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Class 9 Political Sci. Notes

Electoral Politics

Key Notes and Important Questions with Answers

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CHAPTER: 3

ELECTORAL POLITICS

- In a democracy it is neither possible nor necessary for people to govern directly in the present global scenario.
- The most common form of democracy in our times is for the people to govern through their representatives e.g. MP, MLA, Councilor, Pradhan.
- Elections are held regularly after every five years for Lok Sabha or Lower house of the Parliament and Vidhan Sabha (State Assembly), Panchayats, municipalities etc.
- **Why do we need elections?**

  Elections are considered essential for any representative democracy. The voters make many choices in the elections viz.:

  (i) They can choose who will make laws for them.

  (ii) They can choose who will form the government and take major decisions.

  (iii) They can choose the party whose policies will guide the government and law making.
- **What makes an election democratic?**

  (i) One person, one vote.

  (ii) Choice to the voters.

  (iii) Elections must be held at regular interval.

  (iv) Free and fair elections
- **Demerits of political competition:**

  (a) It creates a sense of disunity, 'factionalism'.

  (b) Political parties and its leaders level allegations against one another.

  (c) Parties and candidates often use dirty tricks to win elections.
- **Electoral constituencies:**

  The country is divided into different areas for purposes of elections. These areas are called electoral constituencies. E.g. our country is

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divided into 543 Lok Sabha constituencies. The same principle applies for State Legislative Assemblies, Panchayats and Municipalities.

- **Reserved Constituencies:**
  There are some seats where people of certain communities/castes can contest for elections. These are called reserved constituencies. For example- 84 seats are reserved for the Scheduled Castes (SC) and 47 for the Scheduled Tribes (ST) in the Lok Sabha.

- **Voters' List:** This is a list of those who are eligible to vote. It is prepared much before the election. This is officially called the Electoral Roll and is commonly known as the Voters' List.
- **Universal adult franchise** means all the citizens aged 18 years and above can vote in the elections.
- **Process of Election in India:** Important steps involved in the elections are in as follows: (In sequence)
  (i) Formation of constituencies.
  (ii) Preparation of Voters' list.
  (iii) Declaration of date of Polling.
  (iv) Filling of Nominations.
  (v) Scrutiny of Nominations.
  (vi) Rejection/Withdrawal of Nominations.
  (vii) Election Campaign.
  (viii) Polling (Election Day)
  (ix) Counting of Votes and Declaration of Results.

- **Model Code of Conduct:** All the candidates and their parties follow the Model Code of Conduct for election campaigns. According to this, Once elections are announced no party or candidate can:
  (a) Use any place of worship for election propaganda
  (b) Use government vehicles, aircrafts and officials for elections; and

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(c) Ministers shall not lay foundation stones of any projects, take any big policy decisions or make any promises of providing public facilities.

- **Slogans**: Slogans are very important during election campaigns. Political Parties try to attract the attention of people through slogans. Some of the successful slogans given by different political parties in various elections. These are:

S.No.	Name of the Leader	Party	Slogan	Election Year
1	Indira Gandhi	Indian National Congress	Garibi Hatao (Remove poverty	Lok Sabha elections, 1971
2	Jayaprakash Narayan	Janata Party	Save Democracy	Lok Sabha election, 1977
3	Left Front	Left Front	Land to the Tiller	West Bengal Assembly elections,1977
4	N. T. Rama Rao	Telugu Desam Party	Protect the Self-Respect of the Telugus	Andhra Pradesh Assembly elections, 1983

- **Unfair practices in elections:** We often hear/read through media about the unfair practices in the elections. These include:
  (i) Inclusion of false names and exclusion of genuine names in the voters' list.
  (ii) Misuse of government facilities and officials by the ruling party.
  (iii) Excessive use of money by rich candidates and big parties, and

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(iv) Intimidation of voters and rigging on the polling day.

- **Power and Functions of the Election Commission of India:**
  - (a) EC takes decisions on every aspect of conduct and control of elections from the announcement of elections to the declaration of results.
  - (b) It implements the Code of Conduct and punishes any candidate or party that violates it.
  - (c) During the election period, the Election Commission 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.
  - (d) When on election duty, government officers work under the control of the Election Commission and not the government.
- **Challenges to Free and Fair elections:**

(i) Candidates and parties use a lot of money. (Money Power)

(ii)Candidates with Criminal connection (Muscles Power)

(iii) Major roles of dominant families and their relatives.

(iv) Little choice to ordinary voters.

(v)Candidates of Independent and smaller parties suffer disadvantages.

QUESTIONS

Very Short Answer Type Questions (1 Mark each)

1. Who had formed the Lok Dal Party in Haryana?
2. Who led the movement 'Struggle for Justice'?
3. Who is responsible for the free and fair elections in India?
4. Who had given the slogan ' Garibi Hatao'?

