NCERT Archive

SOLUTIONS BOOK

CLASS 9

Social Science · Understanding Society

CHAPTER 7

Elections

Complete Questions and Activities Solutions

In-text Questions

Questions and Activities

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Every question is followed by its answer. Question numbers above are clickable and the PDF bookmarks panel lets you jump to any exercise set or question. Figures are reproduced from the NCERT textbook (© NCERT) for educational use.

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7.1

CLASS 9 SOCIAL SCIENCE · CHAPTER 7

In-text Questions

Solutions · 14 questions

Directions (Questions 1–14): These are the questions that appear inside the chapter (The Big Questions, Fig. 7.1 activity, Let's Explore, Don't Miss Out, Think About It, Let's Map and Let's Analyse), numbered in the order in which they appear. Many are open-ended; model answers based on the chapter are given, and you may add examples from your own surroundings.

QUESTION 1 *The Big Questions · p. 1*

Why are elections essential to a democratic system?

ANSWER

Elections let citizens choose their representatives and hold them accountable. Without regular and periodic elections, a system cannot be called democratic.

a Citizens choose who decides for them

In a democracy, decisions are made on our behalf by those we elect. Members of the Lok Sabha, the Vidhan Sabha and local bodies (Panchayats, municipal corporations) are chosen through **direct elections** every five years, while the President, the Vice President and members of the Rajya Sabha are chosen through **indirect elections**.

b Periodic elections keep power accountable

- A class representative such as Gurmat cannot continue in Grade 9 without a fresh election; in the same way a government cannot continue beyond its prescribed term without seeking the people's mandate again.
- Elected representatives are accountable to the people. This right to elect and to hold them accountable is ensured through periodic elections, and our vote is the principal means of exercising it.
- We cannot exercise a real choice if only one political party is contesting.

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c Elections give legitimacy and equality

Fig. 7.1 links elections with representation, accountability, legitimacy and equality. Elections give every citizen an equal voice in forming a government, and the government gets its authority from the people's mandate.

Therefore, elections are essential because they let citizens choose and change their representatives, make governments accountable and give them legitimacy.

QUESTION 2 *The Big Questions · p. 1*

How do electoral systems and rules shape political representation and fairness?

ANSWER

An electoral system decides how votes are converted into seats, and the rules (laws and delimitation) decide how fair the contest and the representation are.

a The electoral system decides who is represented

System	How voting works	Result in the example (Fig. 7.3)
First-Past-The-Post (FPTP)	Each voter votes for one candidate; the candidate with the most votes wins, even with less than 50%.	Haritbhumi: Party A with 40% of votes forms the government.
Majority system	A candidate must get more than 50%; otherwise the top two compete in a second round.	Ratnadweep: no one reached 50% in Round 1; Party Y won Round 2 with 55%.
Proportional Representation (PR)	Voters vote for a party; seats are allotted in proportion to votes received.	Swarnalok: M 40, N 35, O 15, P 10 seats of 100; power is shared proportionately.

b India's choices

- The framers of the Constitution chose the plurality (FPTP) system. Members of the Lok Sabha and the Vidhan Sabha are elected by FPTP.
- The Rajya Sabha, the President and the Vice President are elected through proportional representation. The Vidhan Parishad is elected by PR with a single transferable vote, where Quota = [Total valid votes ÷ (Seats to be filled + 1)] + 1.

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c Rules that protect fairness

- **RPA, 1950:** allocation of seats and delimitation of constituencies, preparation of electoral rolls, and the right of every citizen of 18 years and above to vote without discrimination.
- **RPA, 1951:** nomination of candidates, campaigns, voting procedures, electoral offences and resolution of disputes.
- **Delimitation:** keeps the ratio of seats to population as equal as possible. Without it one MP might represent five lakh people and another twenty-five lakh, defeating equal representation.

Therefore, the electoral system decides who gets represented, and rules such as the RPA and delimitation decide how fair that representation is.

QUESTION 3 *The Big Questions · p. 1*

What role do institutions and laws play in ensuring free and fair elections?

ANSWER

Laws set the rules of the contest and institutions apply them. Together they make the electoral process free, fair and transparent.

a Laws

- The Representation of the People Act, 1950 and 1951, and the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952 govern how elections are conducted.
- Together these Acts ensure the integrity, transparency and accountability of India’s electoral process.

b Institutions and stakeholders

Institution	Role
Election Commission of India (ECI)	Has superintendence, direction and control of the entire election process (Articles 324 to 329).
Delimitation Commission	Fixes the number of seats and constituency boundaries (Article 82) so that representation is equal.
Chief Electoral Officer of the State	Supervises election work in the State; appointed by the ECI from among civil servants.
District Election Officers, Returning Officers, Electoral Registration Officers	State Government officers such as District Magistrates, Sub-Divisional Magistrates and Tahsildars who are assigned election duties.

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Institution	Role
Political parties, civil society, media, voters	Other stakeholders who play their roles in the electoral process.

c Safeguards

The ECI addresses misinformation, fake news and intimidation through RPA 1950 and 1951, the Model Code of Conduct, EVMs, the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) and voters' awareness campaigns.

