

Ch-4
Electoral Politics



Democratic
Politics

Q-1 Why do we need elections?

Ans - * It helps voters to choose who will make laws for them.

* Voters would choose who would form government and take decisions

* They can choose the party whose policies would guide the government and law making.

* In a country like India with large population, it is difficult to involve each and every person in decision making and hence decision making is done through representatives chosen by election.

Q-2 What is an election?

Ans - It is a mechanism by which people can choose their representative at regular intervals and change them if they wish to do so.

Q-3 What makes an election democratic?

Ans - * Every person should be able to choose that is one person, one vote, one value

* There should be something to choose from i.e., candidate should be free to contest elections.

* The choice should be offered at regular intervals

* The candidate chosen by the people should get elected

Ques-4 What are the demerits of elections? ^{factionalism}

Ans- It creates a sense of disunity and ^{factionalism}
→ Different political parties and leaders level allegation against one another.

→ Parties and candidates use dirty tricks to win ^{the} election.

→ The pressure to win election does not allow sensible long term policies to be formulated.

→ Some good people who wish to serve the country don't like the idea of being the part of unhealthy competition.

Ques-5 What are the merits of election?

Ans- Regular electoral competition provides rewards to political parties and leaders.

→ They realise that if they raise demands that people want to be raised then their popularity increases and so their chances of winning elections.

→ If they fail to satisfy the voters they will not be able to win election again.

→ Even if a leader or party is motivated by desire to stain person. It is forced to serve the people.

Ques-6 How can the negative impact of elections be reduced?

Ans → One can try to improve the knowledge and the character of the political leaders.

→ The other way is to set up a system where leaders are awarded for serving the people and punished for not doing so.

→ Electoral competition serves this purpose

Que-7 What are general elections?

Ans - Elections that are held in all the constituencies at the same time either on same day or within a few days are called general elections.

Que-8 What are by-elections?

Ans - Sometimes elections is held only for one constituency to fill the vacancy caused ~~to~~ by death or resignation of a member this is called by elections

Que-10 What is electoral constituency?

Ans - The country is divided into several parts for the purpose of election and these units are called electoral constituency.

- The voters of a constituency elect representative for their constituency.

* Lok Sabha elections have 543 constituencies and their members are their parliament

* The member elected from each state constituency is MIA.

* Each village or town is divided into various wards. Each ward elects one member who is the head of that ward

entire
for

Que-11 What are reserved constituencies?

- Ans → • Some constituencies are reserved for weaker section of society like SC's and ST's.
- Currently 19 seats are reserved for SC's and 41 seats for ST's in Lok Sabha.
 - Seats are also reserved for OBC's in panchayat, municipality and municipal corporation elections.
 - Similarly $\frac{1}{3}$ rd seats are reserved for women in urban local bodies.

Que-12 What is the need of reserved constituencies?

Ans → * In a open electoral competition certain weaker sections may not stand a good chance to get elected to Lok Sabha and state legislative assembly.

- * They may not have the required resources, education and contacts to contest and win elections.
- * Influential and resourceful may prevent them from winning elections.
- * This would make the elections less representative and less democratic, hence to prevent this, constituencies are reserved.

Voter's list: The list of those people who are eligible to vote is prepared before the election and given to people. This list is officially called election roll and commonly known as voter's list.

Que-13 What is Universal Adult Franchise?

Ans → In our country, all the citizens aged 18 years and above can vote in the election, regardless of caste, religion or gender. This is called Universal adult franchise.

Que-14 What is EPIC?

Ans → It means election and photo identity card. The voters are required to carry this card when they go out to vote.

Que-15 What is a party ticket?

Ans - Political parties nominate their candidates who get their party symbol and party support. Party nomination is often known as party ticket.

Que-16 How does one file a nomination for an election?

Ans - Every candidate who wish to contest election has to fill a nomination form and give some money for security deposit. Every candidate has to make a legal declaration giving full details of
 (i) serious criminal cases pending against the candidate,
 (ii) details of its assets and liabilities as well as his members
 (iii) educational qualification of the candidate.
 All such information is available on to
 An. n. h. o. i. a. h. o. n. o.

Ques-17 What is an election campaign?

Ans → • For a period of 2 weeks between the announcement of list of candidates and polling date, the candidate contact their votes, political leaders, address election meetings and parties mobilise their supporters.

