



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: IX	Department: SOCIAL SCIENCE	Subject: DEMOCRATIC POLITICS
Chapter 3 Question Bank No:3	Topic: ELECTORAL POLITICS	Year: 2025-26

Q1	<p>Define 'election'. Explain the key features of a democratic election.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Explain the term "Election". What are the minimum conditions needed for a democratic election?</p> <p>Ans:</p> <p>Election is a mechanism by which people can choose their representatives at regular intervals and change them if they wish to do so in next election</p> <p>There are five minimum conditions needed for a democratic election. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Everyone should have the right to vote and every vote should have equal value.• Parties and candidates should be free to contest elections and they should offer some real choice to the voters.• Elections must be held regularly.• Candidates preferred by the people should be elected.• Elections should be conducted in a free and fair manner.
Q2	<p>Describe the positive and negative aspects of elections in a democratic country.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Explain the demerits and merits of electoral competition in a democracy.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <p><u>DEMERITS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It creates a sense of disunity and fractionalism in everyday life.• The candidates and political parties use dirty tricks to win the election.• People who wanted to serve the country avoid entering the field owing to unhealthy competition. <p><u>MERITS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. But if they fail to satisfy the voters with their work, they will not be able to win again.• Political party is motivated only by desire to be in power, even then it will be forced to serve the people.
Q3	<p>Differentiate between General election and By-election.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <p>General Election</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elections are held in all the Constituencies at the same time, either on the same day or within a few days for every five years. This is called a General Election. <p>By-Election</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An election held to fill a vacancy in a legislative body that occurs in between general elections due to resignation, death, or disqualification of a member before 6 months from the date the seats fall vacant.

Q4	<p>What is an electoral constituency? Why the makers of our Constitution thought of a special system of reserved constituencies for the weaker sections?</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The country is divided into different areas for purposes of elections. These areas are called electoral constituencies. The voters who live in an area elect one representative. • 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 the state Legislative Assemblies. • They may not have the required resources, education and contacts to contest and win elections against others. • Those who are influential and resourceful may prevent them from winning elections. If that happens, our Parliament and Assemblies would be deprived of the voice of a significant section of our population. That would make our democracy less representative and less democratic.
Q5	<p>What do you mean by Voter's List? What is its significance?</p> <p>Ans:</p> <p>(i) In a democratic election, the list of those who are eligible to vote is prepared much before the election and given to everyone. This list is officially called the Electoral Roll and is commonly known as the Voters' List.</p> <p>(ii) The significance of Voter's List is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is an important step for it is linked to the first condition of a democratic election. Everyone should get an equal opportunity to choose representatives. • In our country, all the citizens aged 18 years and above can vote in an election. Every citizen has the right to vote, regardless of his or her caste, religion or gender. • It is the responsibility of the government to get the names of all the eligible voters put on the Voter's List. As new persons attain voting age, names are added to the voters' list. Names of those who move out of a place or those who are dead are deleted. • A complete revision of the list takes place every five years. This is done to ensure that it remains up to date. In the last few years, a new system of Election Photo Identity Card (EPIC) has been introduced. The government has tried to give this card to every person on the voters' list. But the card is not yet compulsory for voting. For voting, the voters can show many other proofs of identity like the ration card or the driving licence.
Q6	<p>How does a party file a nomination for its candidate?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Explain the procedure of nomination of a candidate in elections.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to be a candidate, the minimum age is 25 years. • Political parties nominate their candidates who get the party symbol and support. • Party's nomination is often called a party 'ticket'. • Every person who wishes to contest an election has to fill a 'nomination form' and give some money as 'security deposit'. If the information provided is not correct, the nomination can be cancelled and the security deposit is returned. • According to the direction of the Supreme Court, every candidate now has to make a 'legal declaration' giving full details of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Any serious case pending against the candidate. b. Complete details of assets and liabilities of the candidates and his/her family. c. Educational qualifications of the candidate.
Q7	<p>What election laws have been made for campaigning?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p>

