

CBSE CLASS 9 SOCIAL SCIENCE

Democratic Politics – I (Political Science)

CHAPTER 3: ELECTORAL POLITICS

ULTIMATE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS BANK WITH MODEL ANSWERS

Comprehensive Curriculum Guide Strictly Structured on the Latest NCERT Textbooks & CBSE Exam Formats



KEY PEDAGOGICAL ELEMENTS INCLUDED:

- **Exhaustive Question Sets:** 1-Mark, 3-Mark, and 5-Mark solutions focused on high-frequency evaluation metrics.
- **Systemic Process Focus:** Complete breakdown of stages from delimitation of constituencies to the declaration of results.
- **Electoral Integrity Tools:** Comprehensive analysis of the Model Code of Conduct, Independent Election Commission, and structural challenges.
- **Advanced Competency Evaluation:** Source extracts, situation-logic scenarios, and robust Assertion-Reason matrices.

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SECTION 1: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Q1. Why are elections considered an indispensable element of a modern representative democracy?

FREQUENTLY REPEATED

In large modern societies, it is physically impossible for all citizens to sit together every day and make all legislative or governance decisions directly. Therefore, representative democracy is adopted, where elections serve as the essential mechanism for several key reasons:

- **Choice of Policy-Makers:** They allow voters to select the individuals who will make laws for the nation.
- **Choice of Executive:** They allow the electorate to choose who will form the government and take major executive decisions.
- **Choice of Ideology:** They allow citizens to choose the political party whose philosophies and policies will guide the government and the law-making process.
- **Mechanism of Accountability:** They provide a regular method to change representatives or remove a ruling party if their governance fails to meet the expectations of the public.



EXAM BOOSTER: WHAT MAKES AN ELECTION DEMOCRATIC?

According to NCERT, five core conditions must be met: 1) Everyone should be able to choose (One Person, One Vote, One Value). 2) Parties and candidates must be free to contest and offer real choice. 3) Elections must be held regularly. 4) Candidates preferred by the people should get elected. 5) Elections must be conducted in a free and fair manner.

Q2. Explain the system of 'Reserved Constituencies' in India. Why did the makers of our Constitution introduce it?

ANNUAL EXAM CLASSIC

The Indian Constitution guarantees every citizen the right to elect representatives and be elected. However, the open electoral competition carried a distinct risk that weaker social groups might lack the resources, education, and political networks to win against more influential sections.

To prevent an open system from leaving marginalized groups unrepresented, the creators of our Constitution designed a system of **Reserved Constituencies**:

1. **Structure:** In a reserved constituency, only candidates belonging to specific weaker sections can stand for election, while all eligible voters in that boundary participate in casting their votes.
2. **Target Groups:** Specific seats are reserved nationwide for the **Scheduled Castes (SC)** and **Scheduled Tribes (ST)** based on their proportion in the population.
3. **Local Bodies:** This reservation principle has been extended to rural (Panchayats) and urban (Municipalities) local bodies, including reservations for the **Other Backward Classes (OBC)** and a mandatory one-third reservation for **women candidates**.

SECTION 2: PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION COLLECTION

Q3. Describe the constitutional powers and independent status of the Election Commission (EC) of India that enable it to conduct free and fair elections. CBSE PAST YEAR FOCUS

In India, the Election Commission enjoys a high degree of independence, similar to the judiciary. Its extensive powers and structural safeguards include:

- **Autonomy of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC):** The CEC is appointed by the President of India but is not answerable to the President or the ruling government once in office. Removing a CEC before their term ends requires a highly complex impeachment process.
- **Comprehensive Control:** The EC takes decisions on every aspect of conduct and control of elections, from the announcement of dates to the final declaration of results.
- **Enforcing the Code of Conduct:** It implements the Model Code of Conduct and punishes any candidate or party that violates its regulations.
- **Control Over State Machinery:** During election periods, government officers on election duty operate under the direct administrative control of the EC, not the ruling executive. The EC can order the transfer of officials to ensure neutrality.

SECTION 3: VERY SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (1 MARK)

Q4. What is an 'Electoral Constituency'?

A specific geographical area demarcated for electoral purposes, from which voters elect a single representative to a legislative body.

Q5. How many electoral constituencies are there currently for the Lok Sabha in India?

There are exactly 543 Lok Sabha constituencies.

Q6. What is the official name commonly used for the 'Voters' List'?

The Electoral Roll.

Q7. What is the minimum age required for an Indian citizen to vote, and the minimum age to contest an election?

The voting age is 18 years, while the minimum age to contest an election as a candidate is 25 years.

