



Class 9 Social Science – Chapter 7

Notes



Elections



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



Subject: Social Science



Chapter: 7 – Elections



Academic Session: 2026–27

These notes follow the **official Class 9 textbook** you provided, including its terminology, examples and chapter focus.



1. Why Do Elections Matter?

An **election** is a process through which citizens exercise their **right to vote** and fulfil their responsibility as citizens.

Elections are essential because they help ensure:

-  **Representation**
-  **Equality**
-  **Accountability**
-  **Legitimacy**

Regular and periodic elections are at the core of democracy.



Elections in India

Through **direct elections**, people elect:

-  Lok Sabha members
-  Vidhan Sabha members
-  Members of local bodies such as Panchayats and Municipal Corporations

These elections are held every **five years**.

Through **indirect elections**, the following are elected:

- 🇮🇳 President
 - 🇮🇳 Vice President
 - 🏛️ Rajya Sabha members
-

2. Direct and Indirect Elections

Direct Elections

Citizens vote **directly** to choose their representatives or leaders.

Example:

 Lok Sabha elections

Indirect Elections

Citizens vote for representatives, who then choose or elect the leaders.

Examples:

 Rajya Sabha

 President

 Vice President

3. What Is Psephology?

Psephology

Psephology means the **scientific study of elections**.

The word comes from the Greek:

- 🪨 **psēphos** = pebble
- 📖 **-logy** = systematic study

In ancient Greece, pebbles were used for voting.

4. Inside India's Election Machinery

For democracy to function properly, elections must be:

- ✓ Free
- ✓ Fair
- ✓ Transparent
- ✓ Inclusive

India has millions of voters spread across thousands of constituencies, so elections require:

-  Laws
-  Institutions
-  Election officials
-  Polling arrangements
-  Security
-  Technology
-  Vote counting systems

Important stakeholders include:

-  Election Commission of India
-  Political Parties
-  Voters
-  Media
-  Civil Society

The Constitution and parliamentary laws define the functions and powers of these stakeholders.

5. The Electoral System

An **electoral system** determines how votes are converted into seats in a legislature.

India uses different electoral systems for different elections.

First-Past-The-Post (FPTP)

The **plurality system**, also called **First-Past-The-Post**, is used for:

-  Lok Sabha
-  Vidhan Sabha

The candidate who receives the **highest number of votes** in a constituency wins, even if the candidate receives less than 50% of the total votes.

Proportional Representation

The system of **proportional representation** is used for:

-  Rajya Sabha
 -  President
 -  Vice President
-

6. First-Past-The-Post System

Under FPTP:

- 1 Each voter votes for **one candidate**.
- 2 Votes are counted.
- 3 The candidate receiving the **most votes** wins.
- 4 The winner does **not necessarily need 50% or more** of the votes.

★ Example

If:

- Candidate A → 40%
- Candidate B → 35%
- Candidate C → 25%

 **Candidate A wins** because A received the highest number of votes.

7. Majority System

In a majority system:

-  Voters vote for a candidate.
-  A candidate must receive **more than 50%** of the votes.

-  If no candidate crosses 50%, the leading candidates may compete in another round.

The textbook's example shows a second round in which the winning candidate receives **55%**.

8. Proportional Representation

In proportional representation:

-  Voters vote for a party rather than directly choosing a single individual in the nationwide-list example given.
 -  Seats are distributed in proportion to the votes received.
 -  Political power is therefore shared proportionately.
-

9. Single Transferable Vote

The **Single Transferable Vote (STV)** is a form of proportional representation.

The process involves:

- 1 Voters mark their preferences.
- 2 First-preference votes are counted.
- 3 Candidates reaching the required **quota** are elected.
- 4 The candidate with the lowest votes is eliminated.
- 5 Their votes are transferred according to the second preferences.
- 6 The process continues until the required number of candidates are elected.

Quota

The textbook gives:

$$\text{Quota} = \text{Total valid votes} \div (\text{Seats to be filled} + 1) + 1$$



10. Vidhan Sabha and Vidhan Parishad

The **Vidhan Sabha** is the directly elected Legislative Assembly of a State.

