

CLASS 9 SOCIAL SCIENCE – PART 1

Chapter 7: Elections

Competency-Based Questions and Answers

Instructions: Read each real-life situation carefully. Answer all three subquestions. Suggested answers are provided in a separate section.

1. FPTP and Vote Share

In a constituency, three candidates receive 42%, 35% and 23% of the votes. The candidate with 42% is declared the winner. Some voters argue that a winner must receive more than half of all votes.

- a) Which electoral system is being used?
- b) Does the winner need more than 50% of the votes in this system?
- c) Explain why the result can still be valid under this system.

2. Direct and Indirect Elections

A class chooses its representative by voting directly. In another election, citizens vote for representatives who then choose a constitutional office-holder.

- a) Identify the two types of election described.
- b) Give one Indian example of a direct election.
- c) Give one Indian example of an indirect election.

3. Electoral Systems

A country elects one representative from each constituency. The candidate with the highest vote total wins, even when the candidate receives less than half of all votes.

- a) Name this system.
- b) Which two Indian legislatures use this system for their directly elected members?
- c) State one strength of having a clear constituency winner.

4. Electoral Laws

A student is comparing two laws. One mainly concerns electoral rolls and delimitation; the other covers nominations, campaigns, voting procedures and election disputes.

- a) Name the law dealing mainly with electoral rolls and delimitation.
- b) Name the law dealing with nominations and election disputes.
- c) Why are these laws important for elections?

5. Delimitation and Representation

Population has changed significantly in several areas. A commission reviews constituency boundaries because one elected representative should not have to represent far more people than another without a reason.

- a) What is this process called?
- b) What is its main purpose?
- c) Which constitutional Article is identified in the chapter in relation to the Delimitation Commission?

6. Election Commission of India

Before an election, officials revise voter lists, announce the schedule, register parties and symbols, and coordinate polling.

- a) Which body has constitutional responsibility for supervising, directing and controlling elections?
- b) State two of its functions.
- c) Why must it act impartially?

7. Electoral Roll Revision

A voter finds that their name is missing from the voter list. Another entry appears twice. Officials invite claims and objections before publishing the final list.

- a) What is the official voter list called?
- b) Name the revision process described in the chapter.
- c) Give two reasons for updating or removing entries.

8. Inclusive Voting

A polling station provides accessible arrangements. A voter asks how a person with a disability can get customised voter-service support.

- a) Why are accessible arrangements important?
- b) Which ECI app provides customised services for voters with disabilities?
- c) According to the chapter, which groups are included in initiatives to make elections more accessible?

9. Reporting Election Misconduct

During a campaign, a citizen witnesses what appears to be a violation of the Model Code of Conduct and wants to report it quickly.

- a) Which app is designed for reporting suspected Model Code of Conduct violations?
- b) What is the purpose of the Model Code of Conduct?
- c) Why should the citizen report facts rather than rumours?

10. Choosing Between Party Manifestos

Two parties publish different election agendas. One emphasises health and education; the other highlights jobs and transport. A voter wants to compare them before deciding.

- a) What is the purpose of a party manifesto or election agenda?
- b) How do political parties help voters make informed decisions?
- c) Name one reliable way a voter could compare the parties' positions.

11. Role of Political Parties

In a democracy, parties campaign on issues, organise public opinion and present different programmes and policies.

- a) State two roles of political parties mentioned in the chapter.
- b) Can a candidate contest without being affiliated with a political party?
- c) How do parties support democratic functioning?

12. Defection

An elected representative leaves the political party under whose banner they were elected. A class is asked to identify the law associated with such cases.

- a) What is defection?
- b) In which year was the Anti-Defection Law passed?
- c) Which Constitutional Amendment Act introduced it?

13. Challenges to Free and Fair Elections

An election faces online fake news, misinformation and intimidation. Officials use election laws, the Model Code of Conduct, EVMs, VVPAT and voter-awareness campaigns to address challenges.

- a) Identify two challenges in the situation.
- b) Expand VVPAT.
- c) Name two measures mentioned in the chapter to help address election challenges.

14. ETPBS

A service voter is away from the constituency where they are registered. They need a system that lets them receive and cast a postal ballot electronically.

- a) Expand ETPBS.
- b) Who is the system designed for, according to the chapter?
- c) What practical problem does it help address?

15. Constitutional and Democratic Purpose

A student says that holding an election alone is enough for democracy, even if some voters are intimidated or cannot access the polling station.

- a) Explain why this view is incomplete.
- b) Name two qualities of an election that strengthen its democratic value.
- c) State one role citizens can play in protecting elections.

Suggested Answers

1. FPTP and Vote Share

- a) Which electoral system is being used?** a) First-Past-The-Post (FPTP).
- b) Does the winner need more than 50% of the votes in this system?** b) No. The candidate with the highest number of votes wins, even if that share is below 50%.
- c) Explain why the result can still be valid under this system.** c) FPTP selects the candidate who receives more votes than any other candidate in that constituency; it does not require an absolute majority.