Q8. What does 'EPIC' stand for in Indian elections?

Electoral Photo Identity Card.

Q9. Define the 'Model Code of Conduct'.

A set of guidelines and norms issued by the Election Commission that all political parties and candidates must follow during campaigning and elections.

Q10. Who was the leader of the 'Nyaya Yudh' (Movement for Justice) in Haryana in 1987?

Chaudhary Devi Lal.

Q11. What is an 'Incumbent' in politics?

The current holder of an elected political office.

Q12. What mechanism is used to register votes in modern Indian polling booths?

Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).

Q13. What is a 'By-election'?

An election held to fill a single legislative seat that has fallen vacant due to the death or resignation of a member before their term ends.

SECTION 4: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (2–3 MARKS)

Q14. Explain how political competition, despite creating factionalism and dirty tricks, ultimately serves public interest in the long run.

While political competition often leads to local divisions, infighting, and short-term mudslinging, its structural design functions to align political ambitions with public welfare:

- **Market-like Incentives:** Just as a trader is forced to provide good service to earn a profit, political parties know that addressing public issues will increase their chances of winning future elections.
- **Consequence of Neglect:** If a ruling party fails to address public demands, their popularity drops, allowing opposition groups to win power by highlighting those unfulfilled needs. This pressure keeps politicians accountable to the electorate.

Q16. What are the key rules and restrictions placed on candidates by the Model Code of Conduct during campaigns?

According to the Model Code of Conduct, no party or candidate can engage in the following activities once election dates are announced:

1. Use places of worship (temples, mosques, churches) for election propaganda or campaigning.
2. Use government vehicles, aircraft, or official personnel for election campaigns.
3. Lay foundation stones for new public projects, make major policy announcements, or promise public works to influence voters once elections are declared.



SLOGANS THAT SHAPED HISTORY

- **Garibi Hatao (Remove Poverty):** Used by the Congress led by Indira Gandhi in the 1971 Lok Sabha elections.
- **Save Democracy:** Used by the Janata Party in the 1977 elections following the Emergency.
- **Land to the Tiller:** Used by the Left Front in the 1977 West Bengal Assembly elections.

SECTION 5: LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS (5 MARKS)

Q17. Describe the sequential stages involved in the conduct of elections in India, from the initial step to the final declaration of results.

The electoral process in India is a structured operation managed across several sequential stages:

1. **Delimitation of Constituencies:** The country is divided into specific geographic areas called constituencies. This process ensures that each constituency holds a roughly equal population size.
2. **Preparation of the Voters' List:** The Electoral Roll is updated before elections to add new eligible citizens who have turned 18 and remove the names of those who have moved away or deceased.
3. **Nomination of Candidates:** Political parties choose their candidates, who receive the official party ticket and symbol. Candidates must file a nomination form, deposit a security fee, and submit a legal affidavit detailing their assets, liabilities, and any pending criminal cases.
4. **Election Campaign:** Parties and candidates present their arguments, manifestos, and promises to the public. Campaigns take place over a mandatory two-week period between the final announcement of the candidate list and the start of polling.
5. **Polling and Counting of Votes:** On election day, voters record their choice on Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) at local polling stations. After polling ends, the EVMs are sealed and transported to secure centers, where votes are counted simultaneously on a scheduled date to declare the winning candidate.

SECTION 6: CASE-BASED QUESTIONS

SOURCE TEXT: INDEPENDENT LEGAL AFFIDAVITS FOR CANDIDATES

"Every candidate who wishes to contest an election has to make a legal declaration, giving full details of: (i) Serious criminal cases pending against the candidate; (ii) Details of the assets and liabilities of the candidate and his or her family; and (iii) Educational qualifications of the candidate. This information has to be made public. This provides an opportunity to the voters to make their decision on the basis of the information provided by the candidates."

Q18. Based on the source text, answer the following questions:

(i) Why must candidates declare their assets, liabilities, and pending criminal cases before elections?

This declaration provides transparency, giving voters accurate information about a candidate's background, financial standing, and legal record so they can make an informed choice.

(ii) Why does the Indian electoral system not mandate a minimum educational qualification for members of parliament and assemblies?

The Constitution does not require educational qualifications to preserve the democratic principle that all adult citizens should have the right to contest elections. Requiring a university degree would unfairly disqualify a large portion of the population, undermining fair representation.

SECTION 7: ASSERTION AND REASON QUESTIONS

STANDARD EVALUATION DIRECTIONS

Evaluate the statements and select the correct option:

- A:** Both Assertion and Reason are true, and Reason is the correct explanation of Assertion.
- B:** Both Assertion and Reason are true, but Reason is not the correct explanation of Assertion.
- C:** Assertion is true, but Reason is false.
- D:** Assertion is false, but Reason is true.

