



# Class 9 Social Science – Chapter 7

## Important Questions – Elections

**Book:** *Understanding Society: India and Beyond – Grade 9, Part 1*

**Session:** 2026–27

Chapter 7 is “**Elections**”. The chapter focuses on why elections are essential to democracy, electoral systems, the Election Commission of India (ECI), political parties, electoral reforms and challenges to free and fair elections.

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## Very Short Answer Questions

1. Why are elections essential to democracy?
  2. What is an electoral system?
  3. What is **First Past the Post (FPTP)**?
  4. What is proportional representation?
  5. What is the Election Commission of India?
  6. What is the role of the ECI?
  7. What is an electoral roll?
  8. What is a political party?
  9. What is a multi-party system?
  10. What is defection?
  11. What is the Anti-Defection Law?
  12. What is the Model Code of Conduct?
  13. What is an EVM?
  14. What is VVPAT?
  15. What is the Representation of the People Act?
  16. What is voter awareness?
  17. What is a coalition government?
  18. What is a national party?
  19. What is a state party?
  20. Mention three challenges to free and fair elections.
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# Short Answer Questions

## 1. Why are elections important in a democracy?

Elections give citizens an opportunity to choose their representatives and have an equal voice in the formation of government. The textbook describes elections as the “**soul of democracy.**”

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## 2. What is an electoral system? Why is it important?

An electoral system provides the rules and procedures through which votes are cast, counted and translated into political representation. Different electoral systems can produce different patterns of representation.

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## 3. Explain the First Past the Post system.

## 4. What is proportional representation?

## 5. Distinguish between FPTP and proportional representation.

## 6. What is the role of the Election Commission of India?

The Constitution gives the ECI the **superintendence, direction and control of the entire process of conducting elections.**

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## 7. Why is an independent Election Commission important?

## 8. What is the importance of an electoral roll?

## 9. Why is voter awareness important?

## 10. What is India's multi-party system?

India has a multi-party system in which many political parties compete in elections. The textbook connects this system with India's diversity of languages, cultures, religions and regions.

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## 11. What are the functions of political parties?

Political parties:

- Contest elections
  - Prepare programmes and manifestos
  - Organise public opinion
  - Help form governments
  - Formulate and implement policies
  - Participate in debates and committees
  - Ensure accountability.
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## 12. What is defection?

Defection means abandoning or switching from the political party under whose banner a candidate was elected.

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## 13. Why was the Anti-Defection Law introduced?

The Anti-Defection Law was introduced to prevent defections and provide stability to elected governments. It was passed in **1985 through the 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act.**

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## 14. What is a coalition government?

## 15. Why do political parties form alliances?

## 16. What are EVMs and VVPAT?

## 17. What is the Model Code of Conduct?

## 18. What are the major challenges to free and fair elections?

The chapter specifically mentions challenges such as **misinformation, fake news and intimidation.**

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# Long Answer Questions

## 1. Explain why elections are essential to a democratic system.

Include:

-  Choice of representatives
  -  Citizen participation
  -  Political equality
  -  Formation of government
  -  Opportunity to change government
  -  Representation of different viewpoints
  -  Accountability of elected representatives
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## 2. Explain the role and functions of the Election Commission of India.

Important points:

- Conducts elections.
- Supervises the electoral process.
- Maintains impartiality in elections.
- Deals with political-party recognition.
- Allots election symbols.
- Promotes voter awareness.
- Takes measures to make elections inclusive.
- Addresses electoral challenges.

The Constitution vests the ECI with superintendence, direction and control over the election process.

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## 3. Explain the role of political parties in elections and democracy.

Discuss:

**Political Parties → Contest Elections → Prepare Manifestos → Organise Public Opinion  
→ Form Government/Opposition → Formulate Policies → Ensure Accountability**

This structure is represented in the textbook's political-party diagram.

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#### 4. Explain India's multi-party system.

Include:

- India has many political parties.
- Parties compete in elections.
- It reflects India's social, cultural and regional diversity.
- Political parties provide different programmes and policy choices.
- Some parties are recognised as national or state parties.
- Parties can also form alliances.

The textbook specifically connects India's multi-party system with its diversity.

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#### 5. Explain the importance of free and fair elections.

Free and fair elections require:

-  Equal opportunity to vote
-  Impartial election administration
-  Electoral laws
-  Accurate electoral rolls
-  Voter awareness
-  Protection from intimidation
-  Prevention of misinformation and fake news
-  Transparent voting and counting procedures

The chapter identifies the ECI, Representation of the People Acts, Model Code of Conduct, EVMs, VVPAT and voter-awareness campaigns among the measures used to support free and fair elections.

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#### 6. Explain the major challenges to free and fair elections in India.

