



INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCE



Subject :DEMOCRATIC POLITICS	Topic: Electoral Politics	Date of Worksheet :17/11/2017
Resource Person:Mrs Sangeeta Kumble	Date :	
Name of the Student :	Class & Division :	Roll Number :

	<p>ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS: NOTE: (QUESTION, 1, 2, 6, 8, 9,11,14,15, 17.20,21,23 TO BE WRITTEN IN THE NOTEBOOK.)</p>	
1	What is election? Why is it necessary?	5
2	List on the conditions needed for a democratic election.	5
3	<p>State the merits and demerits of democratic elections.</p> <p>Merits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -In an ideal world, all political leaders know what is good for the people and are motivated only by a desire to serve them. -Our constitution makers opted for free competition in elections as the way to select our future leaders,because this system works better in the long run. -Political leaders are motivated by a desire to advance in their political careers. They want to remain in power or get power and position for themselves for which, they can compete with other political parties. <p>Demerits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -An electoral competition creates a sense of disunity and factionalism in every locality. -Different political parties and leaders often level allegations against one another. -Parties and candidates often use dirty tricks to win elections. 	5
4	<p>Differentiate between General elections by-elections and a mid-term election.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -When elections are held in all the constituencies at the same time, either on the same day or within few days, this is called general elections. -Sometimes election is held only for one constituency to fill the vacancy caused by the death or resignation of a member. This is called by-election -If the Loksabha or any of the State Assemblies are dissolved before the expiry of its full term, then elections are held to constitute a new house. Such elections held out of schedule are known as mid-term elections. 	3
5	<p>How are elections held in India?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -LokSabha and vidhanSabha elections are held regularly, every five years. -After five years the term of all the elected representatives comes to an end. -The LokSabha or the VidhanSabha stands dissolved. -Elections are held in all constituencies at the same time either on the same day or within a few days. This are called 'general elections'. -Sometimes, elections are held only for one constituency to fill the vacancy caused by the death or resignation of a member. This is called a 'by- election'. 	5



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6	What are reserved constituencies? Why is it required? OR Why were' reserved constituencies' devised for the weaker sections by the makers of the Indian constitution?	5
7	How was the system of' reserved constituencies' introduced for the SC's and ST's? -Some constituencies are reserved for the people who belong to the scheduled castes and scheduled Tribes. -In an SC- reserved constituency, only someone who belongs to the Scheduled Caste can stand for elections -Similarly, only those belonging to a Scheduled Tribe can contest elections from a constituency reserved for ST's. -Currently, 79 seats are reserved for the Scheduled Castes and 41 for the Scheduled Tribes in the loksabha. -This number is in proportion to their share in the total population; thus the reserved seats for SC's and ST's do not take away the legitimate share of any other social group.	5
8	What is the 'Voters List'?	3
9	What do you know about Voter's ID card?	3
10	How does a party file a nomination for its candidate? -In order to be a candidate, the minimum age is 25 years. -Political parties nominate their candidates who get the party symbol and support. -Party's nomination is often called a party ticket. -Every person who wishes to contest an election has to fill a' nomination form and give some money as a' security deposit'. -If the information provided is not correct, the nomination can be cancelled and the security deposit is returned.	5
11	What legal declaration is required to be submitted by each candidate who wishes to contest an election?	3
12	Why are there no educational qualifications laid down for contesting elections? -This is because educational qualifications are not relevant to all kinds of jobs.eg, to be a member of the Indian cricket team you need to play cricket well and not an educational degree. -Similarly to be an MLA or an MP, you need to be able to understand people's needs and problems. -Moreover, it should be left to the voters to decide how much importance they give to educational qualification. -To emphasize on educational qualifications in a country where the percentage of illiterates are high would mean that a large percentage of voters would not be able to stand for elections which would be undemocratic.	5
13	Explain the different stages in the election procedures. -Demarcation of the constituencies and preparation of Voter's List by the Election Commission. -Nomination of the candidates. -Scrutiny of the nomination papers and allocation of election symbols. -Election Campaign by candidates and political parties. -Polling, counting and declaration of results.	5