Q19. Assertion (A): The Election Commission of India has the authority to order a repoll in specific polling stations or entire constituencies.

Reason (R): The Election Commission operates as an independent constitutional body with the power to act if it finds that the polling process was compromised by rigging, booth capturing, or violence.

Answer: A

Explanation: Both statements are true, and the reason correctly explains that the EC's independent status empowers it to cancel compromised votes and schedule a repoll to preserve election integrity.

SECTION 8: COMPETENCY-BASED QUESTIONS

Q20. Analyze the major challenges and limitations that continue to affect the fairness of elections in India, despite independent institutional oversight.

While the Election Commission actively maintains basic procedural fairness, the Indian electoral system faces several ongoing structural challenges:

- **Influence of Money Power:** Candidates and wealthy political parties spend massive sums during campaigns. This creates an uneven playing field, putting smaller independent candidates and less-funded parties at a disadvantage.
- **Criminal Connections:** Some parties secure tickets for candidates with criminal backgrounds or pending cases, using intimidation to win seats.
- **Dynastic Politics:** Political power is often concentrated within prominent families, with tickets distributed to relatives rather than based on merit or internal party democracy.
- **Lack of Meaningful Choice:** Major political parties often propose very similar manifestos and economic policies, leaving voters with limited ideological options.

SECTION 9: SOURCE AND SITUATION-BASED QUESTIONS

Q21. Suppose a wealthy candidate distributes cash and gifts to voters in a slum area on the night before polling. Identify which electoral rules are violated, and explain what steps a citizen can take to report this malpractice.

This action directly violates both the **Representation of the People Act** and the **Model Code of Conduct**, which classify bribing or bribing voters as a criminal electoral offense. Citizens can report this malpractice by taking photos or videos as evidence and submitting them to the Election Commission through official mobile portals like cVIGIL. The EC can investigate the report, deploy observers, and disqualify the candidate if the violations are confirmed.

SECTION 10: MOST IMPORTANT EXAM QUESTIONS

★ **HIGHEST PROBABILITY QUESTION:** Explain how voter turnout trends can be used to evaluate whether people have genuine confidence in the democratic nature of their country's elections.

Voter turnout trends serve as a key metric for measuring public trust in the integrity of an election:

- **High Participation of Disadvantaged Groups:** In India, the poor, illiterate, and underprivileged turn out to vote in higher percentages than wealthy and upper-class groups. This pattern shows that marginalized communities believe their votes carry weight and can influence government policies.
- **Comparing International Trends:** While voter turnout has declined in western democracies like the United States, participation in India has remained stable or increased over time, indicating continued public engagement with the electoral process.
- **The 'Vote Value' Perception:** The high turnout reflects a widespread belief among Indian voters that participating in elections allows them to bring about political change and hold representatives accountable.

SECTION 11: CHAPTER QUICK REVISION

INSTANT REVISION SUMMARIES

- **General Election:** Elections held simultaneously across all constituencies every five years to choose a new Lok Sabha or State Assembly.
- **Electoral Roll:** The official register containing the names of all citizens eligible to vote in a given constituency.
- **Affidavit:** A signed legal document submitted by a candidate declaring their personal assets, liabilities, and educational background under oath.
- **Rigging:** Fraudulent manipulation of the voting process, such as booth capturing or falsifying vote counts, to alter the election outcome.

SECTION 12: COMMON MISTAKES STUDENTS MAKE

COMMON EXAM ERRORS TO AVOID:

1. **Confusing the Terms 'Tributary' and 'Distributary' with Election Terms:** Ensure you do not mix up a *Constituency* with the *Voters' List*. A constituency is the physical geographical boundary mapped out for an election, while the voters' list is the actual register of names of people eligible to vote within that boundary.
2. **Misunderstanding Candidate Affidavits:** Students often mistakenly think that submitting an affidavit means a candidate cannot have any criminal records. The affidavit is simply a requirement to disclose information; it is the voters' responsibility to review those disclosures and make their choice accordingly.

SECTION 13: LAST-MINUTE REVISION SHEET

THE ULTIMATE ELECTORAL POLITICS REVISION GUIDE

Core Structural Rule: The Election Commission operates as an independent constitutional authority. The Chief Election Commissioner cannot be removed easily by the government, ensuring the body can manage elections impartially.

The Campaign Window: Official campaign activities take place over a mandatory two-week period between the publication of the final candidate list and the date of polling.