

CHAPTER -3 ELECTORAL POLITICS

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Chapter 3

ELECTORAL POLITICS

Q1. What the minimum conditions of a democratic election?

Ans. The minimum conditions of a democratic elections are:

- Everyone should be able to choose. This means that everyone should have one vote and every vote should have equal value.
- There should be something to choose from. Parties and candidates should be free to contest elections and should offer some real choice to the voters.
- The choice should be offered at regular intervals. Elections must be held regularly after every few years.
- The candidate preferred by the people should get elected.
- Elections should be conducted in a free and fair manner where people can choose them at their will.

Q2. Why should elections be held regularly?

Ans. Elections should be held regularly because:

- Elections should be held regularly because it provides incentives to the political parties and leaders.
- They know that if they raise-issues that people want to raised, it would make them popular and increase their chances of victory in the next elections.
- But, if they fail to satisfy the voters with their work, they will not be able to win again.

CHAPTER -3 ELECTORAL POLITICS

Q3. Why is there a provision of reservation of seats in the legislatures?

Ans.

- The constitution makers were worried that in an open electoral competition, certain weaker sections may not stand a good chance to get elected to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.
- They may not have the required resources, education and contacts to contest and win elections against the more influential and resourceful contestants.
- If that happens, our Parliament and Assemblies would be deprived of the voice of a significant section of our population
- Hence, the seats are reserved for them in the legislatures.

Q4. What are Electronic Voting Machines?

Ans.

- Electronic voting machines (EVM) are used to record votes.
- The machine shows the names of the candidates and the party symbols.
- Independent candidates too have their own symbols, allotted by election commission.
- The voter has to do is to press the button against the name of the candidate she wants to give her vote.

Q5. Write a short note on Election Commission.

Ans.

- In our country elections are conducted by an independent and very powerful Election Commission (EC).
- EC takes decisions on every aspect of conduct and control of elections from the announcement of elections to the declaration of results.
- It implements the Code of Conduct and punishes any candidate or party that violates it.

CHAPTER -3 ELECTORAL POLITICS

- During the election period, the EC can order the government to follow some guidelines, to prevent use and misuse of governmental power to enhance its chances to win elections.
- When on election duty, government officers work under the control of the EC and not the government.

Q6. What do you mean by Voter's List? What is its significance?

Ans.

In a democratic election, the list of those who are eligible to vote is prepared much before the election and given to everyone.

This is an important step in democratic election because:

- In our country, all the citizens aged 18 years and above can vote in an election.
- Every citizen has the right to vote, regardless of his or her caste, religion or gender.
- It is the responsibility of the government to get the names of all the eligible voters put on the Voter's List. As new persons attain voting age, names are added to the voters' list. Names of those who move out of a place or those who are dead are deleted.
- A complete revision of the list takes place every five years. This is done to ensure that it remains up to date.
- A new system of Election Photo Identity Card (EPIC) has been introduced.

Q.7 What are Reserved Constituencies ?

Ans.

- The makers of our Constitution thought of a special system of reserved constituencies for the weaker sections.
- Some constituencies are reserved for people who belong to the Scheduled Castes [SC] and Scheduled Tribes [ST].

CHAPTER -3 ELECTORAL POLITICS

- In a SC reserved constituency only someone who belongs to the Scheduled Castes can stand for election.
- Similarly only those belonging to the Scheduled Tribes can contest an election from a constituency reserved for ST.
- Currently, in the Lok Sabha, 84 seats are reserved for the Scheduled Castes and 47 for the Scheduled Tribes (as on 26 January 2019).

Q.8 What are the demerits of electoral competition?

Ans.

1. It creates a sense of disunity and 'factionalism' in every locality.
2. Different political parties and leaders often level allegations against one another.
3. Parties and candidates often use dirty tricks to win elections.
4. Some people say that this pressure to win electoral fights does not allow sensible long-term policies to be formulated.
5. Some good people who may wish to serve the country do not enter this arena as they do not like the idea of being dragged into unhealthy competition.

Q9. What are By Elections?

Ans. When elections are held only for one constituency to fill the vacancy caused by death or resignation of a member. This is called By Elections.

Q 10. State the criteria for nomination of a candidate?

Ans.

- A person above 25 years can contest the elections.
- Political parties select their candidates for contesting elections and give them a 'ticket' to contest the elections.
- A person contesting the elections has to fill a nomination form and deposit an amount as a security deposit.

CHAPTER -3 ELECTORAL POLITICS

- While contesting elections, every candidate has to give complete details of educational qualifications, serious criminal cases pending against them and total property value of his/her family.