2. Direct and Indirect Elections

- a) Identify the two types of election described.** a) Direct election and indirect election.
- b) Give one Indian example of a direct election.** b) Lok Sabha or Vidhan Sabha elections.
- c) Give one Indian example of an indirect election.** c) Election of the President of India, Vice-President or Rajya Sabha members.

3. Electoral Systems

- a) Name this system.** a) First-Past-The-Post (FPTP).
- b) Which two Indian legislatures use this system for their directly elected members?** b) Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha.
- c) State one strength of having a clear constituency winner.** c) It clearly identifies the candidate who received the most votes in that constituency.

4. Electoral Laws

- a) Name the law dealing mainly with electoral rolls and delimitation.** a) The Representation of the People Act, 1950.
- b) Name the law dealing with nominations and election disputes.** b) The Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- c) Why are these laws important for elections?** c) They establish rules and procedures for conducting elections and resolving relevant disputes.

5. Delimitation and Representation

- a) What is this process called?** a) Delimitation.
- b) What is its main purpose?** b) To determine seats and fix constituency boundaries so that the ratio of seats to population is as close to equal as possible across constituencies.
- c) Which constitutional Article is identified in the chapter in relation to the Delimitation Commission?** c) Article 82.

6. Election Commission of India

- a) Which body has constitutional responsibility for supervising, directing and controlling elections?** a) Election Commission of India (ECI).

b) State two of its functions. b) Any two: revising electoral rolls; deciding the election schedule; registering parties and allocating symbols; supervising election arrangements.

c) Why must it act impartially? c) Impartiality supports fair treatment and public confidence in the electoral process.

7. Electoral Roll Revision

a) What is the official voter list called? a) Electoral roll.

b) Name the revision process described in the chapter. b) Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

c) Give two reasons for updating or removing entries. c) Examples include death of a voter, change of residence, duplicate enrolment or being permanently untraceable.

8. Inclusive Voting

a) Why are accessible arrangements important? a) They help eligible citizens participate without unnecessary barriers.

b) Which ECI app provides customised services for voters with disabilities? b) Saksham App.

c) According to the chapter, which groups are included in initiatives to make elections more accessible? c) Persons with Disabilities, senior citizens, transgender persons and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.

9. Reporting Election Misconduct

a) Which app is designed for reporting suspected Model Code of Conduct violations? a) cVIGIL App.

b) What is the purpose of the Model Code of Conduct? b) It provides guidance for the conduct of political parties and candidates during elections.

c) Why should the citizen report facts rather than rumours? c) Factual reports help authorities assess the incident responsibly and reduce the spread of false claims.

10. Choosing Between Party Manifestos

a) What is the purpose of a party manifesto or election agenda? a) It presents the party's policies, priorities and promises for the election.

b) How do political parties help voters make informed decisions? b) Parties communicate their policies, vision and positions on public issues, giving voters choices.

c) Name one reliable way a voter could compare the parties' positions. c) Compare the parties' published manifestos and check credible reporting or official sources.

11. Role of Political Parties

a) State two roles of political parties mentioned in the chapter. a) They organise public opinion, campaign on specific issues, offer choices and help voters make informed decisions (any two).

b) Can a candidate contest without being affiliated with a political party? b) Yes. Independent candidates can also contest elections.

c) How do parties support democratic functioning? c) They present different policies and choices, helping representation, accountability and public engagement.

12. Defection

a) What is defection? a) Defection refers to abandoning or switching away from the party under whose banner a member was elected.

b) In which year was the Anti-Defection Law passed? b) 1985.

c) Which Constitutional Amendment Act introduced it? c) The 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act.

13. Challenges to Free and Fair Elections

a) Identify two challenges in the situation. a) Fake news, misinformation and intimidation (any two).

b) Expand VVPAT. b) Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail.

c) Name two measures mentioned in the chapter to help address election challenges. c) Any two: Representation of the People Acts, Model Code of Conduct, EVMs, VVPAT, voter-awareness campaigns and active citizen participation.

14. ETPBS

a) Expand ETPBS. a) Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System.

b) Who is the system designed for, according to the chapter? b) Service voters.

c) What practical problem does it help address? c) It enables service voters to receive and cast postal ballots electronically from a location outside their assigned constituency.

15. Constitutional and Democratic Purpose

a) Explain why this view is incomplete. a) Elections must also be inclusive, impartial, transparent and trustworthy; otherwise their democratic value is reduced.

b) Name two qualities of an election that strengthen its democratic value. b) Any two: free, fair, transparent, inclusive, impartial or trustworthy.

c) State one role citizens can play in protecting elections. c) Participate responsibly, verify information, report suspected violations through official channels and remain vigilant.