	<p>‘It is necessary to regulate campaigning in an election.’ Give reasons to support this statement.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <p>Every political party and candidate get a fair and equal chance to compete. According to our election law, no party or candidate can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bribe or threaten the voters to vote for them only; • Appeal to the voters in the name of caste or religion; • Use the government resources for election campaigns; • Spend more than 25 lakhs in a constituency for the Lok Sabha elections or 10 lakhs in a constituency during an assembly election. If they do so, their election can be rejected by the court even after they have been declared elected.
Q8	<p>Mention a few successful slogans that were used during election campaigns.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <p>The most successful slogans used during election campaigns were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garibi Hatao or Remove poverty: This slogan was used by the Congress party led by Indira Gandhi in the Lok Sabha elections of 1971. The party promised to remove poverty from the country. • Save Democracy: This slogan used by Janata Party in the Lok Sabha election held in 1977. The party promised to undo the excesses committed during Emergency and restore civil liberties. • Land to the Tiller: This slogan was used by the Left Front in the West Bengal Assembly elections held in 1977. • Protect the Self Respect of the Telugus: This slogan used by N. T. Rama Rao, the leader of the Telugu Desam Party in Andhra Pradesh Assembly elections in 1983.
Q9	<p>Define the term “election day”. How are ‘polls’ conducted in India?</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final stage of an election is the day when the voters cast their votes in a polling booth. That day is usually called the Election Day. • Every person whose name is on the voters’ list can go to a nearby ‘polling booth’, situated usually in a local school or a government office. • Once the voter goes inside the booth, the election officials identify him or her by putting a mark on his or her finger and allow him or her to cast the 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. • A ballot paper is placed in which the names of the contesting candidates along with their party name and symbols are listed. • Nowadays, Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) are used to record votes. • The machine shows the names of the candidates and party symbols. Independent candidates too have their own symbols, allotted by the election officials. • Each voter has to press the button against the name of the candidate she or he wants to vote for.
Q10	<p>“The Election Commission in India is independent and very powerful”. Justify.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>“Very few Election commissions in the world have such wide-ranging powers as the Election Commission of India”. Justify</p> <p>Ans:</p> <p>Election Commission enjoys the same kind of independence that the judiciary enjoys. The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) is appointed by the President of India. He heads the Election Commission. After his election the C E C is not answerable to the President or the government. It is impossible for the government to remove the CEC, even if it is dissatisfied with him. The</p>

	<p>powers of the Election Commission of India are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EC takes decisions on every aspect of conduct and control of elections from the announcement of elections to the declaration of results. • It implements the Code of Conduct and punishes any candidate or party that violates it • 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 • When on election duty, government officers work under the control of the EC and not the government.
Q11	<p>Explain the changing trends of people's participation in elections in India.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <p>The changing trends of people's participation in elections in India are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People's participation in election is usually measured by voter turnout figures. Turnout indicates the per cent of eligible voters who cast their vote. In India, the turnout figures over last few decades have either remained stable or gone up. • In India, the poor, illiterate and underprivileged people vote in larger proportion as compared to the rich and privileged sections. This is in contrast to western democracies. • Common people in India attach a lot of importance to elections. They feel that through elections, they can bring pressure on political parties to adopt policies and programmes favourable to them. • The interest of voters in election-related activities has been increasing over the years. During the 2004 elections, more than one-third voters took part in a campaign-related activity. • More than half of the people identified themselves as being close to one or the other political party. One out of every seven voters is a member of a political party.
Q12	<p>What are the challenges to free and fair elections in India?</p> <p>Ans:</p> <p>The elections in India are basically free and fair. But a few candidates may win purely based on money power and unfair means. These challenges exist not just in India but also in many established democracies. These deeper issues are a matter of concern for those who believe in democracy.</p> <p>The challenges to free and fair elections in India are as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. • Some families tend to dominate political parties; tickets are distributed to relatives from these families. • 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. • Smaller parties and independent candidates suffer a huge disadvantage compared to bigger parties.