>• They can choose who will form the government and take major decisions.</li><li>• They can choose the party whose policies will guide the government.</li></ul>
2	<p><b>What are the minimum conditions that makes elections democratic in nature?</b></p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Everyone should have one vote and every vote should have equal value.</li><li>• Everyone should be free to contest elections and election should offer some real choice to the voters.</li><li>• The elections must be held at regular intervals after every few years.</li><li>• The candidate getting maximum vote should get elected.</li><li>• Elections should be conducted in a free and fair manner where people can choose as they really wish.</li></ul>
3	<p><b>What are the merits and demerits of an Electoral competition in India?</b></p> <p>Ans:</p> <p><b>Merits of Electoral competition:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regular electoral competition provides incentives to political parties and leaders. 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.</li><li>• But if they fail to satisfy the voters with their work they will not be able to win again. So, if a Political party is motivated only by desire to be in power, even then it will be forced to serve the people.</li></ul> <p><b>Demerits of Electoral competition:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Electoral competition creates a sense of disunity and division in every society.</li><li>• Different Political parties and leaders often put allegations against one another.</li><li>• Parties and candidates often use dirty tricks to win elections.</li><li>• Electoral fights do not allow long-term policies to be formulated for the nation.</li><li>• Some good people who may wish to serve the country do not enter in to politics because of the unhealthy competition in electoral politics.</li></ul>

4	<p><b>How we can differentiate By-election from a General election?</b></p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elections are held in India in Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha (Assembly) regularly after every five years. After five years, the term of all the elected representatives comes to an end.</li> <li>• Elections are held in all the Constituencies at the same time, either on the same day or within a few days. This is called a General election.</li> <li>• Sometimes elections are held only for one constituency to fill the vacancy caused by the death or resignation of a member. This is called a By-election.</li> </ul>
5	<p><b>Explain the system of Electoral Constituencies in India?</b></p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India is divided into different areas for the purpose of elections. These areas are called Electoral Constituencies. The voters living in an area elect one representative.</li> <li>• For the Lok Sabha elections, India is divided into 543 constituencies. The representative elected from each constituency is called a Member of Parliament or an MP.</li> <li>• Each State is divided into a specific number of Assembly constituencies and the elected representative is called the Member of the Legislative Assembly or an MLA.</li> <li>• The same principle applies to 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.</li> <li>• Sometimes these Constituencies are counted as 'seats', for each Constituency represents one Seat in the assembly.</li> </ul>
6	<p><b>“The makers of the Indian Constitution thought of a special system of reserved constituencies for the weaker sections”. Explain</b></p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Constitution makers were worried that in an open electoral competition, certain weaker sections may not get a good chance to get elected to the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies. So, the makers of our Constitution thought of a special system of Reserved constituencies for the weaker sections</li> <li>• Some constituencies are reserved for people who belong to the Scheduled Castes [SC] and Scheduled Tribes [ST]. In a SC reserved constituency only, someone who belongs to the Scheduled Castes can stand for election. Similarly, only those belonging to the Scheduled Tribes can contest an election from a constituency reserved for ST.</li> <li>• Currently, in the Lok Sabha, 84 seats are reserved for the Scheduled Castes and 47 for the Scheduled Tribes.</li> </ul>
7	<p><b>What do you mean by a Voter’s List? What is its significance?</b></p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In a democratic election the list of people eligible to vote is prepared much before the election. This list is officially called the Electoral Roll and is commonly known as the Voters' List.</li> <li>• The Electoral roll is normally revised every year to add the names of those who are to turn 18 on the 1st January of that year and to remove the names of those who have died or moved out of a constituency. Some criminals and persons with unsound mind can be denied the right to vote, but only in rare situations.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the last few years a new system of Election Photo Identity Card (EPIC) has been introduced. But the card is not yet compulsory for voting and the voters can show many other proofs of identity like the Ration card or the Driving license</li> </ul>
8	<p><b>Explain the procedures of the Nomination of a Candidate to contest in an election.</b></p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anyone who can be a voter can also become a candidate in elections. The only difference is that in order to be a candidate the minimum age is 25 years, while it is only 18 years for being a voter. If anyone has a criminal background, then there are restrictions but it is applicable in very extreme cases.</li> <li>Party's nomination is often called party 'ticket'. Every person who wishes to contest an election has to fill a 'nomination form' and give some money as 'security deposit'.</li> <li>According to the direction of the Supreme Court, every candidate now has to make a 'legal declaration' giving full details of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Any serious case pending against the candidate</li> <li>b. Complete details of assets and liabilities of the candidates and his/her family</li> <li>c. Educational qualifications</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
9	<p><b>Explain the importance of Election campaign in India? Write some important Slogans given by different Political parties in various elections.</b></p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In India, Election campaigns take place for a two-week period between the announcement of the final list of candidates and the date of polling.</li> <li>During this period the candidates contact their voters, and political parties mobilise their supporters. This is also the period when newspapers and television news are full of election related stories and debates.</li> <li>In election campaigns, Political parties try to focus public attention on some big issues to attract the public to that issue and get them to vote for their party on that basis.</li> </ul> <p>Some of the successful Slogans given by different political parties in various elections are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Garibi Hatao (Remove poverty):</b> Congress party which was led by Indira Gandhi used this slogan in 1971 Lok Sabha elections.</li> <li><b>Save Democracy:</b> Janata party used this slogan in the 1977, Lok Sabha election.</li> <li><b>Land to the Tiller:</b> The Left front used this slogan in West Bengal Assembly elections in 1997.</li> <li><b>Protect the Self Respect of the Telugus:</b> This slogan was used by N. T. Rama Rao, who was leader of the Telugu Desam Party in 1983, Andhra Pradesh Assembly elections.</li> </ol>
10	<p><b>"All the Political parties in our country have agreed to a Model Code of Conduct for election campaigns". Which are they?</b></p> <p>Ans:</p> <p>According to the Model Code of Conduct, no party or candidate can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use any place of worship for election propaganda;</li> <li>Use government vehicles, aircrafts and officials for elections; and</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>

