



NOTES

SOCIAL SCIENCE

(POLITICAL SCIENCE)

ELECTORAL POLITICS



**REVISION NOTES
CHAPTERWISE &
TOPICWISE**

Chapter 3: Electoral Politics

Concepts Covered:

1. **Why do we need Elections**
 - Importance of Elections
2. **What makes an election democratic?**
 - Conditions for democratic election
 - Features of Democracy: Summary
3. **Is it good to have political competition?**
4. **What is our System of elections?**
 - Electoral Constituencies
 - Reserved Constituencies
 - Voter's List
 - Nomination of candidates
 - Election Campaign
 - Polling and Counting of votes
5. **What makes Elections in India democratic?**
 - Independent Election Commission
 - Powers of Election commission
 - Popular Participation
 - Acceptance of Election outcome
 - Challenges to Free and Fair election
6. **Mind Map**
(Colourful & Interactive/ Complete All Concept Covered)
- Practice Questions (All Topics Available)**

Fukey Education

WHY DO WE NEED ELECTIONS

Importance of Elections

In an election the voters can make many choices.

They can choose who will make laws for them.

Voters can choose who will form the government and take major decisions.

They can also choose the party whose policies will guide the government and law making.



WHAT MAKES AN ELECTION DEMOCRATIC

Conditions for democratic election

Election Held in both Democratic countries and Nondemocratic countries, but what makes an election democratic or undemocratic?

Some of the important conditions are as follows: -

- Everyone should be able to choose. This means that everyone should have one vote and every vote should have equal value.
- 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.
- The choice should be offered at regular intervals. Elections must be held regularly after every few years.
- The candidate preferred by the people should get elected.
- Elections should be conducted in a free and fair manner where people can choose as they really wish.



Features of Democracy: Summary

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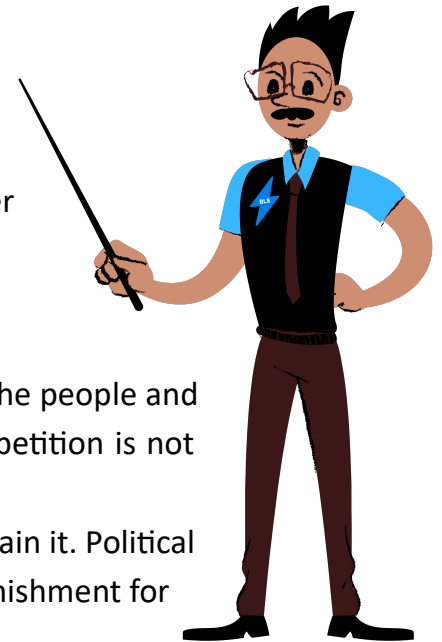


ELECTORAL POLITICS**IS IT GOOD TO HAVE POLITICAL COMPETITION****IS IT GOOD TO HAVE POLITICAL COMPETITION****1. It has some demerits: -**

- It creates a sense of disunity factionalism.
- Parties level allegations, use dirty tricks.
- No long-term policies can be formulated.
- Good people who may wish to serve the country do not enter this arena.

2. It has some positives as well: -

- In an ideal world all political leaders know what is good for the people and are motivated only by a desire to serve them. Political competition is not necessary in such an ideal world. But the world is real.
- Leaders are required to work hard to remain in power or to gain it. Political competition is a reward for serving and at the same time punishment for not performing the duty.
- Political competition may cause divisions and some ugliness, but it finally helps to force political parties and leaders to serve the people.

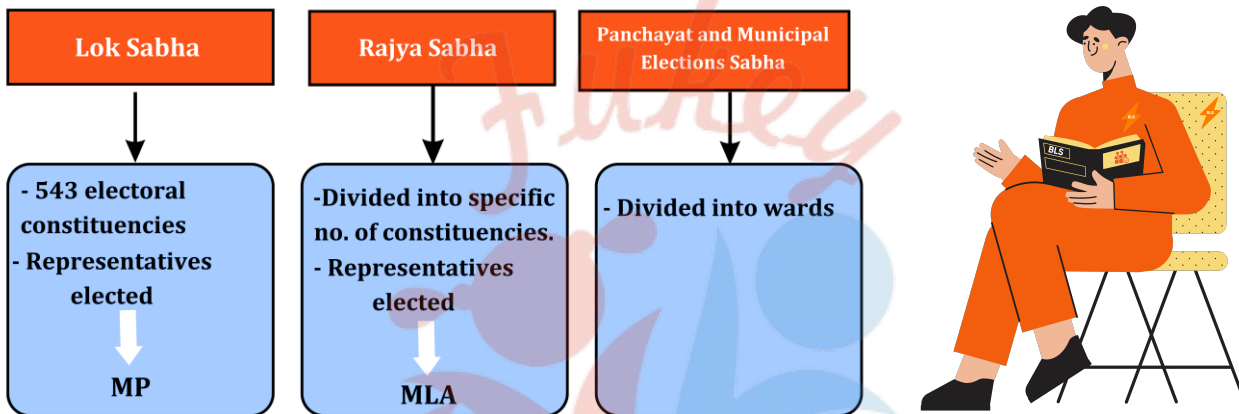


WHAT IS OUR SYSTEM OF ELECTIONS

Electoral Constituencies

We have an Area based system of representation.

