

## Civics.

**Q1.** What is meant by elections? Why elections are considered essential in a democracy?

**Answer-** The ***mechanism*** by which people can choose their representatives at regular intervals and change them if they wish to do so, is called an election. Election are considered essential in our times for any representative democracy because:

In an election the voters can make many choices:

- They can choose who will make laws for them.
- They can choose who will form the government and take major decisions.
- They can choose the parties whose policies will guide the government and law making.

**Question-2.** Describe the term constituency.

**Answer-** 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. The voters who live in an area elect one representative.

**Question-3.** Describe the guiding values of the Indian Constitution.

**Answer-** The guiding values of the Indian, Constitution are:-

**i- We The People of India-**The constitution has been drawn up and enacted by the people through their representative and not handed down to them by a king or any outside powers.

**ii- Sovereign** - People have supreme right to make decisions on internal as well as external matters. No external power can dictate the Government of India.

**iii- Socialists-** Wealth is generated socially and should be shared equally by society. Government should regulate the ownership of land and industry to reduce socio-economic inequalities.

**iv-Secular-**Citizens have complete freedom to follow any religion But there is no official religion Government treats all religious beliefs and practices with equal respects.

**v- Democratic** - A form of government where people enjoy equal political rights, elect their rulers and hold them accountable. The government is seen according to some basic rules.

**vi- Republic** - The head of the state is an elected person and not a hereditary position.

**vii. Justice-** Citizens cannot be discriminated on the grounds of caste, religion and gender. Social inequalities have to be reduced. Government should work for the welfare of all, especially of the disadvantaged group.

**viii. Liberty / Freedom** - There are no unreasonable restrictions on the citizens. what they think, how they wish to express their thoughts and the way.

**Question-4.** What is a constitution? Why do we need a constitution?

**Answer-** The constitution of a country is a set of written rules that are accepted by all people living together in a supreme country. Constitution is a law that determines the relationship among people living in a territory and also the relationship between the people and government. The functions of the constitution are:

1. First, it generates a degree of trust and coordination that is necessary for different kind of people to live together.
2. Second, it specifies how the government will be constituted, who will have power to take which decisions.
3. Third, it lays down limits on the power of the government and tells us what the rights of the citizens are.
4. Fourth, it expresses the aspirations of the people about creating a good society.

**Question-5.** When were the elections for the Constituent Assembly held?

**Ans-** Elections for the Constituent Assembly were held in July 1946.

**Question-6.** What does EVM stands for?

**Answer-** Electronic voting machine.

**Question-7.** What is meant by Universal Adult Franchise system ?

**Answer-** In our country all the citizens aged 18 years and above can vote in an election. Every citizen has the right to vote , regardless of his/ her caste , religion, or gender.

**Question-8.** Describe the term electoral roll?

**Answer-** In a democratic election, the list of those who are eligible to vote is prepared with much before the election and given to everyone. This list is officially called the Electoral Roll and is commonly known as the Voter's List.

**Question-9.** What is meant by EPIC?

**Answer-** In the last few years a new system of Election Photo Identity card (EPIC) has been introduced. The government has tried to give this card to every person on the voter's list. The voters are required to carry this card when they go out to vote, so that no one can vote for someone else.

**Question-10.** What election laws are made to ensure free and fair elections?

**Answer-** According to our election law, no party or candidate can:

- Bribe or threaten voters.
- Appeal to them in the name of caste or religion.
- Use government resources for election campaign.
- Spend more than 25 lakh in a constituency for lok sabha election or 10 lakh in a constituency in an Assembly election.

**Question-11.** What is meant by rigging ?

**Answer-** Fraud and malpractices indulged by a party or candidate to increase its vote. It includes stuffing ballot boxes by a few persons using the votes of others.

- Recording multiple votes by the same person.
- Bribing or forcing polling officers to favour a candidate.

