

Class 9 - Social Science

Understanding Society India and Beyond PART-I

Political Science - Elections

CBSE NOTES

Political Science - Elections - Practice Worksheet

Strengthen your foundation with key concepts and basic applications.



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Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

1. Define elections and explain their importance in a democracy.

Hint: Consider the definitions and roles of representatives in a democratic system.

2. What is the difference between direct and indirect elections? Provide examples for each.

Hint: Think of elections in terms of who is directly chosen by the voters.



Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

3. Explain the First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) electoral system. How does it function in Indian elections?

Hint: Review how votes translate into seats within the electoral process.

4. What role does the Election Commission of India (ECI) play in the electoral process?

Hint: Consider the constitutional provisions that outline the ECI's responsibilities.



Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

5. Discuss the significance of the Representation of the People Acts of 1950 and 1951 in India.

Hint: Identify how each Act contributes to the electoral process in India.

6. What is psephology? How is it relevant to the study of elections?

Hint: Explore the origins of the word and its application in modern political analysis.



Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

7. Explain the concept of 'delimitation' in the context of Indian elections.

Hint: Consider why constituency boundaries need to be adjusted over time.

8. Define accountability in the context of elected representatives. Why is it important in a democracy?

Hint: Think about how elections influence accountability of elected officials.



Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

9. What challenges does the Election Commission of India face in conducting free and fair elections?

Hint: Identify specific issues that could disrupt the electoral process.

10. Discuss how technological innovations have transformed the electoral process in India.

Hint: Reflect on modern tools that assist in the electoral process.



Check your answers with the solutions below.

1. Define elections and explain their importance in a democracy.

Solution: Elections are the processes through which citizens vote to select their representatives. In a democracy, elections are fundamental as they ensure accountability and legitimacy of representatives. They provide citizens the right to express their preferences and influence governance. For example, in India, regular elections allow citizens to elect members to the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha, reinforcing the principle of representation. Additionally, elections facilitate peaceful transitions of power and promote political engagement among the populace.

2. What is the difference between direct and indirect elections? Provide examples for each.

Solution: Direct elections involve citizens voting directly for their representatives, while indirect elections involve voting for representatives who will then elect leaders. For instance, Indian citizens directly elect members of the Lok Sabha (direct election) but elect representatives who later choose the President of India (indirect election). This system allows for a more immediate representation of the people's will in direct elections, contrasting with the strategic selection of leaders in indirect elections.

3. Explain the First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) electoral system. How does it function in Indian elections?

Solution: The First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) system is an electoral method where the candidate receiving the most votes in a constituency wins. In India, this system applies to elections for the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha. Each voter casts one vote for one candidate, and the candidate with the highest number of votes secures the seat. This method is straightforward but may result in a candidate winning without an overall majority, raising questions about proportional representation in the legislature.



Check your answers with the solutions below.

4. What role does the Election Commission of India (ECI) play in the electoral process?

Solution: The Election Commission of India (ECI) oversees and ensures free and fair elections in India. Established by Articles 324 to 329 of the Constitution, it manages the conduct of elections for the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and various state assemblies. The ECI is responsible for preparing electoral rolls, conducting elections, and addressing election-related disputes. Its initiatives aim to enhance voter participation and maintain the integrity of the electoral process, ensuring representation and accountability.

5. Discuss the significance of the Representation of the People Acts of 1950 and 1951 in India.

Solution: The Representation of the People Act, 1950, focuses on seat allocation and the preparation of electoral rolls, ensuring all citizens over 18 can vote. The 1951 Act covers the conduct of elections, including candidate nominations and election campaigns. Together, these Acts promote electoral integrity, transparency, and accountability, forming the backbone of India's democratic framework by ensuring that elections are conducted fairly and equitably.

6. What is psephology? How is it relevant to the study of elections?

Solution: Psephology is the scientific study of elections and voting patterns. Derived from the Greek word for 'pebble', this term relates to how ancient Greeks voted. Psephologists analyze electoral behavior, trends, and outcomes, providing insights into voter preferences and the effectiveness of political campaigns. Understanding these dynamics is crucial in predicting election results and improving electoral strategies, making psephology an important field in political science.



Check your answers with the solutions below.

7. Explain the concept of 'delimitation' in the context of Indian elections.

Solution: Delimitation refers to the process of redrawing the boundaries of electoral constituencies to ensure fair and equal representation. In India, the Delimitation Commission is responsible for making these adjustments based on population changes. This process helps maintain parity among constituencies, ensuring that each vote carries equal weight in election outcomes. Delimitation is crucial for ensuring that demographic shifts and population growth are reflected in the parliamentary structure.

8. Define accountability in the context of elected representatives. Why is it important in a democracy?

Solution: Accountability refers to the obligation of elected representatives to answer to their constituents for their actions and decisions. In a democracy, it is vital because it fosters trust in government and ensures that representatives act in the public's best interests. Mechanisms like regular elections, public inquiries, and feedback from constituents hold representatives liable for their governance, thereby enhancing democratic legitimacy and transparency.

9. What challenges does the Election Commission of India face in conducting free and fair elections?

Solution: The Election Commission of India faces numerous challenges like misinformation, voter intimidation, and the influence of money in politics during elections. Additionally, ensuring the participation of marginalized communities and maintaining impartiality amidst political pressures are significant hurdles. Despite these challenges, the ECI implements reforms and employs technological innovations to bolster public confidence in the electoral process, striving to maintain the integrity of elections.



Check your answers with the solutions below.

10. Discuss how technological innovations have transformed the electoral process in India.

Solution: Technological innovations like Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and online voter registration have significantly streamlined the electoral process in India. EVMs enhance voting efficiency and reduce fraud risk, while online platforms facilitate easier access to voter information and registration. Furthermore, technological tools for monitoring elections and ensuring transparency have improved public trust in the electoral system, thereby encouraging higher voter turnout and participation.



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