11	<p><b>Briefly explain the following terms:</b></p> <p>a) Election day  b) Ballot paper  c) Electronic Voting Machines (EVM)  d) Voter turnout</p> <p>Ans:</p> <p><b>Election day</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The day when the voters cast or 'poll' their vote is called election day. The voting is done in the following manner. Every person whose name is on the voters' list can go to a nearby polling booth. Once the voter goes inside the booth, the election officials identify her, put a mark on her finger and allow her to cast her vote. An agent of each candidate is allowed to sit inside the polling booth and ensure that the voting takes place in a fair way.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ballot paper</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ballot paper is a sheet of paper on which the names of the contesting candidates, along with party names and symbols, are listed. The ballot paper was used earlier.</li> </ul> <p><b>Electronic Voting Machines (EVM)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nowadays, Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) are used to record votes. The machine shows the names of the candidates and the party symbols. The voter has to just press the button against the name of the candidate she wants to give her vote to. Once the polling is over, all the EVMs are sealed and taken to a secure place. A few days later, all the EVMs are opened, and the votes secured by each candidate are counted. Within a few hours of counting, all the results are declared and it becomes clear as to who will form the next government.</li> </ul> <p><b>Voter turnout</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Voter turnout refers to the percentage of eligible voters who cast their votes in an election.</li> </ul>
12	<p><b>“Very few Election commissions in the world have such wide-ranging powers as the Election Commission of India”. Justify</b></p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In India elections are conducted by an independent and very powerful Election Commission (EC) which enjoys the same kind of independence that the Judiciary enjoys.</li> <li>EC takes decisions on every aspect of conduct and control of elections from the announcement of elections to the declaration of results.</li> <li>It implements the Code of Conduct and punishes any candidate or party that violates it.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>When on election duty, government officers work under the control of the EC and not the government.</li> </ul>
13	<p><b>What are the Challenges to free and fair elections?</b></p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Candidates and parties with a lot of money may not be sure of their victory but they do enjoy a big and unfair advantage over smaller parties and independents.</li> <li>In some parts of the country, candidates with criminal connection have been able to push others out of the electoral race and to secure a 'ticket' from major parties.</li> <li>Some families tend to dominate political parties; tickets are distributed to relatives from these families.</li> </ul>

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Very often elections offer little choice to ordinary citizens, for both the major parties are quite similar to each other both in policies and practice.</li><li>• Smaller parties and independent candidates suffer a huge disadvantage compared to bigger parties.</li></ul> |
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