

Class 9 Social Science – Chapter 7

NCERT Textbook Solutions

Elections

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

Session: 2026–27

These solutions follow the **official Chapter 7 “Elections” textbook you provided** and answer all **14 textbook questions/activities** on pages 179–182.

Q1. What reforms have been introduced by the ECI to make voting more inclusive?

a. People with Disabilities

The Election Commission of India has introduced measures to make polling stations accessible, including:

-  Wheelchair facilities
-  Accessible entry and movement
-  Assistance at polling stations
-  Special facilities and information through the **Saksham App**
-  Provision for eligible persons with benchmark disabilities to vote from home under specified conditions

These measures aim to ensure that persons with disabilities can participate in elections independently and conveniently.

b. Service Voters

Service voters, such as eligible members of the armed forces and certain personnel serving away from their constituencies, are provided special voting arrangements so that their official duties do not prevent them from exercising their franchise.

These include **postal ballot/electoral mechanisms applicable to service voters**.

c. Senior Citizens Above 85 Years

Eligible senior citizens aged **above 85 years** have been provided the facility to vote from home under the ECI's arrangements.

The textbook's case study specifically gives the example of an **89-year-old grandmother who cast her vote from home**.

d. Prisoners

Persons in prison are generally **not permitted to vote while in prison**, subject to the provisions of election law.

Therefore, the ECI's inclusive voting measures do not mean that prisoners automatically receive home or postal voting facilities.

e. Persons in Preventive Detention

Persons under **preventive detention** are treated differently from convicted prisoners under election law and can be entitled to vote subject to the applicable legal provisions.

★ Key idea:

The ECI aims to make elections **inclusive while following the legal framework governing eligibility and voting arrangements**.



Q2. What are the various functions of the Election Commission of India? Which is most important for free and fair elections?

✓ Answer:

The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** performs several important functions.

📦 Major functions:

1. 📝 Preparation and revision of electoral rolls
2. 📅 Deciding election schedules
3. 🗳️ Registration of political parties
4. 🏷️ Allocation of election symbols
5. 📦 Conducting elections
6. ⚖️ Ensuring compliance with election laws
7. 🗣️ Monitoring election campaigns
8. 👥 Promoting voter awareness
9. ♿ Making elections inclusive
10. 💻 Using technology to improve electoral processes
11. 🔍 Addressing complaints and violations

The ECI is responsible for conducting elections impartially at multiple levels.

★ Most important function:

The **conduct and supervision of free and fair elections** is the most important function.

This is because democracy depends on citizens being able to choose their representatives through elections that are:

- ✓ Free
 - ✓ Fair
 - ✓ Transparent
 - ✓ Inclusive
 - ✓ Impartial
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Q3. “Elections are the soul of a democracy.” Do you agree?

✓ Answer:

Yes, I agree.

Elections are called the **soul of democracy** because they provide citizens with the opportunity to choose their representatives.

Through elections:

-  Citizens exercise their voting rights.
-  People choose representatives.
-  Non-performing representatives can be replaced.
-  Governments receive democratic legitimacy.
-  Elected representatives remain accountable to citizens.

Periodic elections also prevent governments and representatives from continuing indefinitely without seeking a fresh mandate from the people.

However, elections alone are not sufficient. Democracy also requires the **Rule of Law, constitutional rights, accountable institutions, responsible citizens and free and fair political participation.**

Q4. Explain at least three differences between national and state/regional political parties.

✓ Answer:

Feature	 National Party	 State/Regional Party
Area of influence	Operates across several states	Mainly operates in one state or region

Issues	Deals with national-level issues as well as state issues	Often focuses strongly on regional and state-specific concerns
Organisation	Has a wider organisational network	Primarily concentrated within a particular state/region
Recognition	Meets ECI criteria for recognition as a national party	Meets ECI criteria for recognition as a state party
Political focus	National policies and wider interests	Regional interests, local issues and state-specific concerns

Political parties provide voters with different programmes, policies and viewpoints.

Q5. Why should you vote?

The textbook gives four choices. A reasonable descending order is:

1. Opportunity to choose my representative

Voting gives me the opportunity to choose who will represent me.

2. Strengthens democracy

Voting helps democracy function through citizen participation.

3. Opportunity to change the non-performing representative

Elections allow voters to replace representatives who have not performed satisfactorily.

4. Makes me a responsible person

Voting is an important civic responsibility and encourages active citizenship.

Final order:

A → D → C → B

A. Opportunity to choose my representative

D. Strengthens democracy

- C. Opportunity to change the non-performing representative
- B. Makes me a responsible person

This is a **discussion-based question**, so students may reasonably arrange the choices differently if they provide valid reasons. The textbook specifically asks students to arrange and discuss their reasons.