Therefore, laws provide the rules and institutions like the ECI and the Delimitation Commission enforce them, keeping elections free and fair.

QUESTION 4 *The Big Questions · p. 1*

What challenges do elections face in practice, and how can these challenges affect democracy?

ANSWER

Conducting elections in a vast and diverse country is difficult, and if fairness is not ensured, the value of elections is reduced.

a Challenges in practice

- **Scale and diversity:** over 96.8 crore voters (in 2024), thousands of polling stations and hundreds of political parties across diverse regions and socio-economic realities.
- **Misinformation, fake news and intimidation** (the potholes in Fig. 7.13).
- Candidates being influenced by personal favours, votes not being counted accurately, and difficulties in voting due to accessibility issues.

b How they affect democracy

- Public confidence in electoral institutions may gradually weaken.
- Although elections may be held, their democratic value is reduced. Democracy is not only about conducting elections but also about making the process inclusive, impartial and trustworthy.

c Meeting the challenges

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The ECI uses RPA 1950 and 1951, the Model Code of Conduct, EVMs, VVPAT and voter awareness campaigns. With constant vigilance and active citizen participation, elections can become more representative and democracy more robust.

Therefore, challenges such as misinformation and intimidation can weaken trust in elections, so they must be tackled to keep democracy strong.

QUESTION 5 *Fig. 7.1 Activity · p. 2*

Fill in the two empty boxes to indicate why elections are important for democratic functioning, and discuss how each one of them is ensured through elections.

ANSWER

Fig. 7.1 already shows four ideas: accountability, representation, legitimacy and equality. Two more are added below to complete the wheel.

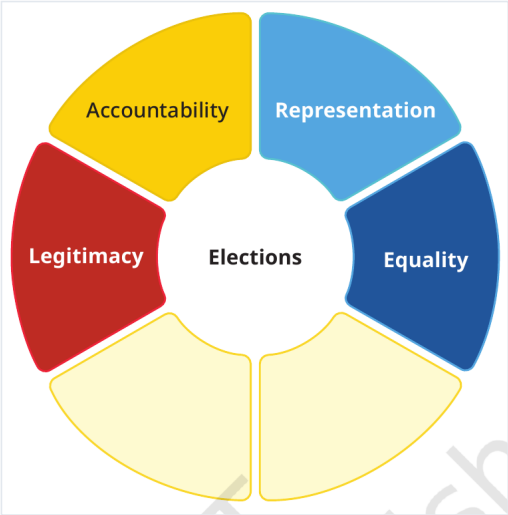

Fig. 7.1. Importance of elections in a democracy (two boxes to be filled)

a The two empty boxes: Participation and Choice

Idea	Why it matters	How elections ensure it
Representation	Citizens' views reach the bodies that make decisions.	People elect MPs, MLAs and local representatives to speak and decide for them.
Accountability	Those in power must answer to the people.	Representatives must face voters again after each term and can be voted out.

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Idea	Why it matters	How elections ensure it
Legitimacy	A government's right to rule rests on the people's consent.	Authority comes from a mandate won in free, fair and periodic elections.
Equality	Every citizen has an equal say in forming the government.	Every citizen of 18 years and above on the electoral roll can vote without discrimination.
Participation (new)	Citizens take part in decisions instead of being passive.	Registering, voting, discussing issues and campaigning let citizens fulfil their duty.
Choice (new)	Voters can select among alternatives.	Many parties and independent candidates contest; manifestos help voters make informed choices.

Therefore, participation and choice, along with representation, accountability, legitimacy and equality, make elections the foundation of democratic functioning.

QUESTION 6 *Let's Explore · p. 5*

Different democracies use different electoral systems. Make groups of 5–6 students. Each group will select six countries from different continents. Prepare and present a case study on the type of electoral system(s) operating in those countries, and discuss their latest election results of those countries.

ANSWER

This is a group project. The steps and a model case study are given below; update the results from the official election body of each country.

a Steps

- Select six countries, one from each of six continents.
- Find the electoral system for the national legislature (and head of state) from official election or parliament websites.
- Classify each system as FPTP, majority or proportional representation (see Fig. 7.3 table).
- Note the most recent election result and present it in a chart, then discuss how the system shaped the result.

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b Model case study

Country (continent)	Electoral system	A recent general election
India (Asia)	FPTP for the Lok Sabha; PR for the Rajya Sabha, President and Vice President	2024: NDA won 293 of 543 seats (BJP 240).
United Kingdom (Europe)	FPTP in single-member constituencies	2024: Labour won 411 of 650 seats.
South Africa (Africa)	List proportional representation for the National Assembly	2024: ANC won 159 of 400 seats and lost its majority; a coalition government was formed.
Australia (Oceania)	House of Representatives: preferential (ranked) voting; Senate: PR by single transferable vote	2025: Labor won 94 of 150 seats.
United States (North America)	FPTP for the House and Senate; President through the Electoral College	2024: the Republican candidate won the presidency with 312 of 538 electoral votes.
Brazil (South America)	President: two-round majority system; Chamber of Deputies: list PR	2022: Lula won the presidential run-off with about 50.9% of the vote.

