**ASSIGNMENT  
 CLASS: 9th  
  
 SUBJECT: CIVICS**

SESSION : 2019-2020

***TERM -1Lesson3***

**Electoral politics**

Q1: Which of the following sentiments about the reason for conducting elections are false?

1. Election enable people to judge the performance of the government.
2. People select the representative of their choice in an election.
3. Elections enable people to evaluate the performance of the judiciary.
4. People can indicate which policies they prefer.

Ans (c) Elections enable people to evaluate the performance of the judiciary

Q2: Which of these is not a good reason to say that Indian elections are democratic?

1. India has the largest numbers of the voters in the world.
2. India’s Election Commission is very powerful.
3. In India, everyone above the age of 18 has a right to vote.
4. In India, the losing parties accept the electoral verdict.

Ans (a) India has the largest number of voters in the world.

Q3) Match the following

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a) It is necessary to keep the voters list up to date because | i) there is a fair representation of all sections of our society |
| b) Some constituencies are reserved for SCs and STs so that | ii) Everyone has equal opportunity to elect their representative. |
| c) Everyone has one and only one vote so that. | iii) All candidates must have a fair chance of competing in elections |
| d) Party in power is not allowed to use government vehicles because | iv) Some people may have moved away from the area where theyvoted last. |

Ans). (a—iv), (b—i), (c—ii), (d—iii)

Q 4: List all the different election related activities mentioned in the chapter and arrange them in a time sequence, beginning with the first activity and ending with the last. Some of these activities are given below:

Releasing election manifestos, counting of votes, making of voters’ list, Election campaign, Declaration of election results, Casting of votes, ordering of re-poll, announcing election schedule, Filing nomination.

Ans. Different election related activities:

a) Making of voters’ list

b) Announcing election schedule

c) Filing nomination

d) Releasing election manifesto

e) Election campaign

f) Casting of votes

g) Ordering of re-polls.

h) Counting of votes.

i) Declaration of election results.

Q5:Surekha is an officer-in-charge of ensuring free and fair elections in an assembly constituency in a state. Describe what she should focus on for each of the following stages of election: a. Election campaign b. Polling day c. Counting day.

Ans) **a. Election campaign** – Surekha as an officer-in-charge should see that the party meetings are held within the stipulated time, there are no clashes during the rallies, no party is violating code of conduct for elections such as, wall-postering, character assassination of the opponents etc.

**b. Polling day** – On this day she has to make sure that

* The polling is done in a peaceful atmosphere.
* No bogus voter casts the vote.
* There is proper security arrangement in every booth.
* There is no rigging.
* The ballot boxes or EVM's reach counting center safely

**C. Counting day** – On the counting day, Surekha as an officer-in-charge has to take care of the following:

* There is proper seating arrangement for the agents of every candidate.
* Counting should be done carefully and accurately.
* No unauthorized person should be allowed into the counting center.

Q 6: The table below gives the proportion of different communities among the candidates who won elections to the US Congress. Compare these to the proportion of these communities in the population of the US. Based on this would you suggest a system of reservations in the US Congress? If yes, why and for which communities? If no, why not?

**Proportion of the community**

**(in percent) in the**

**House of representative Population of US**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Blacks | 8 | 13 |
| Hispanics | 5 | 13 |
| Whites | 86 | 70 |

Ans. On the basis of this data, I would like to suggest a system of reservation in US Congress for the blacks and Hispanics. So that the communities are represented in US Congress as per their proportion In US population and the minority community's identity is secured.

Q7: Can we draw the following conclusions from the information given in this chapter? Give two facts to support your position for each of these.

1. Election commission of India does not have enough powers to conduct free and fair elections in the country.

Ans) It is wrong to say that election commission of India does not have enough powers to conduct free and fair elections. Because Election Commission of India is an independent body to ensure free and fair elections. The Election Commission has complete control over all the functionaries connected with the conduct of fair elections. It has the authority to impose model code of conduct, once the dates for polls are announced. Moreover, it can order of re-polling in case of any rigging in any constituency.

b) There is a high level of popular participation in the elections in our country.

Ans)It is a fact that there is a high level of popular participation in the elections in our country. During the last 50 years or so, the turnout of voters in the North America and Europe has declined while in India it has either remained stable or increased.

c) It is very easy for the party in power to win an election

Ans)It is quite a wrong notion that party in power can win an election quite easily in India, because had this been true, no ruling party would have lost the election. Furthermore, no ruling party can use government machinery for its election advantage.

d) Many reforms are needed to make our elections completely free and fair.