Q6. What is the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) initiative of the ECI? Explain its objectives and necessity.

✓ **Answer:**

Special Intensive Revision (SIR) is an initiative for the detailed revision and verification of electoral rolls.

🎯 **Objectives:**

- 📝 Verify voter information.
- 👤 Ensure eligible citizens are included.
- ❌ Identify and remove ineligible entries.
- ↻ Correct errors in electoral rolls.
- 🏠 Verify changes such as change of residence.
- 🧹 Help remove duplicate or outdated entries.

Why is SIR necessary?

Accurate electoral rolls are essential for free and fair elections.

The basic objective is:

No eligible voter should be left out and no ineligible person should be included.

Therefore, regular revision and verification of electoral rolls help protect the integrity of elections.

Q7. Match the political party name with its symbol.

The textbook gives the following six political parties for matching.

Political Party	Election Symbol
 Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)	Broom
 Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	Lotus
 Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)	Elephant
 Communist Party of India (Marxist) – CPI(M)	Hammer, Sickle and Star
 Indian National Congress (INC)	Hand
 National People's Party (NPP)	Book

Q8. Read the case study and answer the questions.

The case describes **Ishani**, who is voting for the first time at age 18, her disabled elder brother, and her 89-year-old grandmother. It illustrates several facilities associated with inclusive elections.

a. What initiatives were taken by the ECI to enable the voters to cast their vote?

Several facilities were available:

-  Ishani registered through the ECI's online portal.
-  A wheelchair was available for her disabled brother.
-  Volunteers guided voters to the polling booth.
-  Ishani's identity could be verified using an alternative permitted document when she did not have her Voter ID/Aadhaar.
-  She could verify her vote through **VVPAT**.
-  Her 89-year-old grandmother was able to vote from home.

These examples demonstrate the ECI's efforts to make voting accessible and inclusive.

b. If Ishani did not have her Voter ID or Aadhaar card, which other document might she have?

She could use **another officially approved alternative identity document** permitted by the ECI for voter identification at the polling station.

The important point is that the polling officer can verify the voter's identity using an **approved alternative document** rather than requiring only the Voter ID or Aadhaar.

c. Cite the examples of violations of the Model Code of Conduct.

The case describes:

-  **Wall writing**
-  **Campaign posters pasted everywhere**

These may constitute violations depending on the applicable election rules and permissions.

The textbook's broader discussion also identifies improper campaign practices and electoral misconduct as challenges to free and fair elections.

d. Give a suitable title to the passage.

“An Inclusive and Accessible Election Experience” 

Other suitable titles:

- **“Ishani's First Vote”**
 - **“Voting for Everyone”**
 - **“A Journey Through the Electoral Process”**
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e. Find out how the police and army personnel cast their votes.

Eligible police and armed-forces personnel who are **service voters** can use special voting arrangements provided under election law, including **postal ballot facilities where applicable**.

These arrangements enable personnel who are away from their constituencies on election duty to exercise their right to vote.



Q9. Study the comparative chart of three countries.

The textbook provides three hypothetical countries.

a. What is the difference between having a voting right in a multi-party system and another with a single-party system?

Multi-party system:

Citizens have a choice between **different political parties and their candidates**.

This allows voters to:

-  Compare policies.
-  Choose among different candidates.
-  Consider different political viewpoints.
-  Change the governing party through elections.

Single-party system:

Although voting may exist, citizens have **little or no choice between competing political parties** if only one party is allowed to contest.

Therefore, the opportunity for meaningful political choice is much more limited.

b. In which country would you like to stay and why?

✓ Answer: Country A

I would prefer **Country A** because it has:

- 📜 A written Constitution.
- 🗳️ Periodic elections.
- 👤 Voting rights.
- 🏛️ A party system ranging from two-party to multi-party.
- 📊 An average standard of living.

It therefore combines democratic political participation with a functioning constitutional system.

This is a **personal-opinion question**, so students may choose another country if they provide a logical justification.

⚠️ Q10. What are the challenges to conducting free and fair elections?

✓ Answer:

Some major challenges are:

📱 1. Misinformation and fake news

False information can influence voters and distort public opinion.

💰 2. Money power

Excessive use of money can create unfair advantages during campaigns.

😬 3. Intimidation

Threats or pressure can prevent voters from exercising their choice freely.

📢 4. Violations of election rules

Candidates or parties may sometimes violate campaign rules or the Model Code of Conduct.

5. Electoral-roll problems

Errors, duplicate entries or missing eligible voters can affect participation.

6. Scale and diversity

Conducting elections for a huge and diverse population across remote and geographically difficult areas is a major administrative challenge.

7. Misuse of media

Irresponsible communication can spread misleading information.

