

# CLASS NOTES

Class: IX

Topic: Electoral Politics

Subject: Democratic Politics

## Q1. Why do we need elections?

- i) To make the rule of the people elections are necessary. In most democracies people rule through **representatives**. To choose the representatives we need election
- ii) To find out if people like their representatives or not elections are required to elect or not to elect.
- iii) To ensure that these representatives rule **as per the wishes of people** elections are required.
- iv) To make sure that those who the people don't like do not remain in power elections are required.

## Q2. What are the choices that voters normally make in an election?

In an election the voters may make the following choices:

- i) They can choose **who will make laws for them**.
- ii) ) They can choose **who will form the government** and take major decisions.
- iii) They can choose the party **whose policies will guide the government** and law making.
- iv) To ensure that these representatives **rule as per the wishes of the people**.

## Q3. What are the minimum conditions of a democratic election? ( What makes an election democratic?)

First, everyone should be able to choose. This means that everyone should have one vote and **every vote should have equal value**.

Second, 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.

Third, the choice should be offered at regular intervals. **Elections must be held regularly** after every few years.

Fourth, the candidate preferred by the people should get elected.

Fifth, elections should be conducted in a **free and fair manner** where people can choose as they really wish.

#### **Q4. What are the merits/advantages of political competition?**

- i) If there is no competition, elections will become pointless.
- ii) Regular electoral competition provides incentives to political parties and leaders. They know that if they raise issues that people want to be raised, their popularity and chances of victory will increase in the next elections. But if they fail to satisfy the voters with their work they will not be able to win again. Thus it motivates them to do good things.
- iii) Political competition enlighten people about election and democratic principles and during their competition people can identify the party that they should choose.

#### **Q5. What are the de-merits/disadvantages of political competition?**

- i) An electoral competition has many demerits. It creates a sense of disunity and 'factionalism' in every locality.
- ii) Different political parties and leaders often level allegations against one another.
- iii) Parties and candidates often use dirty tricks to win elections.
- iv) Some people say that the pressure to win electoral fights does not allow sensible long-term policies to be formulated.
- v) Some good people who may wish to serve the country do not enter this arena. They do not like the idea of being dragged into unhealthy competition.

#### **Q6. Distinguish between General Election and By- election.**

- i) Elections that are held in all constituencies at the same time, either on the same day or within a few days, after a regular interval of five years are called general elections.
- ii) Sometimes elections that are held only for one or a few constituencies to fill the vacancies caused by death or resignation of members, these are called a by-election.
- iii) After a General Election a new government will be formed whereas in a by-election the existing government will not change.

#### **Q7. What are Electoral Constituencies?**

In our country we follow an area based system of representation. The country is divided into different areas for purposes of elections. These areas are called electoral constituencies. In a constituency only one candidate will be elected during election. For Lok Sabha election the country is divided into 543 constituencies. The representative elected from each **constituency is called a Member of Parliament. Similarly each state is divided into specific of**

**Assembly Constituencies. In this case the elected representative is called an MLA.**