Ans) This is a correct conclusion. Reforms are needed because candidates and parties with lot of money enjoy an unfair advantage.Also, some candidates have criminal backgrounds or connections which they use to terrorise the voters and other candidates.

Q 8: Chinappa was convicted for torturing his wife for dowry. Satbir was held guilty of practicing untouchability. The court did not allow either of them to contest elections. Does this decision go against the principles of democratic elections?

Ans. This decision does not go against the principles of democratic elections, as both Chinappa and Satbir are criminals and hence, should be prevented from holding position in the central or state assemblies.

Q 9: Here are some reports of electoral malpractices from different parts of the world. Is there anything that these countries can learn from India to improve their elections? What would you suggest in each case?

a) During an election in Nigeria, the officer in charge of counting votes deliberately increased the votes of one candidate and declared him elected. The court later found out that more than five lakh votes cast for one candidate were counted in favour of another.

Ans. The system of counting should be in such that the counting officer shall not be able to do this. In India, this is not possible as counting agents of all the candidates are present in the counting center and counting of votes takes place in their presence

b) Just before an election in Fiji, a pamphlet was distributed warning voters that a vote for former Prime Minister, MahendraChaudhry will lead to bloodshed. This was a threat to voters of Indian origin.

Ans. Such a thing is quite wrong against the spirit of a free and fair election. Such malpractices and rigging should not be banned by Election Commission of that country as a neutral and independent commission like that of India.

c) In the US, each state has its method of voting, its own procedure of counting and its own authority for conducting elections. Authorities in the state of Florida took many controversial decisions that favoured Mr Bush in the Presidential elections in 2000. But no one could change those decisions.

Ans. Like India, where uniform rules are followed in all states as far as the method of voting, procedure of counting are concerned. Different rules, different authorities, and different procedures of counting lead to the ambiguity and vagueness.

Q 10: Here are some reports of malpractices in Indian elections. Identify what the problem in each case is. What should be done to correct the situation?

1. Following the announcement of elections, the minister promised to provide financial aid to reopen the closed sugar mill.

Ans: By doing so, the minister has violated the Model code of conduct. Secondly, by promising financial aid he is trying to make use of money power to influence the voters.

1. Opposition parties alleged that their statements and campaign was not given the due attention in Doordarshan and All India Radio.

Ans) In order to remove this allegation of the opposition parties, the best solution is that Doordarshan and All India Radio must be made autonomous bodies so that government could not influence them in its favour

1. An inquiry by the Election Commission showed that electoral rolls of a state contain names of 20 lakh fake voters.

Ans) The electoral rolls of that state should be fully revised and names of all fake voters should be removed from the voters list.

d) The hoodlums of a political party were moving with guns, physically preventing supporters of other political parties to meet the voters and attacking meetings of other parties.

Ans) The Election Commission has the power to check this malpractice of moving with guns, physically preventing supporters of other political parties to meet the voters and attacking meetings of other parties. It can withdraw the recognition of any party or disqualify such a candidate from contesting elections, if its supporters are found to be moving with weapons.

Q11: Ramesh was not in class when this chapter was being taught. He came the next day and reported what he had heard from his father. Can you tell Ramesh what is wrong with these statements?

1. Women always vote the way men tell them to. So, what is the point of giving them the right to vote?

Ans) The statement is wrong, because the policy of secret ballot ensures that an individual can vote for whoever he/she wants. More ever women are fully capable and can take their own decision without being influenced by the menfolk of their families.

1. Party politics creates tension in society. Elections should be decided by consensus not by

competition

Ans) A healthy competition provides option to the people to choose the better. A consensus can make the people deaf and dumb which against the spirit of democracy. Electoral competition is necessary because it provides incentives to political parties and leaders and forces them to serve the people better.

c) Only graduates should be allowed to stand as candidates for elections.

Ans) Only allowing graduates to stand as candidates for elections is wrong. It is not necessary that a graduate person will be more sensitive to the needs of the people or that he will turn out to be an honest and sincere person. To prescribe educational qualifications would go against the spirit of democracy. In India, it will deprive a large section of the country’s citizens the right to contest elections. However, it is better to have educated politicians, but being graduate should not be a compulsion.

**Additional Questions: -**

Q1- What are reserved constituencies?

Ans) Reserved constituencies are those constituencies in which seats are reserved for SCs and STs on the basis of their population.

Q.2- What is voter list?

Ans) A voter list is detailed record of every person who is registered and eligible to vote. It also includes relevant information used to identify voters and assign them to a specific electoral district and polling station.

Q.3 Write a brief note on Indian Election Commission: -

Ans) It is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering union and state election processes in India. It administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and state legislative Assemblies in India.