

NCERT QUESTIONS WITH SOLUTIONS

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

Ans. Universal adult franchise (UAF) means that every adult citizen has the right to vote, regardless of caste, gender, religion or wealth. It is important for a healthy democracy because it ensures equal participation, represents all sections of the society and holds leaders accountable to the people.

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

Ans. A secret ballot means voting in private so that no one knows who a person has voted for. It is important in democracy as it protects voters from pressure or threats and ensures free and fair elections by allowing people to vote without fear or influence.

3. Give examples of direct and indirect elections.

Ans. In a direct election, citizens vote directly for the candidates they wish to elect. For example, elections to the Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, Gram Panchayats, and Municipal Corporations are all direct elections. Here, the voters choose their representatives themselves through universal adult franchise.

In contrast, an indirect election is when elected representatives vote to choose a leader or representative. Examples of indirect elections in India include the election of the President, Vice President, and members of the Rajya Sabha. In these cases, Members of Parliament (MPs) or Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) cast votes on behalf of the people.

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

Ans. Members of the Lok Sabha are elected through direct elections. All citizens aged 18 and above vote directly for their representatives in their constituencies. The candidate with the most votes becomes a Member of Parliament (MP). On the other hand, Rajya Sabha members are chosen through indirect elections. They are elected by the MLAs (Members of State Legislative Assemblies), not by the public. Some members are also nominated by the President for their special contributions to society.

5. What, in your view, are the advantages of the EVM over ballot papers?

Ans. Advantages of EVM (Electronic Voting Machine) over ballot papers are:

1. **Faster Counting:** Results can be declared quickly as counting is done electronically.
2. **Cost-effective:** Saves paper, printing and transportation costs.
3. **Reusable:** EVMs can be used multiple times, they have to be only calibrated as per the requirement
4. **Reduces Errors:** Minimises human errors in counting.
5. **Eco-friendly:** No need of paper, so it helps save trees
6. **Prevents Fraud:** Reduces chances of invalid or tampered votes.

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?

Ans. Voter turnout has been declining in some urban areas of India due to several reasons. These include voter apathy, lack of awareness, busy lifestyles, and a sense of disillusionment with political candidates or the electoral process. Some people also feel that their single vote will not make a difference.

To encourage more people to vote, steps like increasing voter awareness through campaigns, making the voting process easier with facilities like online registration and better access to polling booths, and encouraging youth participation through educational programs can be helpful. Additionally, ensuring transparency and accountability in politics can help build trust and motivate citizens to take part in elections..

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.

Ans. A proportion of seats in the Lok Sabha is reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to ensure their adequate representation in Parliament. These communities have faced historical discrimination and social disadvantage, which limited their participation in politics. Reservation helps give them a voice in the law-making process, promotes equality, and supports their inclusion in the democratic system.

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?

Ans. Benefits of Social Media in Elections and Democracy are:

1. **Wider reach and engagement:** Social media allows political messages to reach a vast and diverse audience quickly and at a low cost.
2. **Increased Political Participation:** More people, especially youth, are engaging in political discussions and campaigns through platforms like Instagram and Twitter.
3. **Real-Time Communication:** Politicians can communicate directly with the public, bypassing traditional media filters.
4. **Transparency and Accountability:** Social media can expose corruption or misinformation and hold politicians accountable through viral content.

Challenges of Social Media in Elections and Democracy are:

1. **Misinformation and Fake News:** False information can spread quickly, influencing voters based on lies or half truths.
2. **Trolling and Harassment:** Online discussions can become toxic, deterring meaningful engagement.
3. **Manipulation:** Interference of groups with vested interests or automated accounts can sway public opinion and spread propaganda.

NCERT Basics : Class 8

Future of Elections in Digital Age

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Online Voting: Elections might become more digital, offering secure online voting to increase turnout.2. AI and Data Analytics: Campaigns may rely more on data to target voters with personalised messages. | <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Greater Regulation: There may be stronger rules to manage political ads, misinformation, and digital campaigning.4. Hybrid Campaigning: A mix of digital and traditional methods will likely shape future elections, blending technology with grassroots methods. |
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