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5. Which political party had given the slogan 'Save Democracy'?
6. How do we find out if the people like their representatives or not?
7. What do you mean by Election?
8. Who gives reward or punishment to the political representative?
9. Which the Union Territories have a Legislative Assembly?
10. How many seats are unreserved in the Lok Sabha?
11. How many seats are reserved for schedule castes and Schedule Tribes in Lok Sabha?
12. Write one of the features of a democratic election?
13. What is adult franchise?
14. What type of voting system is there in India?
15. What is EPIC?
16. Who has to fill a nomination form?
17. What is general election?
18. What is the primary desire of the political leaders?

Short/Long Answer Type Questions (3/5 Marks)

1. Discuss the composition of Parliament of India?
2. Explain the electoral roll.
3. Discuss the distribution of seats in the Lok Sabha?
4. Discuss the election process.
5. Discuss the powers and functions of Election commission of India.
6. Explain the different types of representation in India.
7. Whether system of elections are democratic or not? Justify.
8. Describe the electoral constituencies.
9. What makes an election democratic?
10. Discuss the demerits of electoral competition or party politics?
11. Why do we need elections in democracy?
12. Describe the limitations and challenges to the free and fair elections.
13. Explain the Model Code of Conduct?
14. Briefly describe the activities that happen at the polling booth.

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ANSWERS

Very Short Answer Type Questions (1 Mark each)

1. Chaudhary Devi Lal
2. Chaudhary Devi Lal
3. Election commission of India
4. Former Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi.
5. .Janata Party.
6. By Election
7. Elections are all about political competition where people can choose their representatives at regular intervals and change them if they wish to do so.
8. The people or the Voters
9. NCT of Delhi and Puduchery
10. 412
11. Currently, in the Lok Sabha, 84 seats are reserved for the Scheduled Castes and 47 for the Scheduled Tribes (as on 1 September 2012).
12. See the key points.
13. In India, all adult (18 years old and above) Citizens have the right to vote or elect their representatives without any discrimination.
14. First past the post.
15. Election Photo Identity Card.
16. Every person who wishes to contest an election has to file a 'nomination form'.
17. After the five years, Elections are held in all constituencies at the same time, either on the same day or within a few days.
18. Political leaders want to remain in power or get power and positions for themselves.

Short/Long Answer Type Questions (3/5 Marks)

1. Parliament is the supreme legislative body of India. The Indian parliament comprises of the President and the two houses – Lok Sabha (House of the

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People or lower house of the Parliament) and Rajya Sabha (Council of States or lower house of the Parliament).

2. The electoral roll is a comprehensively compiled list which bears the names also details of voters in a specific constituency.
3. Total Seats (constituencies) : 545 (543 elected + 2 nominated)
    - General : 412
    - Reserved for SC: 84
    - Reserved for ST: 47
    - Anglo Indians: 02 (nominated by the President of India)
4. See the key points.
5. See the key points.
6. i. Member of Parliament or an MP (Lok Sabha)
   ii. Member of Parliament or an MP (Rajya Sabha)
   iii. Member of Legislative Assembly or an MLA
   iv. Member of Legislative council or an MLC
   v. Members of Panchayats
   vi. Member of Wards
7. Yes, because:
    - Elections are held regularly after every five years.
    - All the citizen use their right to vote.
    - During elections, the Election Commission monitors all the polling activities.
    - After completion the term of all the elected representatives comes to an end.
    - Elections are held in all constituencies at the same time, either on the same day or within a few days.
8. On the basis of voter's population, election commission has divided the country into different areas for the purposes of elections. These areas are called electoral constituencies. The voters who live in an area elect one representative from their constituency.
9. The minimum conditions of a democratic election are following:
    - Everyone should have one vote with equal weightage

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- Parties should offer some real choice to the voters
- Elections must be held regularly
- The candidate preferred by the people should get elected.
- Elections should be conducted in a free and fair manner

10. Demerits of electoral competitions are:
    - It creates a sense of disunity and 'factionalism' in every locality.
    - Political parties and leaders often level allegations against one another.
    - Parties and candidates often use dirty tricks to win elections.
    - Pressure to win electoral fights does not allow sensible long-term policies to be formulated.
    - In respect of the above demerits or unhealthy competition some good people who may wish to serve the country do not enter this arena.
11. elections are considered essential in our times for any representative democracy because:
    - In any large community, this is not possible that all the people can sit together every day and take all the decisions.
    - Nor is it possible for everyone to have the time and knowledge to take decisions on all matters.
    - People can choose or change their representatives according to their wish.
12. See the key points.
13. See the key points.
14. i. The election officials identify voter's identity
    ii. Put a mark on his/her finger and
    iii. Allow her to cast her vote.
    iv. An agent of each candidate is allowed to sit inside the polling booth and ensure that the voting takes place in a fair way.

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