

CBSE • CLASS 9 • SOCIAL SCIENCE

SOCIAL SCIENCE

CHAPTER 07

Elections



NCERT SOLUTIONS



MAKING VOTING MORE INCLUSIVE

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

- (a) People with Disabilities
- (b) Service Voters
- (c) Senior Citizens — above 85 years of age
- (d) Prisoners
- (e) Persons in preventive detention

(a) PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The chapter describes EVMs with Braille, accessible facilities and the Saksham App for registration and polling-station information. It also describes home voting for eligible persons with a benchmark disability of 40%.

(b) SERVICE VOTERS

ETPBS means Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System. It lets service voters receive their postal ballot electronically when they are outside their assigned constituency.

(c) SENIOR CITIZENS

Citizens above 85 years of age can use the home-voting facility described in the chapter.

(d) PRISONERS AND (e) PERSONS IN PREVENTIVE DETENTION

The supplied chapter does not explain reforms or voting rules for these two groups.

FUNCTIONS OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION

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

The ECI:

- Prepares and revises electoral rolls so eligible citizens can vote.
- Decides election dates and schedules.
- Registers political parties, recognises them, allocates symbols and handles related disputes.
- Oversees nominations, campaigns and voting, and enforces election rules.
- Coordinates election officials, security arrangements and accessible voting facilities.
- Oversees counting and the declaration of results.

MOST IMPORTANT FUNCTION

In my view, ensuring an impartial and transparent election process is most important. Voters must be able to vote freely, votes must be counted accurately, and eligible people must not face unfair barriers. The other functions support this goal.

ELECTIONS: THE SOUL OF DEMOCRACY

Q3. Elections are the soul of a democracy. Do you agree? Why or why not?

Yes, I agree. Regular elections are central to democracy because:

- People choose representatives who make decisions on their behalf.
- Voters can hold representatives accountable and choose a different representative at the next election.
- Elections give citizens an equal voice in forming a government.
- Competing parties offer choices about policies and programmes.
- People's mandate gives the elected government legitimacy.

However, holding elections is not enough by itself. The process must also be free, fair, inclusive and transparent.

NATIONAL AND STATE PARTIES

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

THREE DIFFERENCES IN RECOGNITION

National party

1. GEOGRAPHICAL BASIS

National party: Recognition requires support across several states.

2. ONE VOTE-AND-SEAT ROUTE

National party: At least 6% of valid votes in 4 or more states in Lok Sabha or Assembly elections, plus 4 Lok Sabha seats.

3. ONE SEAT-SHARE ROUTE

National party: At least 2% of Lok Sabha seats, with candidates elected from at least 3 states.

State party

State party: Recognition is based on performance in the state concerned.

State party: At least 6% of valid votes in the state's Assembly election, plus at least 2 Assembly seats.

State party: At least 3% of Assembly seats or 3 Assembly seats, whichever is more.

These are examples of alternative qualifying routes. A party needs to fulfil any one applicable condition; all routes are not required together.



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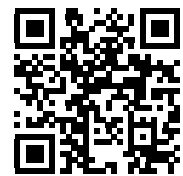


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