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14	Why are election campaigns needed?	3
15	What election laws are made for campaigning?	5
16	How is campaigning done for elections held in India? -In India, election campaigns take place for a two- week period between the announcement of the final list of candidates and the date of polling. -During this period, the candidates contact their voters. -Political leaders address election meetings and political parties mobilize their supporters. -This is also the period when newspapers and the television news broadcasting channels are full of election-related stories and debates. -During election campaigns, political parties try to focus the public attention on some big issues -They want the public to vote for their party on that basis.	5
17	List out the various slogans given by different political parties in various elections.	3
18	How are polls conducted in India? -The final stage of election is the day when the voters cast their vote in a polling booth. That day is usually called the Election Day. -Every person whose name is on the voters' list can go to a nearby 'polling booth 'situated usually in a local school or a government office. -Once the voter goes inside the booth, the election officials identify him or her by putting a mark on his or her finger and allow him or her to cast the vote. -An agent of each candidate is allowed to sit inside the polling booth and ensure that the voting takes place in a fair way. -A ballot paper is laced in which the names of the contesting candidates along with their party name and symbols are listed. -Nowadays, Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) are used to record votes. -The machine shows the names of the candidates and party symbols. Independent candidates too have their own symbols, allotted by the election officials. -Each voter has to press the button against the name of the candidate she or he wants to vote for.	5
19	How are votes counted after the polls? -Once the polling is over, all the EVMs are sealed and taken to a secure place. -A few days later, on a fixed date, all the EVMs from a constituency are opened and the votes secured by each candidate are counted. -The agents of all candidates are present there to ensure that the counting is done properly. -The candidate who secures the highest number of votes from a constituency is declared elected. -In a general election, the counting of the votes in all the constituencies usually takes place at the same time and on the same day. -Within a few hours of counting, all the results are declared and it becomes clear as to who will form the next government.	5
20	What is model code of conduct in Indian electoral system? Mention its chief elements.	5
21	Describe the allegations leveled by the media regarding unfair practices in the elections.	5



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22	<p>Explain the role of Election Commissioner in ensuring free and fair elections in India.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-The Election Commissioner is appointed by the president and EC enjoys the same kind of independence that the judiciary has.-The EC has the power to conduct the elections in free and fair manner.-The EC is not answerable to the government when on election duty Government officers work under the control of the EC and not the government. <p>Even if the ruling party does not like what the Election Commission does, it is virtually impossible to remove the Chief Election Commissioners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-EC implements the Code of Conduct and punishes any candidate or party that violates it.—-During the election period, EC can order the government to follow some guidelines to prevent the use or misuse of government power.	5
23	<p>What are the functions of the Election Commission?</p>	5
24	<p>'In India the voters turn out has gone up'. Give reason.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Over the last fifty years, the turnout in Europe and North America has declined. In India the turnout has either remained stable or actually gone up.-In India the poor, illiterate and underprivileged people vote in larger proportion as compared to the rich and the privileged sections. This is in contrast to western countries.-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.	3
25	<p>"The outcome of India's elections speaks for itself." Explain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-The ruling parties routinely lose elections in India both at the national and the state level. In fact in every two out of the three elections held in the last fifteen years, the ruling party lost.-In the US, an incumbent or 'sitting' elected representative rarely loses an election. In India about half of the 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.-Barring very few disputed elections, the electoral outcomes are usually accepted as people's verdict by the defeated party.	5
26	<p>What are the challenges to free and fair elections?</p> <p>Challenges to free and fair elections in India are as follows :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-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 and independents.-In some parts of the country, the candidates with criminal connection have been able to secure a 'ticket' from major parties.-Some families tend to dominate the political parties; tickets are distributed to relatives from these families.-Very often, elections offer little choice to ordinary citizens as both the major parties are similar to each other in their policies and practices.-Smaller parties and independent candidates suffer a huge disadvantage as compared to bigger parties.	5