

Electoral Politics

Source Based Questions

Source 1

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

Elections can be held in many ways. All democratic countries hold elections. But most non-democratic countries also hold some kind of elections. How do we distinguish democratic elections from any other election? We discussed many examples of countries where elections are held but they can't really be called democratic elections. Let us recall the minimum conditions of a democratic election:

First, everyone should be able to choose. This means that everyone should have one vote and every vote should have equal value.

Second, 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.

Third, the choice should be offered at regular intervals. Elections must be held regularly after every few years.

Fourth, the candidate preferred by the people should get elected.

Fifth, elections should be conducted in a free and fair manner where people can choose as they really wish.

These might look like very simple and easy conditions. But there are many countries where these are not fulfilled.

Q1. Which one of the following is not a factor that makes an election democratic?

- a. There should be something to choose from.
- b. Parties and candidates should be free to contest elections.
- c. The choice should not be offered at regular intervals.
- d. The candidate preferred by the people should get elected.

Ans. (c)



Q2. The mechanism by which people can choose their representatives at regular intervals is called:

- a. Election
- b. Model code of conduct
- c. Electoral roll
- d. By-election

Ans. (a)

Q3. Elections on the basis of fraud or malpractices is:

- a. Rigged election
- b. By-election
- c. Election manifesto
- d. Electoral roll

Ans. (a)

Q4. Which of the following is the minimum condition of a democratic election?

- a. Everyone should be able to choose.
- b. There should be something to choose from.
- c. The choice should be offered at regular intervals.
- d. All of the above

Ans. (d)

Q5. What does it mean: 'Everyone should have the right to choose representative'?

- a. Every one has one vote.
- b. Every vote has equal value.
- c. Both a. and b.
- d. None of the above

Ans. (c)



Q6. There are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read them and choose the correct option:

Assertion (A): Elections are all about competition.

Reason (R): Different political parties make promises and give incentives to motivate the voters to vote them.

- a. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- b. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- c. Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
- d. Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Ans. (b)

Source 2

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

Once the constituencies are decided, the next step is to decide who can and who cannot vote. This decision cannot be left to anyone till the last day. In a democratic election, the list of those who are eligible to vote is prepared much before the election and given to everyone. This list is officially called the Electoral Roll and is commonly known as the Voters' List.

This is an important step for it is linked to the first condition of a democratic election: everyone should get an equal opportunity to choose representatives. Earlier, we read about the principle of Universal Adult Franchise. In practice it means that everyone should have one vote and each vote should have equal value. No one should be denied the right to vote without a good reason. Different citizens differ from one another in many ways: some are rich, some are poor; some are highly educated, some are not so educated or not educated at all; some are kind, others are not so kind. But all of them are human beings with their own needs and views. That is why all of them deserve to have an equal say in decisions that affect them.

Q1. What is the official term used for showing the list of those who are eligible to vote in a democratic election?

- a. Electoral roll
- b. Voters' list
- c. Either a. or b.
- d. Electoral list

Ans. (c)

Q2. Which of the following is not a condition for a democratic election?

- a. Everyone should get an equal opportunity to choose representatives.
- b. No one should be denied the right to vote without a good reason.
- c. The citizens do not have an equal say in decisions that affect them.
- d. Everyone should have one vote and each vote should have equal value.

Ans. (c)

Q3. Identify the correct conclusion for the given statement. 'Everyone has one and only one vote.'

- a. There is a fair representation of all sections of our society.
- b. Everyone has equal opportunity to elect their representative.
- c. Some people may have moved away from the area where they voted last.
- d. All candidates must have a fair chance of competing in elections.

Ans. (b)

Q4. Which one of the following is a feature of election system based on the principle of Universal Adult Franchise?

- a. Each constituency has roughly the same population.
- b. There is a reservation of seats for the SCs and the STs.
- c. Anyone can form a party or contest elections.
- d. Everyone who is 18 years of age or older has a right to vote.

Ans. (d)



Q5. Which of the following is prepared by a door to door survey to include only bona fide voters and minimise role of bogus voters?

- a. Constituency
- b. Electoral roll
- c. Election manifesto
- d. Election Photo Identity Card

Ans. (b)

Q6. On what basis some constituencies are small in area while others are very big?

- a. Caste reservation
- b. Number of voters
- c. Distribution of population
- d. None of the above

Ans. (b)

Source 3

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow:

Our Constitution entitles every citizen to elect her/his representative and to be elected as a representative. The Constitution makers, however, 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 the State Legislative Assemblies. They may not have the required resources, education and contacts to contest and win elections against others. Those who are influential and resourceful may prevent them from winning elections. If that happens, our Parliament and Assemblies would be deprived of the voice of a significant section of our population. That would make our democracy less representative and less democratic.

Q1. What makes an election democratic?

Ans. Following conditions can make an election democratic:

- (i) Elections must be held regularly every five years.
- (ii) Every eligible voter must have one vote with equal value.
- (iii) Elections should be conducted in a free and fair manner and people should have full freedom to vote for any candidate they like.

Q2. What are electoral constituencies?

Ans. In India, an area based system of representation is followed where the country is divided into different areas for election purposes is called electoral constituencies.

Q3. What makes the democracy less representative and less democratic?

Ans. If our Parliament and Assemblies are deprived of the voice of a significant section of our population, this would make the democracy less representative and less democratic.

Source 4

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow:

The main purpose of election is to give people a chance to choose the representatives, the government and the policies they prefer. Therefore, it is necessary to have a free and open discussion about who is a better representative, which party will make a better government or what is a good policy. This is what happens during election campaigns. In our country such campaigns take place for a two-week period between the announcement of the final list of candidates and the date of polling.

During this period the candidates contact their voters, political leaders address election meetings and political parties mobilise their supporters. This is also the period when newspapers and television news are full of election related stories and debates. But election campaign is not limited to these two weeks only. Political parties start preparing for elections months before they actually take place.

Q1. What is the main purpose of election?

Ans. The main purpose of election is to give people a chance to choose the representatives, the government and the policies they prefer.

Q2. What is meant by election campaign?

Ans. Election campaign means the promotion or propaganda of the policies, offers and promises that the candidates make to voters to fulfil if they are elected.

Q3. Mention the period of election campaigning in India. What happens during this period?

Ans. In India, election campaigning takes place for a two- week period between the announcement of the final list of candidates and the date of polling.



During this period, the candidates contact their electorate, political leaders, address election meetings and political parties mobilise their supporters.

