INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: IX	Department: SOCIAL SCIENCE	Subject: Political Science
Chapter 2 Question Bank :2 PART II	Topic: ELECTIONS	Year :2026-27

1.	**What is the Election Commission of India (ECI), and how is election work supervised at the State level?** **Ans:** The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** is an **autonomous and permanent constitutional body** established on **25 January 1950**. It conducts elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and the offices of the President and Vice-President. At the State level, election work is supervised by the **Chief Electoral Officer**, appointed by the ECI in consultation with the State Government.
2	**Explain the major functions or role of Election Commission of India.** **Ans:** The Election Commission of India (ECI) is an independent constitutional body responsible for conducting elections in a free and fair manner. Its major functions include: ➢ **Conducting elections:** It conducts elections to the **Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and the offices of the President and Vice-President**. ➢ **Creates the electoral roll:** It prepares and updates the **voters' lists** and ensures that eligible citizens are included. ➢ **Decides the election schedule and date:** It announces the election schedule, appoints election officials ➢ **Allocates election symbols:** It recognises political parties and **allots the election symbols** to them. ➢ **Ensures free and fair elections:** It monitors the election process and takes steps to prevent **unfair practices and misuse of government machinery** during elections. It can order **re-polling** where necessary to ensure a fair election.
3	**What is Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls? Explain its importance in ensuring an accurate and inclusive electoral roll.** **Ans:** **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** is an exercise conducted by the Election Commission of India to **update, verify and correct electoral rolls**. Its importance can be understood through the following points: ➢ **Ensures eligible voters are included:** SIR helps ensure that no eligible citizen, particularly **young voters who have recently turned 18**, is left out of the electoral roll. ➢ **Removes ineligible names:** It helps remove the names of persons who are **no longer eligible to vote**, such as deceased voters.

	➢ **Eliminates duplicate entries:** SIR helps identify and remove **duplicate enrolments** from the electoral rolls. ➢ **Updates voter information:** It helps correct or update details when voters **change their residence**. ➢ **Maintains accurate electoral rolls:** By verifying and correcting voter information, SIR helps create **reliable and updated electoral rolls**, thereby supporting free and fair elections.
4	**Explain the various digital initiatives introduced by the Election Commission of India to provide electoral services and promote voter engagement.** **Ans:** The Election Commission of India has developed a **digital ecosystem** to make electoral services more **accessible, transparent**, **efficient and citizen-friendly**. Some of the important digital initiatives are: 1. **Suvidha:** It is an exclusive application for candidates and political parties. It facilitates online permissions for meetings, rallies, vehicles, loudspeakers, etc. 2. **ETPBS:** The Electronic Transmission of Postal Ballot System enables service voters to receive their postal ballots electronically and cast their votes. 3. **Voter Helpline App:** This mobile application provides voters with information and services such as checking their registration status, verifying electoral details and election-related information. 4. **ERONET:** It enables the seamless processing of electoral forms and applications. 5. **Saksham App:** It provides information and assistance to **Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)** by offering accessible electoral services and facilities, including information about polling stations and registration. 6. **cVIGIL App:** It allows citizens to report violations of the **Model Code of Conduct** during elections. Citizens can upload photographs or videos of violations, enabling election authorities to take timely action.
5	**What are the functions of the political parties?** **OR** **Explain the importance of political parties in a democratic system.** **Ans:** Political parties play an important role in making democracy function effectively directly by providing governance, accountability, representation and public engagement. They perform the following major functions: ➢ **Organise public opinion:** Political parties raise issues that affect citizens and help in shaping public opinion on important social, economic and political matters. ➢ **Campaign on specific issues:** During elections, political parties campaign on various issues and present their views and policies before the people. ➢ **Offer meaningful choices:** Political parties provide voters with different candidates, policies and programmes, enabling them to choose among different alternatives during elections. ➢ **Provide information to the voters:** Parties communicate their policies, election promises and views on local, national and international issues through rallies, debates and various media platforms. This helps voters to make informed decisions.

6	**What is a multi-party system? Explain its importance in a democracy.** **Ans:** A **multi-party system** is a system in which several political parties compete in elections and have the opportunity to form the government. ➢ It provides **multiple choices** to voters during elections. ➢ It allows different **social and regional interests** to be represented. ➢ It promotes **political competition** and strengthens democratic participation
7	**What is the Anti-Defection Law? Why was it introduced?** **Ans:** The **Anti-Defection Law** was introduced through the **52nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1985** to prevent elected representatives from changing political parties for personal or political gains. ➢ It discourages **defection or switching parties** by elected members. ➢ It helps maintain **political stability** in governments. ➢ It promotes **discipline and loyalty towards the political party** on whose ticket a member was elected.
8	**Write down the criteria for a State Party?** **Ans:** ➢ It should secure at least 6% of valid votes in Lok Sabha election or State legislative council election. ➢ Wins at least 2% of seats in the Lok Sabha and the candidates are elected from at least any three states. ➢ It is recognised as a State Party at least in four states.
9	**Write down the criteria for a National Party?** **Ans:** ➢ It should secure at least 6% of valid votes in any General Election of the particular state and wins at least 2 seats in the Legislative assembly of the state. ➢ Wins at least 3% of the seats at the General Election to the Legislative Assembly.
10	**What are the major challenges to conducting free and fair elections? Explain with reference to the steps against malpractices?** **Ans:** Free and fair elections are essential for a healthy democracy. However, the electoral process can face several challenges that may affect its fairness and transparency ➢ **Misinformation:** False or misleading information can influence voters and affect their choices. ➢ **Fake News:** Fake news spread through social media and other platforms can mislead citizens and create confusion during elections. ➢ **Intimidation:** Threats or pressure on voters may prevent them from exercising their right to vote freely. ➢ **Money and muscle power:** The use of excessive money or force can influence voters and create an unfair advantage for candidates or political parties. To overcome these challenges, the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** uses measures such as ✓ the **Representation of the People Acts of 1950 and 1951** ✓ **Model Code of Conduct,** ✓ **EVMs,** ✓ **Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trial (VVPAT) and** ✓ **voter-awareness campaigns**. Active citizen participation and constant vigilance are also important for ensuring free, fair and transparent elections.