Some States have a **bicameral legislature**, meaning they have two Houses:

Vidhan Sabha

Lower House / Legislative Assembly

Vidhan Parishad

Upper House / Legislative Council

The textbook identifies six States with bicameral legislatures:

- Andhra Pradesh
 - Bihar
 - Karnataka
 - Maharashtra
 - Telangana
 - Uttar Pradesh
-



11. Major Election Laws

Two major laws governing elections are:

Representation of the People Act, 1950

It mainly deals with:

-  Allocation of seats
-  Delimitation of constituencies
-  Preparation and revision of electoral rolls
-  Voting rights for citizens aged 18 and above

Representation of the People Act, 1951

It deals with:

-  Nomination of candidates

- 🗳️ Election campaigns
- 🗳️ Voting procedures
- ⚖️ Election disputes
- 🚫 Electoral offences

There is also the **Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952**.

🚫 12. Electoral Offences and Corrupt Practices

The Representation of the People Act, 1951 identifies various electoral offences.

Examples include:

💰 Bribery / Inducement

Offering a gift, promise or other inducement to influence someone to:

- 🗳️ Vote
- 🚫 Not vote
- 🏃 Contest
- ⬅️ Withdraw

🚫 Appeals Based on Identity

Appealing to people to vote or not vote based on:

- 🏠 Religion
- 🌐 Caste
- 🌍 Race
- 👥 Community
- 🗣️ Language

🏛️ Misuse of Government Personnel

Candidates cannot use certain government-related personnel in support of their candidature.



13. Delimitation

Delimitation is the process of:

- Determining the number of seats
- Fixing territorial boundaries of constituencies

It applies to elections to:

- Lok Sabha
- Vidhan Sabha



Main Objective

To make the ratio between **population and representation** as close to equal as possible.

Without delimitation, one MP could represent a much larger population than another, reducing equality of representation.



Article 82

Article 82 of the Constitution provides for the establishment of a **Delimitation Commission**.

The textbook notes four Delimitation Commissions:



1952



1963



1973



2002



14. Election Commission of India (ECI)

The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** is an autonomous permanent constitutional body.



Established

25 January 1950



Constitutional Articles

Articles 324–329 provide for the establishment of the ECI and define its powers and duties.

The ECI conducts elections for:

-  Lok Sabha
 -  Rajya Sabha
 -  Vidhan Sabha
 -  Vidhan Parishad
 -  President
 -  Vice President
-

15. Functions of the ECI

The Election Commission performs many important functions.

1. Creates Electoral Rolls

The ECI prepares electoral rolls for constituencies and polling stations.

Only people whose names appear on the electoral roll are allowed to vote.

2. Special Intensive Revision (SIR)

SIR involves:

-  Updating electoral rolls
-  Verifying information
-  Correcting errors
-  Including eligible citizens
-  Removing ineligible names

Names may be removed because of:

-  Death
-  Change of residence
-  Duplicate enrolment
-  Being permanently untraceable

The ECI also provides an opportunity to raise claims and objections before final electoral rolls are published.



16. Election Schedule

The ECI decides the **schedule and dates** of elections.

While planning elections in a large and diverse country, it considers factors such as:

- 🌤️ Weather
 - 🌾 Agricultural cycles
 - 🏫 School examinations
 - 🎓 University examinations
 - 🎉 Festivals
-



17. Registration of Political Parties

The ECI:

- 🏛️ Registers political parties
- 🗳️ Allocates election symbols
- 📊 Recognises parties
- ⚖️ Deals with disputes relating to recognition and symbols

Independent candidates can also contest elections.

The ECI also encourages **internal party democracy** by requiring political parties to conduct organisational elections periodically.



18. National Voters' Day



25 January

Every year, **25 January** is celebrated as **National Voters' Day**.

It promotes awareness about:

- 🗳️ Voting
- 👤 Citizenship
- 🗳️ Democratic participation
- ⚖️ Free and fair elections

19. Inclusive Elections – “No Voter to Be Left Behind”

The ECI has taken several initiatives to make elections more inclusive.