Important challenges include:

- Misinformation
- Fake news
- Intimidation
- The enormous scale of elections
- Large numbers of voters
- Numerous polling stations
- Large numbers of political parties

- Diverse regional and socio-economic conditions

The chapter notes that active citizen participation and constant vigilance are important for making elections more representative and democracy more robust.

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## **HOTS / Analytical Questions**

- 1. Why can the quality of an election affect the quality of democracy?**
- 2. Why should the Election Commission remain impartial?**
- 3. Why is voter awareness necessary for free and fair elections?**
- 4. How can misinformation influence election results?**
- 5. Why can intimidation be harmful to democracy?**
- 6. How does a multi-party system help represent India's diversity?**
- 7. Why was the Anti-Defection Law considered necessary?**
- 8. How can political parties help voters make informed choices?**

The chapter notes that political parties present different viewpoints through their programmes and policies, helping voters make informed choices.

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## **Comparison Questions**

### **FPTP vs Proportional Representation**

#### **First Past the Post**

Candidate with the highest votes wins the constituency

#### **Proportional Representation**

Seats are allocated according to proportion of votes

Based mainly on constituencies

Focuses more directly on proportional representation

Used for several important elections in India

Used for certain elections, including Vidhan Parishad elections

Produces constituency-based representation

Seeks proportional representation

The textbook explicitly discusses both electoral systems and notes proportional representation through a **single transferable vote** for elections to the Vidhan Parishad.

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## Political Party Questions

1. What is a political party?
  2. What are the major functions of political parties?
  3. What is the difference between a national party and a state party?
  4. What are Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs)?
  5. Why are election symbols important?
  6. What is the role of the opposition party?
  7. Why do political parties form alliances?
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## Electoral Reforms & Inclusion

### Important Questions

1. What reforms have been introduced to make voting more inclusive for **persons with disabilities**?
2. What facilities are available for **service voters**?
3. What provisions help **senior citizens above 85 years** participate in elections?
4. What provisions apply to **prisoners**?

5. What is the position of **persons in preventive detention**?
6. Why is inclusive voting important in a democracy?

These groups are specifically mentioned in the chapter's end-of-chapter questions.

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## Case-Based Questions

### Case Study 1 – Election Commission

The Election Commission is responsible for conducting elections across India. Elections involve a very large number of voters, polling stations and political parties.

#### Questions:

- a. Why is an independent election authority necessary?
  - b. What are the main responsibilities of the ECI?
  - c. How can the ECI help ensure free and fair elections?
  - d. Why is voter participation important?
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### Case Study 2 – Misinformation

During an election, a message containing false information about a candidate spreads rapidly on social media.

#### Questions:

- a. How can fake news affect elections?
  - b. What should voters do before believing such information?
  - c. Why is responsible use of social media important during elections?
  - d. How can misinformation weaken democracy?
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# Assertion–Reason Questions

## 1. Assertion:

Elections are essential to democracy.

**Reason:** They allow citizens to choose their representatives.

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## 2. Assertion:

The Election Commission must function impartially.

**Reason:** Free and fair elections require an independent election-management process.

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## 3. Assertion:

India has a multi-party system.

**Reason:** Many political parties compete in Indian elections.

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## 4. Assertion:

The Anti-Defection Law was introduced in India.

**Reason:** It aims to prevent defections and provide stability to elected governments.

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## 5. Assertion:

Misinformation can threaten free and fair elections.

**Reason:** False information can influence voters and distort informed decision-making.

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# Top 10 Questions for Exam Revision

If students have limited time, prepare these first:

1. ★ **Why are elections essential to democracy?**
2. ★ **Explain the role and functions of the Election Commission of India.**
3. ★ **Explain the First Past the Post and proportional representation systems.**
4. ★ **Explain the role of political parties in a democracy.**
5. ★ **Why does India have a multi-party system?**
6. ★ **What is defection? Explain the purpose of the Anti-Defection Law.**
7. ★ **What are the major challenges to free and fair elections?**
8. ★ **How do EVMs, VVPAT and the Model Code of Conduct support elections?**
9. ★ **How can elections be made more inclusive for different groups of voters?**
10. ★ **Why are informed and responsible voters important for democracy?**

These align with the chapter's stated learning questions and its end-of-chapter focus on ECI reforms and the functions of the Election Commission.

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## Quick Revision Chart

### ELECTIONS

Citizens 



Voting 



Electoral System 



Election Commission 



Political Parties 



Representatives 



Government 



Accountability & Democracy 

### CHALLENGES

Misinformation + Fake News + Intimidation



**ECI + Electoral Laws + MCC + EVM + VVPAT + Voter Awareness + Active Citizens**



## **FREE & FAIR ELECTIONS**

The textbook concludes that elections are a constitutional right and duty, provide citizens an equal voice in government formation, and depend on electoral laws and institutions such as the ECI and Delimitation Commission.