Elections are held regularly, so check each country's official election body for the very latest result before presenting.

Therefore, democracies convert votes into seats in different ways, so the same vote share can give different seat shares.

QUESTION 7 *Don't Miss Out · p. 6*

Article 82 of the Constitution of India mandates the establishment of a Delimitation Commission. India has had four Delimitation Commissions—in 1952, 1963, 1973, and 2002. Can you find out the reason for the long interval between 1973 and 2002 with the help of your teacher?

ANSWER

The long gap exists because delimitation was deliberately frozen for about three decades by amendments to the Constitution.

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a Why there was no delimitation between 1973 and 2002

- Delimitation is based on population. After the 1971 Census, the 42nd Constitutional Amendment (1976) froze the number of seats allotted to each State, based on the 1971 population, until after the first Census following the year 2000.
- **Reason:** States that worked to control population growth were not to lose seats to States with faster-growing populations.
- After the 2001 Census, the 84th Constitutional Amendment (2001) allowed constituency boundaries to be redrawn within each State, while the State-wise seat allocation stayed frozen (until the first Census after 2026).
- The Delimitation Commission of 2002 then redrew the boundaries using this basis.

Discuss with your teacher whether freezing seats is fair to States with growing populations.

Therefore, the 1973–2002 gap was due to a constitutional freeze on delimitation, meant to avoid penalising States that controlled population growth.

QUESTION 8 *Think About It · p. 8*

You will turn 18 in a few years. As a responsible citizen, you should register yourself as a voter. Find out the various steps of the procedure for registration and the list of required documents for the same. Discuss, with anyone who has just turned 18 and has registered as a voter, the ease or difficulty faced in the voter registration process.

ANSWER

Only those whose names appear on the electoral roll are allowed to vote, so every eligible citizen should register with the ECI.

a Eligibility

The applicant must be a citizen of India and 18 years of age or above. The ECI also accepts advance applications from those who will turn 18 on an upcoming qualifying date.

b Steps to register

- **Step 1:** Visit the ECI voter portal (voters.eci.gov.in) or open the Voter Helpline App; you can also approach the Booth Level Officer.
- **Step 2:** Sign up or log in and select **Form 6** (new voter registration).

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- **Step 3:** Fill in personal details (name, date of birth, address, constituency), and upload a recent passport-size photograph and documents.
- **Step 4:** Submit the form, note the reference ID and track the status online; an official may verify the details.
- **Step 5:** After verification the name is added to the roll and the voter ID (EPIC) is issued. Check the name in the final electoral roll.

c Documents usually required

Purpose	Examples of documents
Proof of age	Birth certificate, Class 10 or 12 mark sheet showing date of birth, passport, driving licence.
Proof of address	Aadhaar, passport, driving licence, ration card, bank or post office passbook, recent utility bill.
Photograph	One recent passport-size colour photograph.

The exact list may change, so confirm it on the ECI portal or the Voter Helpline (1950).

d Discussion with a new voter

Ask: How long did registration take? Was the website or app easy to use? Were the documents easy to arrange? Did the Booth Level Officer or helpline help? Note both the ease and the difficulties.

Therefore, voter registration is a simple online process but needs proof of age and address; every eligible citizen should enrol.

QUESTION 9 *Let's Explore · p. 8*

Do you know what ETPBS is?
ETPBS stands for Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System. It enables service voters to cast their vote on an electronically received postal ballot from their preferred location, which is outside their originally assigned voting constituency.
Find out who are classified as service voters and who can vote using ETPBS?

ANSWER

Service voters are persons whose duties keep them away from their home constituency. ETPBS lets them receive and cast a postal ballot electronically.

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a Who are service voters

Category	Examples
Members of the Armed Forces of the Union	Army, Navy and Air Force personnel.
Members of an armed police force of a State serving outside that State	State armed police posted in another State.
Persons employed by the Government of India in a post outside India	Diplomats and embassy staff.
Spouse of such a person	A spouse who ordinarily resides with a service voter.

b Who can vote using ETPBS

ETPBS has been developed for **service voters**. They can receive and cast their postal ballot electronically from anywhere outside their constituency, so they need not travel to their home polling station.

Therefore, service voters are armed forces personnel and similar persons serving away from home, and they are the ones who can vote through ETPBS.

QUESTION 10 *Let's Map · p. 13*

1. Choose any three states (including yours). Find the symbols of state parties belonging to those states and plot them on the given map of India. List down their major agenda, as mentioned in their manifesto in the latest Lok Sabha/Vidhan Sabha/Local Body Elections.

ANSWER

This is a map activity. The steps are given with a model plot for three States; choose your own States and write the agenda from the latest manifesto.

a Steps

- Choose three States, including your own.
- From the ECI website, find the recognised State parties of each State and the symbol reserved for each.
- Draw or paste each symbol on the State in the outline map of India (Fig. 7.10).
- Read each party's latest manifesto from its official website and list three or four major promises, citing the source.