These initiatives focus particularly on:

-  Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)
-  Senior Citizens
-  Transgender persons
-  Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)

During the **2024 General Elections**, voting from home was extended across India for the first time to:

-  Senior citizens **above 85 years**
-  Persons with disabilities with **40% benchmark disability**

20. Digital Election Services

The ECI uses technology to make elections more accessible and efficient.

ETPBS

Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System

Allows service voters to receive and cast postal ballots electronically from outside their constituency.

Voter Helpline App

Provides services such as:

-  Registration
-  Transposition
-  Verification
-  Election information

-  Election updates

cVIGIL App

Allows citizens to report:

-  Model Code of Conduct violations
-  Election misconduct

ERONET

Helps with:

-  Processing forms
-  Electoral databases
-  Electoral rolls

Sugam

Helps manage vehicles used for election work.

Suvidha

Provides services for:

-  Candidates
-  Political parties
-  Nomination forms
-  Rally/meeting permissions

Saksham App

Provides customised election-related services for **Persons with Disabilities**, including assistance with:

-  Registration
-  Finding polling stations
-  Voting-related services



21. International Election Cooperation

The ECI also works with election-management bodies internationally.

The textbook mentions the:

International Election Visitors' Programme (IEVP)

It promotes international cooperation and engagement with:

-  Election Management Bodies
-  International organisations

The ECI has signed MoUs with **28 Election Management Bodies** and three international organisations.



22. Political Parties

Political parties are essential to a democratic system.

They help voters understand:

-  Candidates
-  Policies
-  Development plans
-  Social issues
-  Economic issues
-  Political issues
-  Other public concerns

Political parties communicate their programmes through:

-  Election campaigns
 -  Rallies
 -  Media
 -  Manifestos
 -  Public debates
-



23. Importance of Political Parties

Political parties:

-  Organise public opinion

- 🗣️ Campaign on specific issues
 - 🗳️ Contest elections
 - 📄 Prepare manifestos
 - 🗑️ Offer voters meaningful choices
 - 🏛️ Form governments
 - 📋 Formulate policies
 - ⚙️ Implement policies
 - 🔍 Ensure accountability
 - 🗣️ Participate in debates and committees
-

24. Multi-Party System in India

India has a **multi-party system**.

This means many political parties exist and compete in elections.

The multi-party system reflects India's diversity of:

- 🗣️ Languages
 - 🌍 Cultures
 - 🏛️ Religions
 - 🗺️ Regions
-

25. Defection

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

A person may:

- 🔄 Join another party
- 🚶 Leave the party
- 🗳️ Act independently of party decisions

The textbook notes that defection can be viewed either as political opportunism affecting stability or as acting according to conscience and changing public expectations.

26. Anti-Defection Law

The **Anti-Defection Law** was passed in:

 17 July 1985

through the:

52nd Constitutional Amendment Act

Its purpose is to prevent defections and provide stability to elected governments.

A Member of Parliament or State Assembly may face disqualification if the member:

-  Voluntarily gives up party membership
-  Votes against the party's instructions/whip

The Speaker or Chairman decides the matter according to the applicable rules.

27. Winning Party and Opposition

Political parties have different roles after elections.

Winning Party

The winning party or alliance:

-  Forms the government
-  Formulates policies
-  Implements policies

Opposition

Opposition parties:

-  Hold the government accountable
-  Participate in debates
-  Participate in committees
-  Present alternative viewpoints

This creates an important system of democratic accountability.



28. Political Party Recognition

The ECI recognises political parties according to specified criteria.

The textbook distinguishes:

-  National Parties
-  State Parties
-  Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPP)



Registered Unrecognised Political Parties

These include parties that:

- Have not secured the required percentage of votes
 - Have never contested elections since registration
-



29. State Party Recognition

The textbook gives several alternative criteria.

