



Class: IX	Department: SOCIAL SCIENCE DEMOCRATIC POLITICS	Date of submission:
QUESTION BANK	Topic: ELECTORAL POLITICS	Note: 2020-21

**1. What is an Election? What are the minimum conditions for a Democratic Election?**

OR

**Do people have real choice in a Democratic Election?**

Election is a mechanism by which people can choose their representatives at regular intervals and change them if they wish. Minimum conditions for a democratic election are as follows

- Everyone should be able to choose. This means that everyone should have one vote and every vote should have equal value.
- Parties and candidates should be free to contest elections and should offer some real choice to the voters.
- The choice should be offered at regular intervals.
- The candidates preferred by the people should get elected.
- Elections should be conducted in a free and fair manner, where people can choose as they wish.

**2. What are the minimum conditions of a Democratic Election?**

The minimum conditions of a democratic elections are:

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

**3. What is political competition? Is it good to have political competition?**

Political competition means competitions among the political parties at the time of election. At the constituency level there is competition among several candidates.

It is good to have a political competition on the following ground:

- Regular electoral competition provides incentives to political parties and leaders.
- They know if they raise issues that people want to be raised their popularities and chances of victory will increase in the next election.
- So, if a political party is motivated only by desire to be in power even then it will be forced to serve the people.

4. 'Election campaigns are needed to regulate' Why? Give reasons. OR

How does our election law regulate election campaign? OR

State the various election laws during the election campaign for a party or candidate to follow to ensure the free and equal chance in Election. Or

What are the election laws in India? CBSE- 2012

It may prove dangerous if political parties and candidates are given freedom to conduct their election campaigns the way they want to do. So, it is essential to regulate campaigns to ensure that every political party and candidate gets fair and equal chance to compete.

- According to our election law neither party nor any candidate can bribe or threaten voters
- They should not appeal to the voters in the name of caste or religion.
- They should not use government resources for election campaign like govt. vehicles or places etc.
- A candidate should not spend more than 25 lakhs in a constituency for Lok Sabha election 10 lakhs for Vidhan Sabha election.
- If any of the above is violated their election can be rejected by the court even after they had been declared elected.

5. What is a Model Code of Conduct?

OR

Examine the main clauses of the Model Code of Conduct issued for election campaign.

According to this no party or candidate can:

- Use any place of worship for election propaganda.
- Use government vehicles, aircrafts and officials for election and
- Once elections are announced Ministers shall not lay foundation stones of any projects take any policy decisions or make any promises of providing public facilities.

6. What are the powers and functions of the Election Commission? CBSE 2015

OR

"India have a very powerful and Independent Election commission" Do you agree?

Justify your answer.

In India elections are conducted by an independent and very powerful Election Commission [EC].

The **Chief Election Commissioner** [CEC] is appointed by the **President of India**. The Chief Election Commissioner is not answerable for the President or the government. Neither the ruling party nor the government has the power to remove the Chief Election Commissioner. The Election Commission enjoys wide ranging powers. They are

- 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 governments to follow some guidelines.
- When on election duty governments officers work under the control of the EC.
- When election officers work under the control of the EC and not the government.

**7. What are some of the activities undertaken by political parties to carry out elections? Mention any three activities.**

**Firstly**, in election campaigns, political parties try to focus public attention on some big issues. For instance, the Congress party led by Indira Gandhi gave the slogan of **“Garibi Hatao”** (remove poverty) in the Lok Sabha elections of 1971. **“Save Democracy”** was the slogan given by Janata Party in the Lok Sabha election of 1977.

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

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

**8. What are the challenges and limitations of free and fair elections in India? Suggest some ways to handle these challenges. CBSE-2012**

- Candidates and parties with a lot of money may not be sure of their victory but do enjoy a big and unfair advantage over smaller parties and independents.
- In some parts of the country candidates with criminal connections 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 the relatives from these families.
- Very often elections offer very little choice to ordinary citizens as all the major parties are similar to each other both in policies and practice.
- Smaller parties and independent candidates suffer a huge disadvantage compared to bigger parties.

**Some ways to handle the above challenges are**

- Misuse of government facilities should be restricted.
- Rigging on the polling day should be banned.
- Role of money in election should be minimized.
- Voting should be made compulsory.
- Contesting candidates should not be allowed to use caste or religion during election.

**9. Highlight the main stages of an Election in India.**

The election in India is comprised of various stages.

- **ELECTORAL CONSTITUENCIES:** The whole country is divided into different areas for purposes of elections. These areas are called electoral constituencies. The voters living in these areas elect one representative from each constituency.
- **VOTER’S LIST:** Next step is to decide who can and cannot vote. In a democratic election, the list of those who are eligible to vote is prepared much before the election and given to everyone.

- **NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES:** Every person who wishes to contest an election has to fill a nomination form by the due date, which the Election Commission fixes. Every candidate has to give some amount as security deposit along with the nomination form.
- **ELECTION CAMPAIGN:** Election campaign take place for a period of two week between the announcement of the final list of candidates and the polling. During this period the candidates contact the voters, the political leaders address election meetings and political parties mobilize their supporters.
- **POLLING AND COUNTING:** The final stage is the day when the voters cast or poll their vote. That day is called Election Day. Nearby schools will be the polling booth. Every person who has the name in the voter list can go to the nearby polling booth. The election officer checks and identify the voter. Mark on their finger and allow them to cast their vote. The Electronic voting machine [EVM] records the votes. Once the polling is over the EVMs are sealed and taken to secure place. On a fixed day the counting is done and the results are declared.

### **10. Why should elections be held regularly?**

Elections should be held regularly because:

- Elections should be held regularly because it provides incentives to the political parties and leaders.
- They know that if they raise-issues that people want to raised, it would make them popular and increase their chances of victory in the next elections.
- But, if they fail to satisfy the voters with their work, they will not be able to win again.

### **11. What are the demerits in Electoral completion? CBSE 2011/2013/2015**

- It creates disunity and factionalism in the society.
- Different political parties and candidates often level allegation against each other.
- Dirty tricks are used by the parties or the candidates to win the election.
- Pressure to win the election does not allow sensible long-term policies to be formulated
- Some good people may wish to serve the country do not enter this arena.

### **12. Why is there a provision of reservation of seats in the legislatures?**

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

### **13. What do you mean by Voter's List? What is its significance?**

(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.

(ii) The significance of Voter's List is as follows:

- 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 license.

#### 14. What are the changing trends of people's participation in elections in India?

The changing trends of people's participation in elections in India are as follows:

- 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.

#### 15. What type of election system is followed in India?

In India, two types of election system are followed.

- **First**, when elections are held regularly after every five years is called a **general election**
- **Second**, when election is held only for one constituency to fill the vacancy caused by death or resignation of a member. This is called a **by-election**.
- Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha (Assembly) elections are held regularly after every five years. After five years, the term of all the elected representatives comes to an end. The Lok Sabha or Vidhan Sabha stands 'dissolved'.