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b Model plot

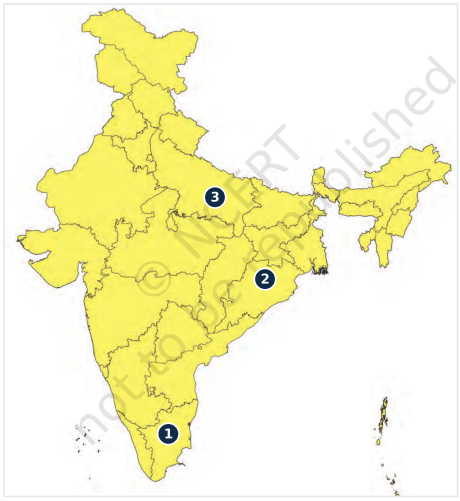

Fig. 7.10. Model plot: 1 Tamil Nadu, 2 Odisha, 3 Uttar Pradesh

No.	State	State party	Symbol	Major agenda (from the latest manifesto)
1	Tamil Nadu	DMK	Rising Sun	Write 3–4 promises from the manifesto and cite the source.
2	Odisha	BJD	Conch	Write 3–4 promises from the manifesto and cite the source.
3	Uttar Pradesh	Samajwadi Party	Bicycle	Write 3–4 promises from the manifesto and cite the source.

Therefore, plotting State parties and their agenda on a map shows how political parties reflect regional concerns.

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QUESTION 11 *Let's Map · p. 14*

2. Form groups of 4–6 students. Identify and compare the policy preferences on the following parameters for two political parties in the last Lok Sabha Elections using credible sources like party manifestos, newspapers, etc. Present the points of comparison in a poster using bullet points, symbols, colour coding, etc.
Policy areas: Education, National security, Social welfare, Environment, Economy, Health.

ANSWER

This is a research and poster project. The method, a model format and the poster tips are given; fill in the findings for the two parties your group chooses.

a Steps

- Choose two parties that contested the last Lok Sabha elections.
- Download each party's manifesto from its official website (and cross-check with newspapers).
- For every policy area, note the party's viewpoint in your own words.
- Find a policy, scheme or law that aligns with the viewpoint and record the source (document, page, date).

b Model format (one table per party)

Policy area	Party's viewpoint: look for	Policy/law that aligns: examples to check	Source
Education	Stand on schooling, higher education and funding	National Education Policy 2020; Right to Education Act, 2009	Manifesto page
National security	Defence, border and internal security	Defence policies and security laws	Manifesto page
Social welfare	Food, housing, pensions, welfare schemes	National Food Security Act, 2013; MGNREGA	Manifesto page
Environment	Climate, forests, pollution	Environment (Protection) Act, 1986	Manifesto page
Economy	Jobs, taxes, farmers, industry	GST laws; farm and industry policies	Manifesto page
Health	Public health spending, insurance	National Health Mission; Ayushman Bharat	Manifesto page

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c Poster tips

- Use one colour and one symbol for each party and keep the policy areas in the same order.
- Use short bullet points and cite sources at the bottom; compare promises neutrally instead of judging them.

Therefore, a good comparison uses the same policy areas for both parties and relies on credible, cited sources.

QUESTION 12 *Let's Explore · p. 16*

Find out the number of State parties and Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPP). You may visit the website of ECI.

ANSWER

The ECI classifies parties as recognised national parties, recognised State parties and registered-unrecognised parties (RUPPs).

a Number of parties (reported after the ECI's 2025 clean-up)

Type of party	Number	Note
National parties	6	AAP, BSP, BJP, CPI(M), INC and NPP.
State parties	67	Recognised in one or more States.
Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPP)	2,046	After the ECI delisted 808 inactive RUPPs in August–September 2025.

These numbers change as the ECI recognises or delists parties. Check the latest list of political parties on the ECI website before writing the final figure.

Therefore, India has six national parties, 67 State parties and about 2,000 registered-unrecognised parties, which shows its multi-party system.

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QUESTION 13 *Let's Explore · p. 17*

Find out the name and the composition (number and name of the national and state parties) of the alliances that won in the following elections to the Lok Sabha: 1977, 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014, 2019, 2024.

ANSWER

The table gives the winning alliance, its leading national party and some State party members. Check the full list of members for each year in the ECI's election reports.

a Winning alliances

Year	Alliance won	National parties (leading)	State parties (examples)
1977	Janata Party (Janata Government); won 295 of 542 seats	Janata Party, formed by Bharatiya Lok Dal, Bharatiya Jana Sangh, Congress (O) and Socialist Party	Shiromani Akali Dal
1999	NDA (led by BJP)	BJP (182 seats)	Shiv Sena, JD(U), BJD, Trinamool Congress, DMK, Akali Dal
2004	UPA (led by INC)	INC (145 seats)	DMK, RJD, NCP, JMM, LJP
2009	UPA (led by INC); 262 seats	INC (206 seats)	Trinamool Congress, DMK, NCP, National Conference
2014	NDA (led by BJP); 336 seats	BJP (282 seats)	TDP, Shiv Sena, LJP, Akali Dal
2019	NDA (led by BJP); 353 seats	BJP (303 seats)	Shiv Sena, JD(U), LJP, Akali Dal, AIADMK
2024	NDA (led by BJP); 293 seats	BJP (240 seats)	TDP, JD(U), Shiv Sena, LJP (Ram Vilas)

The members listed are examples, not the complete alliance, and the number of parties in an alliance differs from year to year. Also note the party recognition status changes over time.