A party can qualify through conditions such as:

-  At least **6%** of valid votes in a State Assembly election **and at least 2 Assembly seats**
 -  At least **6%** of valid Lok Sabha votes from a State **and at least 1 Lok Sabha seat**
 -  At least **3% of Assembly seats or 3 seats**, whichever is more
 -  At least **1 Lok Sabha seat for every 25 seats** allotted to the State
 -  At least **8%** of valid votes in the State in a Lok Sabha or Assembly election
-



30. National Party Recognition

The textbook lists alternative criteria including:

-  At least **6% of valid votes in four or more States** plus at least **4 Lok Sabha seats**

-  At least **2% of Lok Sabha seats**, with members elected from at least **three States**
 -  Recognition as a State Party in at least **four States**
-

31. Political Alliances

India's electoral politics has also seen the growth of alliances.

 **1967**

The era of single-party dominated elections began to decline and **alliance politics** emerged in several States.

 **1977**

The **Janata Party** was formed against the backdrop of the Emergency and formed the first coalition government at the national level.

Later Alliances

The textbook discusses major national alliances including:

-  **NDA**
 -  **UPA**
 -  The alliance that subsequently emerged after the UPA's dissolution in 2023
-

32. Challenges to Free and Fair Elections

Conducting elections for more than **96.8 crore eligible voters** across India's diverse geography and social conditions is a huge task.

Major challenges mentioned include:

-  Misinformation
-  Fake news
-  Intimidation
-  Undue influence

- ⚠ Other forms of electoral misconduct
-

33. Measures to Ensure Free and Fair Elections

The ECI addresses electoral challenges through:

- 📜 Representation of the People Acts, 1950 and 1951
 - 📋 Model Code of Conduct
 - 🗳 Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs)
 - 📄 Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT)
 - 🗣 Voter awareness campaigns
 - 👤 Active citizen participation
-

34. EVM and VVPAT

EVM

Electronic Voting Machine is used for recording votes electronically.

VVPAT

Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail allows the voter to verify the vote through a paper trail.

The textbook presents EVMs and VVPAT as part of the mechanisms used to support free, fair and transparent elections.

35. Model Code of Conduct

The **Model Code of Conduct (MCC)** provides guidelines for political parties and candidates during elections.

It aims to help ensure:

- ⚖️ Fair competition
- 🗳️ Equal opportunity
- 🗳️ Clean election practices
- 🚫 Prevention of misconduct

Citizens can report MCC violations through the **cVIGIL App**.

36. Why Is Voting Important?

The textbook summarises the importance of voting by explaining that:

 **Casting a vote is a constitutional right as well as a duty of every citizen.**

Elections give citizens an equal voice in forming a government.

★ **Voting helps citizens:**

- 👤 Choose representatives
 - 🔄 Change non-performing representatives
 - 🏛️ Strengthen democracy
 - 🗳️ Participate in governance
 - ⚖️ Exercise political equality
-

37. Case Study – Inclusive Voting

The textbook presents the case of **Ishani**, who votes for the first time after turning 18.

Her experience demonstrates several features of India's electoral system:

- 💻 Online voter registration
- 🛡️ Security at polling station
- ♿ Wheelchair accessibility
- 👤 Volunteer assistance
- 🪪 Alternative identity document
- 🗳️ VVPAT verification
- 👵 Voting from home for her 89-year-old grandmother

This case study demonstrates how election administration attempts to make voting accessible and inclusive.

38. Key Takeaways

Elections

Elections allow citizens to choose representatives and hold them accountable.

Electoral Systems

Different elections use different systems such as **FPTP** and **proportional representation**.

ECI

The Election Commission is responsible for supervising and managing elections.

Election Laws

The **RPA 1950** and **RPA 1951** provide important legal foundations.

Delimitation

Helps maintain fair representation according to population.

Political Parties

They organise public opinion, contest elections, form governments and provide alternatives.

Free and Fair Elections

Require laws, institutions, technology, transparency and active citizens.

Inclusive Elections

The ECI works towards ensuring that eligible voters are not left behind.