- The country is divided into different areas for purposes of elections.
- These areas are called electoral.
- The voters who live in an area elect one representative.



Reserved Constituencies

Open electoral competition Weaker section may not stand a good chance to win. Lack of resources, education, and contacts. Powerful people may prevent them from winning elections. The system of reserved constituencies was introduced. Some constituencies are reserved for people who belong to the Scheduled Castes [SC] and Scheduled Tribes [ST]. In a SC reserved constituency only someone who belongs to the Scheduled Castes can stand for election. Similarly, only those belonging to the Scheduled Tribes can contest an election from a constituency reserved for ST. No. of seats reserved in Lok Sabha Reservation for SC (Schedule cast), ST (Schedule tribe)

84 Seats for
SC

47 Seats for
ST

As on 26 January 2019

- Later, this system of reservation was extended at the district and local level. (Panchayat and ULB's)

ELECTORAL POLITICS**WHAT IS OUR SYSTEM OF ELECTIONS**

- The proportion of seats reserved varies from state to state.
- 1/3 of the seats are reserved for women also. [In rural and urban local government]

Voter's List**1. Electoral roll/Voters list:**

It is the list of the person eligible to vote, based on the principle of universal adult franchise.

2. (One vote, One value):

In our country, all the citizens aged 18 years and above can vote in an election. Some criminals and person with unsound mind can be denied the right to vote.

3. Election Photo Identity Card (EPIC)**Nomination of candidates**

Anyone who can vote, can also become a candidate to contest elections.

Only difference is of age.



Voters = 18 years



Candidate = 25 years

- There are some other restrictions on criminals etc. but these apply in very extreme cases.
- Political parties nominate their candidates who get the party symbol and support. Party's nomination is often called party '**ticket**'.
- Every person who wishes to contest an election has to fill a '**nomination form**' and give some money as '**security deposit**'.

Election Campaign

1. It provides perspective to the people that who's policy would be better. In our country such campaigns take place for a two-week period between the announcement of the final list of

ELECTORAL POLITICS

WHAT IS OUR SYSTEM OF ELECTIONS



- Candidates and the date of polling.
- Candidates contact their voters.
- Election meetings.
- Mobilising the support of supporters.
- Garib Hatao, Congress, 1977
- Save democracy, Janata party, 1977.
- Land to the tiller, Left front, 1977.
- Protect the self-respect of the Telugus.



ELECTORAL POLITICS

WHAT IS OUR SYSTEM OF ELECTIONS

2. It is sometimes necessary to regulate campaigns to ensure that every political party and candidate gets a fair and equal chance to compete.

According to Election Commission no party can: -

1. Bribe or threaten voters.
 2. Appeal to them in the name of caste or religion.
 3. Use government resources for election campaign.
 4. Spend more than `25 lakh in a constituency for a Lok Sabha election or `10 lakh in a constituency in an Assembly election.
3. In addition to the laws, all the political parties in our country have agreed to a Model Code of Conduct for election campaigns. According to this, no party or candidate can:
- Use any place of worship for election propaganda.
 - Use government vehicles, aircrafts, and officials for elections.
 - Once elections are announced, Ministers shall not lay foundation stones of any projects,
 - take any big policy decisions or make any promises of providing public facilities.



Polling and counting of votes

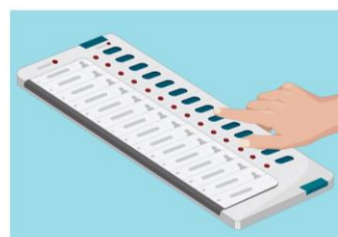
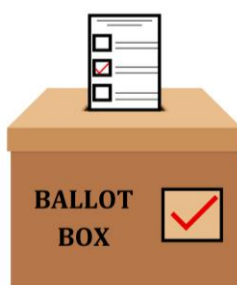
Polling/Voting Day



BALLOT



EVM's



ELECTORAL POLITICS**WHAT MAKES ELECTIONS IN INDIA DEMOCRATIC****WHAT MAKES ELECTIONS IN INDIA DEMOCRATIC****Independent Election Commission**

Election Commission enjoys the same power as Judiciary. Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) is appointed by the president but once appointed not answerable to president or the government. Virtually impossible to remove the CEC. Very few election commissions in the world have such wide-ranging powers as the Election Commission of India.

