

SOCIAL SCIENCE • CLASS 9

CHAPTER 7

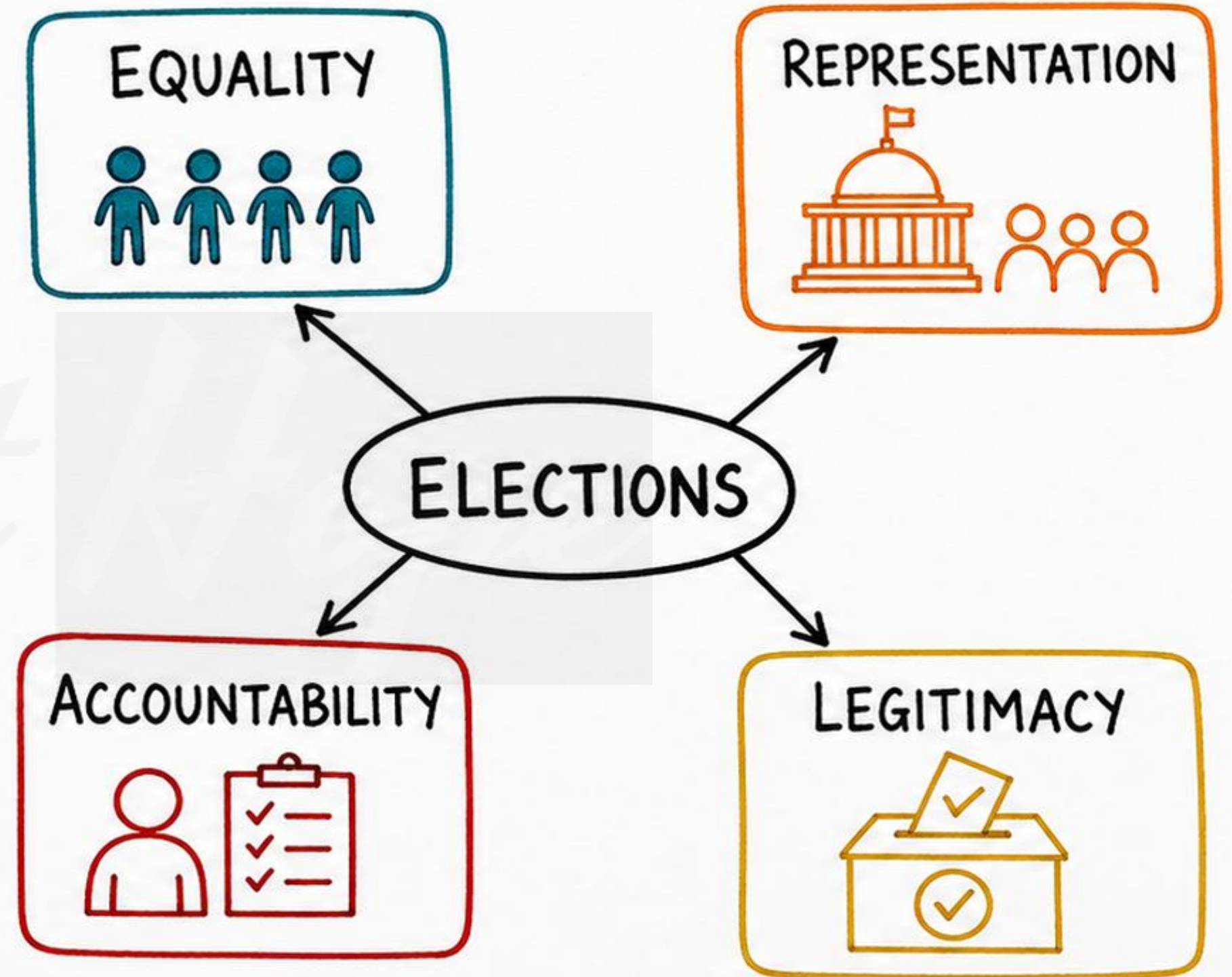
Elections

CHAPTER NOTES



ELECTIONS: MEANING AND DEMOCRATIC IMPORTANCE

- Definition: An election is a process through which citizens exercise the right to vote and fulfil their responsibility as citizens.
- Regular and periodic elections lie at the core of democracy.
- Voters choose representatives who make decisions on their behalf.
- A fresh election renews the people's mandate and lets voters change non-performing representatives.
- Elected representatives remain accountable to the people.
- The vote is the principal means by which citizens exercise this democratic right.



Regular elections give government a fresh public mandate.

DIRECT AND INDIRECT ELECTIONS

DIRECT ELECTIONS

- ★ Citizens vote directly to choose their representatives or leaders.



EXAMPLES IN INDIA:

- Lok Sabha
- Vidhan Sabha
- Panchayats
- Municipal corporations and other local bodies.

NOTE:

These direct elections are normally held every five years.

Direct: people choose the office-holder themselves.

INDIRECT ELECTIONS

- ★ Citizens elect representatives, who then choose or elect the leaders.



EXAMPLES IN INDIA:

- President
- Vice President
- Members of the Rajya Sabha.

Indirect: elected representatives make the final choice.

INSIDE INDIA'S ELECTION MACHINERY

- In a vast and diverse country, elections require laws and a well-organised system at national, state and local levels.
- The aim is to conduct elections in a free, fair and transparent manner.



CONSTITUTION + PARLIAMENTARY LAWS → define the functions and powers of the stakeholders.

ELECTORAL SYSTEMS: FROM VOTES TO SEATS

An electoral system is the method used to convert votes cast into seats in a legislature.

VOTES CAST



COUNTING RULE



SEATS ALLOCATED

① FIRST-PAST-THE-POST (FPTP)

- One constituency elects one candidate.
- The candidate with the most votes wins.
- More than 50% is not required.

② MAJORITY SYSTEM

- A candidate must receive more than 50% of the votes.
- If no one does, the top two contest a second round.

③ PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION (PR)

- Voters vote for a party in the example system.
- Seats are shared in proportion to each party's vote share.

India uses FPTP for Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections, and proportional representation for the Rajya Sabha, President and Vice President.

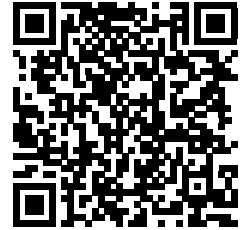


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