Therefore, since 1977 coalitions and alliances led by one major party have formed most national governments.

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QUESTION 14 *Let's Analyse · p. 18*

Look at the road to free and fair elections above (Fig. 7.13). Fill in the empty potholes with some more challenges after discussing them with your teachers and parents. How can we overcome these challenges?

ANSWER

Fig. 7.13 names misinformation, fake news and intimidation. More challenges can be added to the empty potholes, along with ways to overcome them.



Fig. 7.13. Challenges to free and fair elections

a More challenges and how to overcome them

Challenge (new pothole)	Why it harms elections	How to overcome it
Money power	Gifts, offers or promises influence voters' choice.	Such acts are corrupt practices under RPA 1951; report through cVIGIL; voters refuse inducements.
Appeals on religion, caste, community or language	Divides voters and distorts their choice.	Prohibited by RPA 1951 and the Model Code of Conduct; take the voters' pledge.
Errors in the electoral roll	Eligible voters may be left out and ineligible ones included.	Special Intensive Revision; claims and objections; check your name on the roll.
Inaccessible polling stations	Persons with disabilities and senior citizens cannot vote easily.	Ramps, wheelchairs, Braille EVMs, Saksham App and voting from home.

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Challenge (new pothole)	Why it harms elections	How to overcome it
Misuse of government help for a candidate	Gives an unfair advantage.	Candidates cannot take help from gazetted officers, judges, armed forces, police or excise officers.
Low voter participation	The result may not reflect the people’s will.	Awareness campaigns, easy registration and a pledge to vote in every election.

Misinformation, fake news and intimidation can be reduced through the Model Code of Conduct, prompt action on cVIGIL complaints, checking facts before sharing news and active citizen participation.

Therefore, free and fair elections need strong laws, alert institutions and informed, active citizens.

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7.2

CLASS 9 SOCIAL SCIENCE · CHAPTER 7

Questions and Activities

Solutions · 14 questions

Directions (Questions 1–14): These are the Questions and activities at the end of the chapter (page 19). Answer each in your own words using the points given.

QUESTION 1

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

ANSWER

The ECI follows the idea of “No Voter to Be Left Behind”. Its initiatives cover infrastructure accessibility and technology-assisted inclusion.

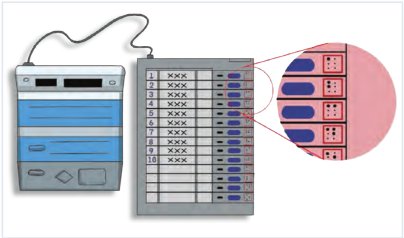

Fig. 7.7. EVM with Braille



Fig. 7.8. Voting from home for senior citizens

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a Reforms for each group

Group	Reforms
a. People with Disabilities (PwDs)	Accessible polling stations with wheelchairs and volunteers; EVM with Braille (Fig. 7.7); Saksham App to register and find the polling station; voting from home for PwDs with a benchmark disability of 40%, extended across India for the first time in the 2024 General Elections.
b. Service Voters	Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS): they can receive and cast their postal ballots electronically from anywhere outside their constituency.
c. Senior Citizens above 85 years	Voting from home (Fig. 7.8), extended across India for the first time in the 2024 General Elections.
d. Prisoners	No special voting facility. Under the Representation of the People Act, 1951 a person confined in prison cannot vote, so there is no reform for prisoners.
e. Persons in preventive detention	They are allowed to vote through a postal ballot.

Therefore, the ECI uses accessible infrastructure, apps, Braille EVMs, home voting and postal ballots to include more voters.

QUESTION 2

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.

ANSWER

The ECI is an autonomous, permanent constitutional body established on 25 January 1950. It conducts elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, Vidhan Sabha, Vidhan Parishad, the President and the Vice President.

a Functions of the ECI

Function	What the ECI does
1. Superintends the election process	Has superintendence, direction and control of the entire process of conducting elections.
2. Creates the electoral roll	Sends enumerators to every household, prepares polling-station-wise rolls and conducts Special Intensive Revision; settles claims and objections before the final roll.

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Function	What the ECI does
3. Decides the schedule and date	Starts the election machinery when the Legislature's five-year term ends or it is dissolved; considers weather, agricultural cycle, exams and festivals.
4. Registers parties and allocates symbols	Registers and classifies parties as national, State or registered-unrecognised; allots symbols; ensures inner-party democracy; settles disputes on recognition and symbols as a quasi-judicial body.
5. Ensures free and fair elections	Makes the process inclusive, impartial and transparent through initiatives for PwDs, senior citizens, transgender persons and PVTGs.
6. Uses technology	Manages rolls, nominations, campaigns, security, counting and results using ICT and apps such as Suvidha, cVIGIL, Saksham, Voter Helpline and ETPBS.
7. International cooperation	Runs the International Election Visitors' Programme; MoUs with 28 election bodies and three international organisations.

b Most important function

Ensuring free and fair elections is the most important. If fairness is not ensured, public confidence weakens and even regular elections lose democratic value. This function covers impartial conduct, equal access for all voters, and accurate counting, and it depends on the other functions such as an accurate roll.