**Powers of Election commission**

- EC takes decisions on every aspect of conduct and control of elections from the announcement of elections to the declaration of results.
- It implements the Code of Conduct and punishes any candidate or party that violates it.
- During the election period, the EC can order the government to follow some guidelines, to prevent use and misuse of governmental power to enhance its chances to win elections, or to transfer some government officials.
- When on election duty, government officers work under the control of the EC and not the government.

Popular Participation

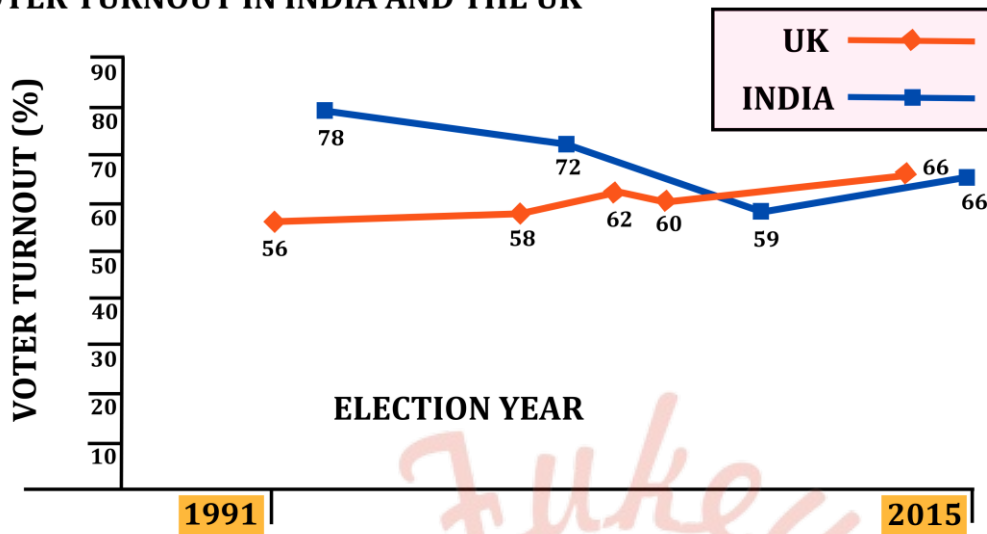
Quality of election If the election process is not free or fair, people will not continue to participate in the exercise.

1. Voter's turnout figures Turnout indicates the per cent of eligible voters who actually cast their vote.

ELECTORAL POLITICS

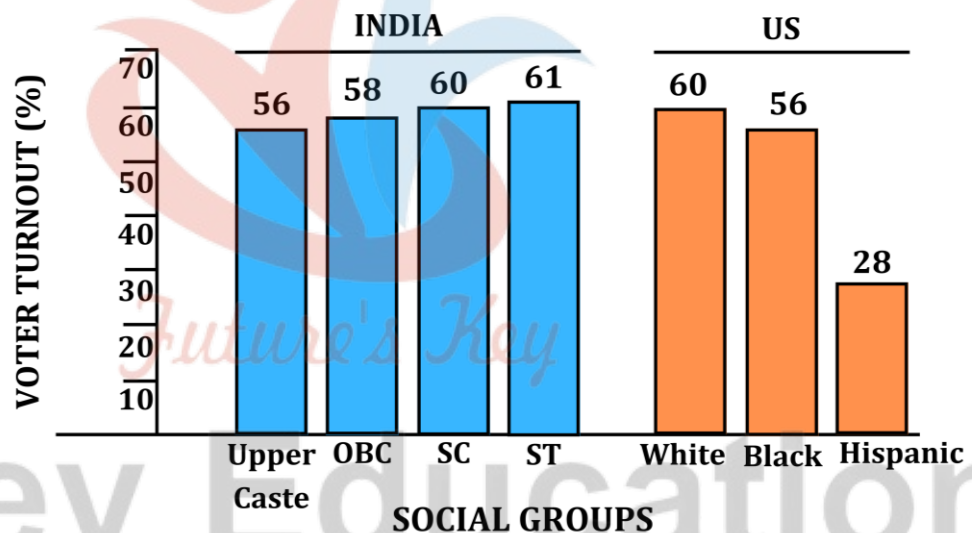
WHAT MAKES ELECTIONS IN INDIA DEMOCRATIC

1 VOTER TURNOUT IN INDIA AND THE UK



2. In India the poor, illiterate and underprivileged people vote in larger proportion as compared to the rich and privileged sections.

