



CLASS - 8

SOCIAL SCIENCE



Chapter 5: Universal Franchise and India's Electoral System

Questions and Activities

Que 1. Why is universal adult franchise important for a healthy democracy?

Answer:

- Universal adult franchise means that all adult citizens have the right to vote.
- This gives all citizens an equal opportunity to choose the government.
- It reduces the discrimination of rich and poor, caste, religion and gender.
- This makes democracy stronger and more just.

Que 2. What is the meaning of 'secret ballot'? Why is this important in a democracy?

Answer: Secret ballot means that no one knows who the voter votes for.

Importance:

- This allows the voter to vote without fear or pressure.
- This is necessary for free and fair elections.
- This increases people's faith in democracy.

Que 3. Give examples of direct and indirect elections.

Answer:

Direct Elections	Indirect Elections
In this, the people directly elect the representatives. Examples: Lok Sabha elections, assembly elections.	In this, the representatives elected by the people elect a person. Examples: Presidential election, Rajya Sabha election.

Que 4. How is the election of members to the Lok Sabha different from that to the Rajya Sabha?

Answer:

Lok Sabha Elections:

- The members of the Lok Sabha are directly elected by the people.
- It's a direct election.
- Members represent a parliamentary constituency.

Rajya Sabha Elections:

- The members of the Rajya Sabha elect the elected members of the legislative assemblies of the states.
- It is an indirect election.
- The Rajya Sabha represents the states.

Que 5. What, in your view, are the advantages of the EVM over paper ballots?

Answer:

- The counting of votes is fast.
- Paper is saved.
- The chances of inaccurate or invalid votes are low.
- The election results can be announced soon.

Que 6. Voter turnout has been declining in some urban areas of India. What could be the reasons for this trend, and what steps can be taken to encourage more people to vote?

Answer:

Causes:

- Lack of interest in politics among people.
- Using the holiday for rest or travel.
- Not having a name in the voter list.
- Thinking "what difference would my one vote make?"

Solution:

- Conducting awareness campaigns on the importance of voting.
- Voter education in schools and society.
- To simplify the process of adding names to the electoral rolls.
- Motivating the youth to vote.

Que 7. Why do you think a proportion of seats in the Lok Sabha is reserved for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes? Write a short note.

Answer:

- The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes have faced social and economic discrimination in history.
- Reservation gives them representation in Parliament.
- This allows their problems and needs to be communicated to the government.
- It promotes social justice and equality.

Que 8. Social media is changing the way we experience elections — from catchy campaign reels and live speeches to political debates on Instagram and Twitter. But is this strengthening democracy or confusing it? Discuss in pairs: What are the benefits, what are the challenges, and what might the future of elections be in a digital age?

Answer:

Advantages:

- Information reaches voters quickly.
- Young people get involved in politics.
- Leaders can communicate directly with the public.
- Discussions on election issues increase.

Challenges:

- False news can spread rapidly.
- There is a risk of spreading rumors and hatred.
- People tend to believe information without checking.
- Publicity can sometimes lead to confusion.

Conclusion:

- Social media can also strengthen and complicate democracy.
- Its proper use, fact-checking, and responsible behavior are very important.

Que 9. Visit the website <https://www.indiavotes.com>, and choose a parliamentary constituency election from any year and explore its results. Do the same for an assembly election in your state.

Answer:

Example: Parliamentary constituency

Constituency: Sonipat

Type of Election: Lok Sabha Election

Points of Study:

- Total Number of Candidates
- Name of the winning candidate
- Name of the winning team
- Votes received
- Nearest Rival
- Margin of Victory

Example: Assembly constituency

Constituency: Assembly seat of your area

Type of election: Assembly Election

Points of Study:

- Name of the winning candidate
- Political Parties
- Total Votes
- Second-place candidates
- Margin of Victory

Conclusion:

- Such a study helps us understand the election results, the choice of the electorate and the position of political parties.

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