

1. Which of the following statements about the reason for conducting electing are false?

- (a) Election enable people to judge the performance to government.
- (b) People select the representative of their choice in an election
- (c) Election enable people to evaluate the performance of the judiciary
- (d) People can indicate which politics they prefer.

Ans. (c) Elections enable people to evaluate the performance of the judiciary.

2. Which of these is not a good reason to say that Indian election are democratic?

- (a) India has the largest number of voters in the world.
- (b) Indian's Election Commission is very powerful.
- (c) In India, everyone above the age of 18 has a right to vote.
- (d) In India, the losing party accept the electoral verdict.

Ans. (a) India has the largest number of voters in the world.

3. Match the following.

- | | |
|--|--|
| (a) It is necessary to keep the votes last list upto date because | (i) there is a fair representation of all sections of the society |
| (b) Some constituencies are reserved for SCs and STs so that | (ii) everyone has equal opportunity to elect the representative |
| (c) Everyone has one and only one vote so that | (iii) all candidate must have fair chance of completing in elections |
| (d) Party in power is not allowed to use government vehicles because | (iv) some people may have moved away from the area where they voted last |

Ans. (a) It is necessary to keep the votes list upto date because some people may have moved away from the area where they voted last.

(b) Some constituencies are reserved for SCs and STs so that there is a fair representation of all sections of the society.

(c) Everyone has one and only one vote so that every one has equal opportunity to elect the representative.

(d) Party in power is not allowed to use government vehicles because all candidate must have fair chance of completing in elections.

4. List all the different election related activities mentioned in the chapter and arrange them in a time sequence, beginning with the first activity and ending with the last. Some of these activities are given below:

Releasing election manifestos; counting of votes; making of voters' list; election campaign; declaration of election results; casting of votes; ordering of re-poll; announcing election schedule; filing nomination.

Ans: Election related activities are as under:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Announcing election scheduled. | 2. Making of Voters list. |
| 3. Filing nomination. | 4. Releasing election Manifestos. |
| 5. Elections campaign. | 6. Casting of vote. |
| 7. Ordering re-poll. (if any) | 8. Declaration of Elections result |
5. Surekha is an officer in-charge of ensuring free and fair election in an assembly constituency in a state. Describe what should she focus on for each of the following stages of elections :

- Elections campaign
- Polling day
- Counting day

- Ans.**
- Ensure that candidate do not violate the model code of conduct for election.
 - Ensure that no unfair practices like booth capturing and rigging etc. takes place.
 - Votes are counted properly and results announced.

6. The table below gives the proportion of different communities among the candidates who won elections to the US Congress. Compare these to the proportion of these communities in the population of the US. Based on this, would you suggest a system of reservations in the US Congress? If yes, why and for which communities? If no why not?

	Proportion of the community (in percent) in the	
	House of representatives	Population of US
Blacks	8	13
Hispanics	5	13
Whites	86	70

Ans: There is need for reservation in US Congress regarding the Blacks and Hispanics. As their representation is less as compared to their population.

7. Can we draw the following conclusions from the information given in this chapter? Give two facts to support your position for each of these.
- Election Commission of India does not have enough powers to conduct free and fair elections in the country.
 - There is a high level of popular participation in the elections in our country.
 - It is very easy for the party in power to win an election.
 - Many reforms are needed to make our elections completely free and fair.

Ans:

- Election Commission is an independent agency and no body can challenge its power.
- Yes, the participation of people is as per our democratic norms.
- It is not necessary that a party in power can win the election because according to the code of conduct no body can use of official machinery or person in its favour so often we see that the party in power is not winning the election.
- It is fact that reforms are needed to make our election completely free and fair because we can observe that the candidate are spending more than the allotted expenditure of the election commission.

No doubt there is proper security arrangement but still booth capturing and use by force and money is still there. So we must check these problems and make election completely free and fair.

8. Chinappa was convicted for torturing his wife for dowry. Satbir was held guilty of practicing untouchability. The court did not allow either of them to contest elections. Does this decision go against the principles of democratic elections?

Ans: The decision of the court is correct regarding Chinappa and Satbir that they cannot contest election. This Decision is not against the principle of

democratic election because of the elections commission is also favour of such decision that the criminal or convict should not be contest the election.

9. Here are some reports of electoral malpractices from different parts of the world. Is there anything that these countries can learn from India to improve their election? what would you suggest in case?
- During an election in Nigeria, the officer in-charge of counting votes deliberately increased the votes of one candidate and declared him elected. The court later found out that more than five lakh votes cast for one candidate were counted in favour of another.
 - Just before election in Fiji, a pamphlet was distributed warning vote for former Prime minister, Mahendra Chaudhry will lead to bloodshed. This was a threat to voters of Indian origin.
 - In the Us, each state has its own method of voting, its own procedures of counting and its own authority for conducting election. Authorities in the state of Florida took many controversial decision that favoured Mr. Bush in presidential election in 2000. But no one could change those decisions.

Ans.

- Returning officers should be impartial.
- This is an electoral malpractice. Protection should be given to his supporters. Elections should be postponed if violence is feared or it seems that elections cannot be conducted fairly.
- A Uniform system of counting should be introduced.

10. Here are some reports of malpractices in Indian election. Identify the problem in each case. What should be done to correct the situation?

- Following the announcement of election, the minister promised to provide financial aid to reopen the closed sugar mill.
- Opposition parties alleged that their statement and campaign was not given due attention in Doordarshan and all India mill.
- An inquiry by the election commission showed that electoral rolls of a state contains name of 20 lakh fake votes.
- The hoodlums of political party were moving with guns, physically preventing supporters of the other political party to meet the voters and attacking meeting of other parties.

Ans.

- The minister is taking advantage of his party being in power. The mill should not be opened and it should be left to the winning party to decide what to do about it.

- (b) It is the same problem of the party in power benefitting . Equal time should be given to the oppositions well to prevent their views in front of the voters.
- (c) Voter's list contained bogus votes to benefit the party in power. These names should be deleted from the list.
- (d) Adequate security should be provided to polling booths.

11. Arun was not in class when the chapter 'Electoral Politics' was being taught. He came the next day and repeated what he had heard from his father. Can you tell Ramesh what is wrong with these statements?

- (a) Women always vote the way men tell them to. So, what is the point of giving them the right vote.
- (b) Party politics creates tension in the society. Election should be decided by consensus not by competition.
- (c) Only graduates should be allowed to stand as candidate for election.

Ans.

- (a) No, women can decide for whom they should vote for.
- (b) Electoral competition is necessary because it provides incentives to political parties and leaders and forces them to serve the people.
- (c) Elections have nothing to do with the educational qualifications of a candidate.

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