You may argue for another function, for example the electoral roll, if you explain your reasons.

Therefore, the ECI performs many functions, and ensuring free and fair elections is the most important of them.

QUESTION 3

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

ANSWER

Yes, I agree. Elections give citizens an equal voice in forming a government, which is why they are called the soul of democracy.

a Reasons for agreeing

- **Representation and choice:** citizens choose who will decide on their behalf.
- **Accountability:** representatives must return to the people, who can change non-performing ones.
- **Legitimacy:** a government gets its authority from the people's mandate.

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- **Equality:** every voter has an equal say, whatever their religion, caste, race or language.
- **Participation:** voting is a right and a duty of every citizen.

b A condition to remember

Elections must be free, fair and inclusive. A country with only one party (like Country B in Q9) holds elections but gives voters no real choice. Democracy is not only about holding elections but about making them impartial and trustworthy.

Therefore, elections are the soul of democracy, provided they are free, fair and give citizens a real choice.

QUESTION 4

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

ANSWER

The ECI recognises parties as national or State parties on the basis of their votes and seats. Both kinds are allotted election symbols.

a Differences

Basis	National party	State/regional party
Area of support	Has support in several States; for example, recognised as a State party in at least four States.	Has its main support in one State (or region).
Criteria for recognition (any one)	Not less than 6% of valid votes in four or more States and four Lok Sabha seats; or at least 2% of Lok Sabha seats from at least three States.	Not less than 6% of valid votes in the State and at least two Assembly seats; or 3% of Assembly seats (or three seats); or 8% of valid votes in the State.
Election symbol	Its symbol is reserved for it across the country.	Its symbol is reserved in the State(s) where it is recognised.
Examples	BJP, INC, BSP, CPI(M), AAP, NPP	For example DMK (Tamil Nadu), BJD (Odisha), Samajwadi Party (Uttar Pradesh)

Therefore, national and State parties differ in their spread, recognition criteria, symbol reservation and the issues they focus on.

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QUESTION 5

Why should you vote? Arrange the following in the descending order of your choice. Discuss the reasons for your choice.

a. Opportunity to choose my representative
b. Makes me a responsible person
c. Opportunity to change the non-performing representative
d. Strengthens democracy

ANSWER

The order is a personal choice. A model order with reasons is given; any order is acceptable if you justify it.

a Model order

Rank	Reason	Why I chose this place
1	a. Opportunity to choose my representative	Voting is the principal way to choose who will make decisions on my behalf.
2	c. Opportunity to change the non-performing representative	It makes representatives accountable, since they know the voters can remove them.
3	d. Strengthens democracy	Higher participation increases the legitimacy of the government.
4	b. Makes me a responsible person	It is a benefit to me as a citizen, but it follows from the first three reasons.

Therefore, I should vote to choose my representative, hold them accountable and strengthen democracy.

QUESTION 6

What is the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) initiative of the ECI? Explain the objectives and the necessity of conducting SIR.

ANSWER

Only those whose names appear on the electoral roll are allowed to vote. The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) is the ECI's exercise to keep this roll accurate.

NCERT ARCHIVE

a What is SIR

SIR involves **updating, verifying and correcting** the electoral rolls. The ECI also gives time to raise claims or objections against the revised roll and settles them before publishing the final electoral roll.

b Objectives

- To ensure that no eligible citizen is left out and no ineligible person is included.
- To add all voters, especially young voters who have just turned 18 and may be left out due to lack of awareness.
- To delete names on the grounds of death, change of residence, duplicate enrolment, and being permanently untraceable.

c Necessity

- A person can vote only if the name is on the roll, so a wrong roll can deny the right to vote.
- People move, new voters turn 18 and some voters die, so rolls become outdated.
- An accurate roll is the base of free and fair elections and keeps public confidence in them.

Therefore, SIR keeps the electoral roll accurate and inclusive, which is essential for free and fair elections.

QUESTION 7

Match the political party name with its symbol.

ANSWER

The symbols in the chapter's table are in a different order. The correct matches are given below.

Political party name	Symbol	Picture
Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)	Broom	
Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	Lotus	
Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)	Elephant	
Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI (M)]	Hammer, sickle and star	

NCERT ARCHIVE

Political party name	Symbol	Picture
Indian National Congress (INC)	Hand (open palm)	
National People's Party (NPP)	Book	

Therefore, AAP–Broom, BJP–Lotus, BSP–Elephant, CPI(M)–Hammer, sickle and star, INC–Hand, NPP–Book.

QUESTION 8

Read the case study below and answer the following questions.