The textbook notes that despite numerous challenges, the ECI works to ensure elections at different levels are conducted impartially.

Q11. On the Stage – Conduct a school election.

Suggested Activity Answer

Students have to conduct elections for:

-  Head Girl
-  Head Boy
-  Sports Captain

Roles:

Role	Responsibility
 Election Commissioner	Supervises the election process
 Returning Officer	Manages nominations and election arrangements
 Polling Officer	Conducts voting
 Polling Agent	Observes the polling process



Candidate

Contests the election



Campaigner

Campaigns according to rules



Police Personnel

Maintains security



Journalist

Reports the election

Suggested process:

Nomination → Campaign → Polling → Vote Counting → Declaration of Result

Students should ensure:

- ✓ Free choice
- ✓ Secret ballot
- ✓ Fair campaigning
- ✓ Equal opportunity
- ✓ Transparent counting
- ✓ Peaceful conduct

The activity is designed to help students understand how an election works in practice.



Q12. Make videos or audios on election-related topics.

The textbook suggests topics such as:



My Vote My Nation

Explain why voting is important and how every vote contributes to democracy.



No Voter to be Left Behind

Focus on inclusive elections and efforts to ensure eligible voters can participate.



How to Eliminate the Ill of Money Power

Discuss how excessive use of money can undermine fair political competition and what measures can help reduce its influence.

This is a **creative activity**, so students can prepare a short video, audio message, interview or awareness campaign.



Q13. Prepare a comparative chart of the last two State Legislative Assembly elections.



Answer / Project Format

This is a **research-based activity**. The textbook specifically requires students to select one national or state political party and use **authentic and reliable sources**, including the ECI website, the official political-party website and newspapers.

Suggested table:

Particular	Previous Election	Latest Election
Election manifesto promises	—	—
Percentage of votes	—	—
Seats won	—	—
Women candidates contested	—	—
Women candidates elected	—	—

Important:

Students should **fill this table using current, authentic election data** rather than copying figures from an unverified website.

Q14. Can “One Nation, One Election” improve the efficiency of the electoral process?

✓ **Answer:**

One Nation, One Election refers to holding elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies together, rather than conducting them separately at different times.

👍 **Possible advantages:**

- 💰 May reduce election expenditure.
- ⌚ May reduce the amount of time spent on repeated election campaigns.
- 👮 May reduce repeated deployment of security personnel.
- 👤 May reduce the administrative burden on government officials.
- 🏛️ May allow governments to focus more continuously on governance.

⚠️ **Possible limitations:**

- 🇮🇳 India has a federal structure with different State governments.
- 📅 Governments may not always complete their terms at the same time.
- 🗳️ Mid-term elections could still become necessary if a government loses its majority.
- 👥 Regional issues could receive less attention if elections are conducted simultaneously.
- 🏛️ Constitutional and legal changes may be required.
- 🌐 Conducting a simultaneous election across such a large and diverse country would be a major logistical exercise.

★ **Conclusion:**

One Nation, One Election **may improve efficiency in some areas**, but its implementation involves important constitutional, federal, administrative and political considerations. Therefore, both its potential advantages and limitations need to be carefully examined.

The textbook specifically asks students to divide into two groups and discuss these advantages and limitations.

Chapter 7 – Quick Revision

Elections

Citizen participation → Representation → Accountability → Democratic legitimacy

Indian Electoral System

Lok Sabha / Vidhan Sabha

→ First-Past-The-Post

Rajya Sabha / President / Vice President

→ Proportional Representation

Election Commission of India

Electoral Rolls → Election Schedule → Political Parties → Symbols → Polling → Inclusion → Election Monitoring

Inclusive Elections

PwDs → Service Voters → Senior Citizens → Other eligible voters

Challenges

Misinformation + Money Power + Intimidation + Electoral Misconduct + Electoral Roll Issues

Important Safeguards

ECI + Representation of the People Acts + Model Code of Conduct + EVM + VVPAT + Voter Awareness

Important Terms

-  **Direct Election** – Citizens directly choose their representatives.
-  **Indirect Election** – Elected representatives choose/elect leaders.
-  **FPTP** – Candidate receiving the highest number of votes wins.
-  **Proportional Representation** – Representation is broadly related to vote share.
-  **Electoral Roll** – Official list of eligible voters.
-  **SIR** – Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls.
-  **ECI** – Election Commission of India.
-  **Delimitation** – Fixing boundaries of electoral constituencies.
-  **VVPAT** – Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail.

-  **Model Code of Conduct** – Guidelines governing election-related conduct.
-  **Election Symbol** – Symbol allotted to a political party or candidate.
-  **Service Voter** – Eligible person serving away from their constituency who receives special voting arrangements