# Chapter Three

ELECTION AND

REPRESENTATION

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- 1. Which of the following resembles most a direct democracy?
- a. Discussions in a family meeting
- b. Election of the class monitor
- c. Choice of a candidate by a political party
- d. Decisions taken by the Gram Sabha
- e. Opinion polls conducted by the media

Answer

d. Decisions taken by the Gram Sabha

2. Which of the following tasks are not performed by the Election

# Commission?

- a. Preparing the Electoral Rolls
- b. Nominating the candidates
- c. Setting up polling booths
- d. Implementing the model code of conduct
- e. Supervising the Panchayat elections

# Answer

- b. Nominating the candidates
- 3. Which of the following is common to the method of election of the members of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha?
- a. Every citizen above the age of 18 is an eligible voter
- b. Voter can give preference order for different candidates
- c. Every vote has equal value
- d. The winner must get more than half the votes

#### Answer

- c. Every vote has equal value
- 4. In the First Past the Post system, that candidate is declared winner who

- a. Secures the largest number of postal ballots
- b. Belongs to the party that has highest number of votes in the country
- c. Has more votes than any other candidate in the constituency
- d. Attains first position by securing more than 50% votes

Answer

- c. Has more votes than any other candidate in the constituency
- 5. What is the difference between the system of reservation of constituencies and the system of separate electorate? Why did the Constitution makers reject the latter?

Answer

Difference between reservation of constituencies and separate electorate:

- Reservation of Constituencies: In this system, certain constituencies are
  reserved for specific disadvantaged groups (e.g., Scheduled Castes or
  Scheduled Tribes). All voters in those constituencies can vote, but only
  candidates belonging to the reserved category can contest.
- Separate Electorate: In this system, separate electorates are created for different communities. Only members of a particular community can vote for their designated candidates.

Reason for Rejecting Separate Electorate: The Constitution makers rejected the separate electorate system as it was seen as potentially divisive and contrary to the principles of a unified and inclusive nation. It had been used during the colonial era to encourage communal divisions and was considered detrimental to the idea of a secular and united India.

- 6. Which of the following statements are incorrect? Identify and correct them by substituting, adding or rearranging only one word or phrase.
- a. FPTP system is followed for all the elections in India.
- b. Election Commission does not supervise Panchayat and Municipal elections.
- c. President of India cannot remove an Election Commissioner.
- d. Appointment of more than one Election Commissioner in the

Election Commission is mandatory.

Answer

Incorrect Statements Corrected:

- a. The FPTP system is followed for most elections in India.
- b. Election Commission supervises Panchayat and Municipal elections.
- c. The President of India cannot arbitrarily remove an Election Commissioner.

- d. Appointment of more than one Election Commissioner in the Election Commission is not mandatory but possible.
- 7. Indian electoral system aims at ensuring representation of socially disadvantaged sections. However we have only 12 per cent women members in our legislatures. What measures would you suggest to improve the situation?

Answer

Measures to Improve Women's Representation:

- Introduce reservation of seats for women in legislatures at both the national and state levels.
- Promote women's participation in politics through awareness campaigns and gender-sensitive policies.
- Encourage political parties to nominate more women candidates.
- Implement electoral reforms to make it easier for women to contest and win elections, such as improving campaign finance rules and providing security for women candidates.
- 8. Here are some wishes expressed in a conference to discuss a constitution for a new country. Write against each of these whether FPTP or Proportional Representation system is more suited to meet

each of these wishes.

- a. People should clearly know who is their representative so that they can hold him or her personally accountable.
- b. We have small linguistic minorities who are spread all over the country; we should ensure fair representation to them.
- c. There should be no discrepancy between votes and seats for different parties.
- d. People should be able to elect a good candidate even if they do not like his or her political party.

Answer

Suitability of FPTP or PR for Various Wishes:

- a. FPTP
- b. PR
- c. PR
- d. PR
- 9. A former Chief Election Commissioner joined a political party and contested elections. There are various views on this issue. One view is that a former Election Commissioner is an independent citizen and has a right to join any political party and to contest election. According to the other view, leaving this possibility open can affect the impartiality of the Election Commission. So, former Election

Commissioners must not be allowed to contest any elections. Which position do you agree with and why?

### Answer

The position that a former Election Commissioner should not be allowed to contest elections is more agreeable. Allowing former Election Commissioners to join political parties and contest elections could potentially compromise the impartiality and credibility of the Election Commission, which is tasked with overseeing free and fair elections. It's essential to maintain the integrity and independence of the Election Commission to ensure the electoral process's fairness.

10. "Indian democracy is now ready to shift from a crude First Past the Post system to a system of Proportional Representation". Do you agree with this statement? Give your reasons for or against this statement. write answer please these questions

#### Answer

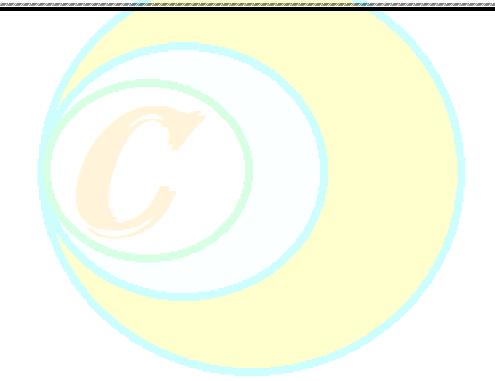
Whether India should shift from the First Past the Post (FPTP) system to a system of Proportional Representation (PR) is a matter of debate. Both systems have their advantages and disadvantages. While FPTP tends to provide stable governments, PR can offer more proportional representation of parties. The decision would depend on various factors, including the goals of the electoral system and the specific context of Indian democracy. There is no one-size-fits-all answer, and any potential shift would require careful consideration and public debate.

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