- Parties try to focus public attentions on some big issues and attract them to vote for their party.
- They use T.V., newspaper and other media to reach out public through successful slogans, debates and other stories.

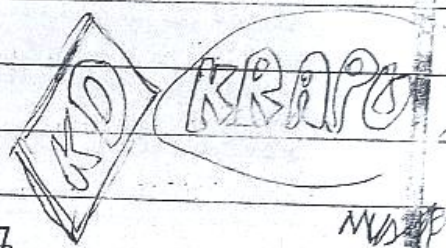
FAMOUS SLOGANS :

→ Congress : Garibi hatao - 1971

→ BJP : Save Democracy - 1971

→ Left front : Land to the Tiller - 1977.

→ ~~Org~~ Telugu desam party - Protect the self respect of Telugus - 1983 - Given by N.T. Rama Rao.



Ques-18 How does election law ensures each and every candidates a fair and equal chance to complete election?

Ans → Election law states that:

- No party or candidate can bribe or threaten voters
- Appeal to them in the name of caste or religion
- Spend more than 25 lakhs for campaigning for Lok Sabha and 10 lakhs for assembly elections
- Use govt. resources for elections.

~~Que-19~~ Que-19 What is election code of conduct?

Ans - According to the code of conduct no party or candidate can -

- Use any place of worship for general elections propaganda
- Use government vehicles and aircrafts for elections
- After elections are announced can't lay foundation stones of any projects or takes big policies decisions or promise new public utilities

Que-20 What is ballot paper?

A ballot paper is a paper on which the name of contesting ~~elect~~ candidates along with the party names and symbols are listed. Earlier used to vote their candidate by putting a stamp on the ballot paper.

EVMS
Que-21 What are ~~EVMS~~?

- These are electronic Voting machine which are used to vote along with the name of candidates with the party symbols.
- A voter has to press the Buttons of the candidates.
- At the election ~~EVMS~~ ^{EVMS} are sealed and taken to a safe place to count the vote and results are declared.

Que-22 What kind of unfair election practises or malpractises are being during Indian

- * Inclusion of false name and exclusion of genuine name in voter's list.
- * Misuse of government facilities and officials by ruling parties.
- * Excessive use of money by rich parties and candidates & big parties.
- * Intimidation of voters and rigging on the polling date.

IMP ~~What precaution are made take by consti~~
~~or free and~~ ~~stitution to make election~~
~~short note on election commission~~
^{democratic fair & fair.}

- Q-23
- In our country elections are conducted by an independent and very powerful election commission.

- The chief election commission is appointed by the President, but not answerable to President or Government.
- Even if the Govt. doesn't like what election commission does it cannot remove the election commission.

^{IMP} Q. 24. What are the powers and functions of election commission.

- * Election commission take decision in each aspect of control & conduct of election from announcement to declaration of results.
- * It ~~is~~ implements code of conduct and punishes any candidate or party that violates it.
- * During election it can order the government to follow the guideline and prevent the use & misuse of govt. power to win the election.
- * During election the govt. officials work under the control of election commission and not the govt.
- * When election officials come to an opinion that polling was not fair then it can order a re-poll.

How far the election process in India successful
 * Turn out figures -

- It indicates the percentage of eligible voters who castes their votes
- In India the turn out figure have either remained stable or gone up
- In India poor, illiterate and underprivileged vote in large proportion as compared to rich and privileged section.
- Common people nowadays attach a lot of importance to election as they believe that they can put pressure on political parties for their demands.
- The interest of voters in the elections has been growing up.

Ques-26 How can we say that the outcome of elections in our country is fair?

- * In India ruling parties of ten lose elections at national and state level which shows that every two out of the three elections held were favourable to citizens it is ruled out.
- * In India about half of the sitting MPs and MLAs lose elections
- * Candidates who bribe voters or have criminal connection of the 10 lose elections

INP

Q: 27. What are the challenges to free and fair elections in India

- * Candidates and parties ^{with} put lot of money enjoy a big or an unfair advantage over smaller parties and independent
- ~~or~~ * candidates with criminal conviction secure a ticket from major parties
- * Some families tend to dominate political parties & distribute tickets to their relatives
- * Very often elections offer of a little choice to ordinary citizens as the major parties are more or less the same
- * Small parties and independent candidates suffer huge disadvantages as ~~compared~~ compared to bigger parties.