2 VOTER TURNOUT IN INDIA AND US BY SOCIAL GROUPS, 2004

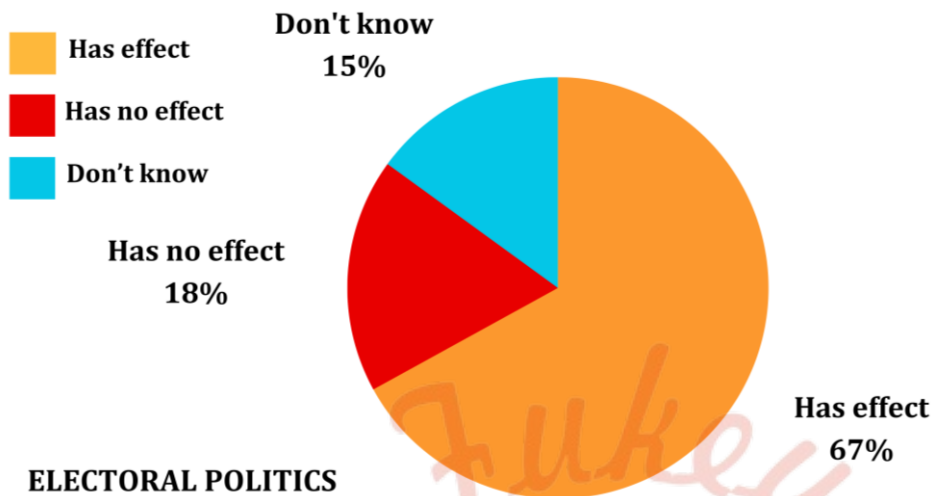


3. Common people in India attach a lot of importance to elections.
- They feel that through elections they can bring pressure on political parties to adopt policies and programmes favourable to them.
 - They also feel that their vote matters in the way things are run in the country.

ELECTORAL POLITICS

WHAT MAKES ELECTIONS IN INDIA DEMOCRATIC

3 DO YOU THINK YOUR VOTE MAKES A DIFFERENCE?

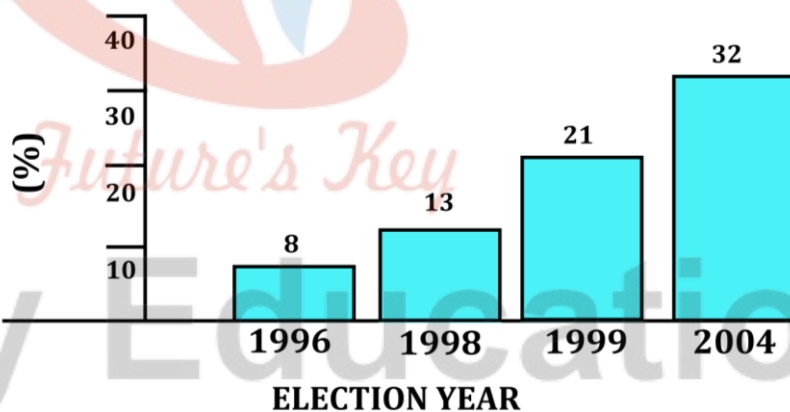


ELECTORAL POLITICS

4. The interest of voters in election related activities has been increasing over the years. One out of every seven voters are a member of a political party.

4 THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN ANY ELECTION RELATED ACTIVITY IN INDIA

Source: National Election Study 1996-2004, CSDS



Acceptance of Election outcome

The outcome of India's elections speak for itself.

- The ruling parties routinely lose elections in India both at the national and state level.
- In the US, an incumbent or sitting elected representative rarely loses an election. In India about half of sitting MPs or MLAs lose elections.
- Candidates who are known to have spent a lot of money on 'buying votes' and those with known criminal connections often lose elections.

ELECTORAL POLITICS**WHAT MAKES ELECTIONS IN INDIA DEMOCRATIC**

- Barring very few disputed elections, the electoral outcomes are usually accepted as 'people's verdict' by the defeated party.

Challenges to Free and Fair election

Limitations and challenges of Indian elections are-

- Candidates and parties with a lot of money may not be sure of their victory, but they do enjoy a big and unfair advantage over smaller parties.
- Candidates with criminal connection have been able to push others out of the electoral race to secure a ticket.
- Some families tend to dominate political parties.
- Elections offer little choice to ordinary citizen. [Parties have no major difference]
- Smaller parties and independent candidates suffer a huge disadvantage compared to bigger parties.

*Future's Key*

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03

ELECTORAL POLITICS

MIND MAP