Quick Revision Table

 Topic	★ Key Point
 Election	Process of exercising the right to vote
 Direct Election	People directly choose representatives
 Indirect Election	Representatives choose/elect leaders
 Psephology	Scientific study of elections
 FPTP	Candidate with highest votes wins
 Proportional Representation	Seats allocated proportionately
 STV	Voters rank preferences; votes can transfer
 RPA 1950	Seats, delimitation, electoral rolls, voting rights
 RPA 1951	Candidates, campaigns, voting, disputes, offences
 Delimitation	Fixing constituency boundaries and seats
 ECI	Constitutional body managing elections
 SIR	Revision and verification of electoral rolls
 ETPBS	Electronic postal ballot system for service voters
 cVIGIL	Reporting election/MCC violations
 Political Party	Organises public opinion and contests elections
 Defection	Switching from the party under whose ticket one was elected
 Anti-Defection Law	Law against political defections
 VVPAT	Paper audit trail for vote verification
 MCC	Guidelines for election conduct
 Inclusive Election	Ensures eligible voters can participate

39. Important Terms to Remember

-  Election
 -  Psephology
 -  Direct Election
 -  Indirect Election
 -  First-Past-The-Post (FPTP)
 -  Proportional Representation
 -  Single Transferable Vote (STV)
 -  Representation of the People Act, 1950
 -  Representation of the People Act, 1951
 -  Delimitation
 -  Election Commission of India (ECI)
 -  Electoral Roll
 -  Special Intensive Revision (SIR)
 -  ETPBS
 -  Political Party
 -  Manifesto
 -  Defection
 -  Anti-Defection Law
 -  VVPAT
 -  EVM
 -  Model Code of Conduct
 -  Coalition Government
-

40. Important Practice Questions

1

Why are elections essential to a democratic system?

2

Differentiate between **direct** and **indirect** elections.

3

What is **psephology**?

4

What is the **First-Past-The-Post system**?

5

Differentiate between **FPTP** and **proportional representation**.

6

Explain the **Single Transferable Vote system**.

7

What are the main provisions of the **Representation of the People Act, 1950**?

8

What are the main provisions of the **Representation of the People Act, 1951**?

9

What is **delimitation**? Why is it necessary?

10

Explain the composition and functions of the **Election Commission of India**.

11

What is **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)**? Why is it necessary?

12

What measures has the ECI taken to make elections more inclusive?

13

What is the **ETPBS**?

14

What is the role of political parties in elections?

15

What is a **multi-party system**?

16

What is **defection**?

17

What is the purpose of the **Anti-Defection Law**?

18

What are the challenges to conducting free and fair elections?

19

How do **EVMs** and **VVPAT** contribute to the electoral process?

20

Why are elections described as the **soul of democracy**?

These questions closely reflect the chapter's own end-of-chapter exercises, which ask about ECI functions, inclusive voting, political parties, SIR, voting, free and fair elections and electoral challenges.

41. Chapter 7 Exam Focus

Before your exam, make sure you can:

- ✓ Define **elections**
- ✓ Explain why elections are important for democracy
- ✓ Differentiate **direct and indirect elections**
- ✓ Explain **FPTP**
- ✓ Explain **proportional representation**

- ✓ Explain **STV**
 - ✓ Learn the **RPA 1950 and RPA 1951**
 - ✓ Explain **delimitation**
 - ✓ Learn the functions of the **ECI**
 - ✓ Explain **SIR**
 - ✓ Understand **inclusive voting initiatives**
 - ✓ Know **ETPBS, Voter Helpline, cVIGIL, ERONET, Sugam and Saksham**
 - ✓ Explain the role of **political parties**
 - ✓ Understand India's **multi-party system**
 - ✓ Define **defection**
 - ✓ Explain the **Anti-Defection Law**
 - ✓ Understand **national and state party recognition**
 - ✓ Explain **coalition politics**
 - ✓ Identify challenges to **free and fair elections**
 - ✓ Explain the role of **MCC, EVM and VVPAT**
-

Final Quick Revision

Election Process

 Voters →  Electoral Roll →  Candidates & Parties →  Campaign →  Voting →  Counting →  Results →  Government

Free & Fair Elections

 Laws +  ECI +  Delimitation +  Electoral Rolls +  EVM +  VVPAT +  MCC +  Active Citizens

Remember

Elections are the soul of democracy because they give citizens an equal voice in the formation of government. The textbook also stresses that simply conducting elections is not enough—the process must be **free, fair, transparent, inclusive and trustworthy**.