Ishani and her mother were in the local market, day before the state assembly elections. She noticed wall writing and campaign posters pasted everywhere. Large groups of campaigners were distributing pamphlets and raising slogans in support of the respective candidates. Ishani has turned 18 and will be voting for the first time. She had registered to vote through the ECI's online portal. The next morning, she, along with her mother and her disabled elder brother, went to the polling station, which was well guarded by the police personnel. A wheelchair was made available to them, and volunteers guided them to the polling booth. Inside the polling booth, there were only three people who were performing all duties. Ishani had forgotten her voter ID card and Aadhaar card, but her identity was verified with an alternative document. After casting her vote, she was also able to see the VVPAT slip. While leaving, she wondered how the police personnel vote, as they must be on duty from early morning till late evening. When she went home, she narrated her entire experience to her 89-year-old grandmother, who cast her vote from home.

a. What initiatives were taken by the ECI to enable the voters to cast their vote?

b. If Ishani was allowed to vote even without carrying her Voter ID card or Aadhaar card, which other document might she be carrying that is valid for voting?

c. Cite the examples of violations of the Model Code of Conduct.

d. Give a suitable title to the passage.

e. Find out how the police and army personnel cast their votes.

ANSWER

Each part is answered using the facts in the passage and the chapter.

NCERT ARCHIVE

a Initiatives by the ECI

- Online registration through the ECI's portal, which Ishani used to register.
- Police security at the polling station so that voters can vote without fear.
- A wheelchair and volunteers to guide her disabled brother to the polling booth.
- Verification of identity with an alternative document when the voter ID or Aadhaar is not available.
- The VVPAT slip, which lets the voter see the vote recorded.
- Voting from home for senior citizens above 85 years (her 89-year-old grandmother).

b Other valid documents

Ishani could carry any of the alternative photo-identity documents accepted by the ECI, for example a **passport, driving licence, PAN card, MGNREGA job card, bank or post office passbook with photograph, pension document with photograph, or a service identity card with photograph**.

c Violations of the Model Code of Conduct

- **Campaigning on the day before the poll:** pamphlets and slogans in the market. Campaigning must stop 48 hours before the end of polling.
- **Wall writing and campaign posters pasted everywhere:** defacing public places or private walls without permission is not allowed.

d Suitable title

"Ishani's First Vote: An Inclusive Election Day"

e How police and army personnel vote

Group	Way of voting
Army, Navy and Air Force personnel	They are service voters and can vote through the Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS) from where they are posted; they may also appoint a proxy.
Police personnel on election duty	They vote by postal ballot (applying in advance) or through an Election Duty Certificate at the polling station where they are posted. Armed police serving outside their State are service voters.

Therefore, the ECI makes voting accessible, but violations such as campaigning during the silence period must be avoided.

NCERT ARCHIVE

QUESTION 9

A comparative chart of three countries is given below. Based on the information given in the chart, answer the questions.
Country A: Written constitution, periodic elections, voting rights, party system varies from two-party to multi-party; average standard of living.
Country B: Written constitution, periodic elections, voting rights, one political party; above-average standard of living.
Country C: Written constitution, monarchy, no voting rights, no political party; high standard of living.

a. What is the difference between having a voting right in a country with a multi-party system and another with a single-party system?
b. In which of the above countries would you like to stay and why?

ANSWER

Compare the countries on political dimensions first, and then consider the economic dimension.

a Multi-party and single-party systems

Point	Multi-party system (Country A)	Single-party system (Country B)
Choice	Voters choose among competing parties and candidates.	Only one party contests, so voters have no real choice.
Change of government	Voters can change the government through elections.	The same party stays in power.
Accountability	Opposition parties and voters question the government.	No competition to hold the government to account.
Value of the vote	The vote decides the result.	The vote is only a formality.

b Where I would like to stay

I would choose **Country A**. It has periodic elections, voting rights and a real choice among parties, so citizens can hold the government accountable and improve their standard of living through their votes. Country B has voting rights but no choice, and in Country C citizens have no voting rights, even though their living standards are higher.

NCERT ARCHIVE

Your choice may differ if you give reasons based on rights, choice and standard of living.

Therefore, a vote is meaningful only when voters have a real choice among parties, as in a multi-party system.

QUESTION 10

What are the challenges to conducting free and fair elections?

ANSWER

The scale and diversity of India make conducting free and fair elections a challenging task.

a Challenges

Challenge	Explanation
Scale and diversity	Over 96.8 crore voters (in 2024), thousands of polling stations and hundreds of political parties across diverse regions and socio-economic realities.
Misinformation and fake news	False information can mislead voters and reduce their trust in elections.
Intimidation	Fear can stop voters from voting freely.
Influence by favours	Candidates or voters influenced by gifts, offers or promises.
Inaccurate counting	If votes are not counted accurately, confidence in results falls.
Accessibility issues	Some participants face difficulties in voting, for example persons with disabilities.

b How they are addressed

The ECI addresses them through RPA 1950 and 1951, the Model Code of Conduct, EVMs, VVPAT, voter awareness campaigns and other measures such as the cVIGIL App.

Therefore, with constant vigilance and active citizen participation, these challenges can be reduced.

NCERT ARCHIVE

QUESTION 11

On the Stage.

Elections are to be held in your school for the posts of Head Girl, Head Boy, and Sports Captain. Assume the roles of an Election Commissioner, Returning Officer, Polling Agent, Candidate, Campaigner, Polling Officer, Police Personnel, and a Journalist, and perform their roles while ensuring free, fair, and transparent elections.

ANSWER

This is a role-play. A model plan for each role is given; the class can add its own details.

a Roles and what each performs

Role	What to perform
Election Commissioner	Announces the schedule, prepares the school voters' list and declares the Model Code of Conduct.
Returning Officer	Accepts nominations, publishes the list of candidates and announces the result.
Candidate	Files the nomination and presents ideas for the post through a manifesto, without gifts or false promises.
Campaigner	Supports the candidate fairly, with no appeal on religion, caste, community or language.
Polling Officer	Checks the name on the roll and identity, hands over the ballot and marks the voter's finger.
Polling Agent	Watches the voting and counting on behalf of the candidate.
Police Personnel	Keeps order and ensures that no one is intimidated.
Journalist	Reports the election fairly and checks facts before reporting.

b Order of the mock election

- Roll preparation, schedule and nominations.
- Campaigning (stopping before polling day).
- Polling with accessibility for all, counting and declaration of result.

Therefore, a free and fair election needs every role to be performed honestly and in accordance with the rules.

NCERT ARCHIVE

QUESTION 12

Try and make videos or audios on topics like: My Vote My Nation; No Voter to be Left Behind; How to Eliminate the Ill of Money Power, etc.

ANSWER

This is a creative project. A plan and a model script are given below.

a Plan

Topic	Main message
My Vote My Nation	Every vote shapes who governs the country.
No Voter to be Left Behind	ECI initiatives such as Braille EVMs, home voting and the Saksham App help every voter.
How to Eliminate the Ill of Money Power	Gifts and inducements are corrupt practices; voters can refuse and report through cVIGIL.

b Model script: No Voter to be Left Behind (about one minute)

- **Narrator:** In a country of over 96.8 crore voters, every voter matters.
- **Scene 1:** A visually impaired voter uses an EVM with Braille.
- **Scene 2:** A person in a wheelchair is helped by volunteers at the polling station.
- **Scene 3:** A senior citizen above 85 votes from home.
- **Narrator:** No voter to be left behind. Register, check your name on the roll and vote.

c Steps

- Choose a topic, write a short script, record or shoot it on a phone, edit it and present it in class.

Therefore, a short video or audio can spread the message of voting and an inclusive election.

NCERT ARCHIVE

QUESTION 13

Select one national or state political party. Using authentic and reliable sources such as the Election Commission of India (ECI) website, the official website of the selected political party, and newspapers. Prepare a comparative chart of the last two State Legislative Assembly elections. The chart should include the following details for the chosen party:

a. Some promises made in the Election manifesto
b. Percentage of votes polled
c. Number of seats won
d. Number of women who contested
e. Number of women candidates elected

Present the data for both elections in a clear and comparative format, citing all sources used.

ANSWER

This is a data project. The steps and the chart format are given; fill in the figures for the party you choose.

a Steps

- Select one national or State party and the State whose last two Assembly elections you will study.
- Take the vote percentage, seats won and the numbers of women candidates and winners from the ECI website.
- Take the promises from the party's manifesto on its official website and check them against newspapers.
- Write the source below each column and compare the two elections.

b Model chart

Details	Election 1 (year)	Election 2 (year)
a. Some promises in the manifesto		
b. Percentage of votes polled		
c. Number of seats won		
d. Number of women who contested		

NCERT ARCHIVE

Details	Election 1 (year)	Election 2 (year)
e. Number of women candidates elected		
Source		

Tip: women elected ÷ women who contested × 100 gives the success rate of women candidates, which can be compared across the two elections.

Therefore, a good chart gives the same details for both elections and cites its sources.

QUESTION 14

Do you think 'One Nation, One Election' can improve the efficiency of the electoral process? Divide the class and discuss into two groups—one to examine its potential advantages and the other to analyse its limitations.

ANSWER

'One Nation, One Election' refers to holding elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies together. The two groups can use the points below.

a Group A: potential advantages and Group B: limitations

Group A: advantages	Group B: limitations
Saves the cost and effort of elections held again and again.	Needs changes to the Constitution and laws about the terms of Assemblies.
Fewer periods of the Model Code of Conduct, so policies and governance continue smoothly.	Terms of some State Assemblies may have to be cut short or extended, which may affect federalism and the people's mandate.
Reduces the repeated deployment of staff and security forces and voter fatigue.	Needs a very large number of EVMs, VVPATs, staff and security forces at the same time.
A common election calendar makes planning easier for parties, officials and voters.	National issues may overshadow regional issues; if a government falls midway, fresh elections are needed.

b Conclusion

One Nation, One Election may improve efficiency by reducing cost and disruption. However, the gains depend on solving constitutional, federal and logistical issues without weakening voters' ability to hold governments accountable at the right time.

NCERT ARCHIVE

Your own conclusion may differ if you support it with reasons from both groups.

Therefore, One Nation, One Election has efficiency benefits but also constitutional and federal limitations that need careful discussion.

NCERT ARCHIVE