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UNIVERSAL FRANCHISE AND INDIA'S ELECTORAL SYSTEM
Class 08 - Social Science (Exploring Society)

Time Allowed: 1 hour and 28 minutes

Maximum Marks: 140

1. What is the term length for a member of the Rajya Sabha? [1]
 - a) Four years
 - b) Six years
 - c) Two years
 - d) Five years
2. What is the primary electoral system used in Indian Lok Sabha elections? [1]
 - a) Proportional Representation
 - b) Mixed-Member Proportional
 - c) First-Past-the-Post
 - d) Single Transferable Vote
3. What method was used in India 10th century for selecting representatives? [1]
 - a) An appointed monarchy.
 - b) A secret ballot box.
 - c) An auction process.
 - d) Palm leaves drawn randomly.
4. What is the primary goal of election awareness campaigns? [1]
 - a) Reduce campaigning costs
 - b) Maximize party funding
 - c) Inform voters to make responsible choices
 - d) Support selected candidates
5. What is the role of the Election Commission? [1]
 - a) Represent India in UN elections
 - b) Choose political candidates
 - c) Conduct free and fair elections
 - d) Create laws for elections
6. When was the Election Commission of India (ECI) established? [1]
 - a) 1960
 - b) 1955
 - c) 1950
 - d) 1947
7. How many constituencies are there in the Lok Sabha elections in India? [1]
 - a) 543
 - b) 750
 - c) 404
 - d) 245
8. What is considered the cornerstone of Indian democracy? [1]
 - a) Judicial Independence
 - b) Parliamentary System
 - c) Universal Adult Franchise
 - d) Economic Growth
9. What does the term 'electorate' refer to? [1]
 - a) All eligible voters in a country
 - b) The Election Commission team
 - c) Group of candidates contesting elections
 - d) Members of Parliament

10. How many Lok Sabha constituencies are reserved for persons from Scheduled Tribes? [1]
 a) 74 b) 52
 c) 67 d) 47
11. What is the minimum age to vote under India's universal adult franchise? [1]
 a) 21 years b) 25 years
 c) 18 years d) 16 years
12. Which article of the Indian Constitution guarantees universal adult franchise? [1]
 a) Article 14 b) Article 326
 c) Article 370 d) Article 324
13. What is the main purpose of Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT)? [1]
 a) To count votes electronically b) To check voter eligibility
 c) To provide a paper record for vote verification d) To store voter information
14. What is required for an Indian citizen to exercise their voting rights? [1]
 a) Owning property in the constituency b) Registering as a voter in their constituency
 c) Possessing a voter ID card d) Providing proof of income
15. What role does voter awareness play in the right to vote? [1]
 a) Reduces electoral fraud b) Enhances the responsibility of voting
 c) Eliminates criminal candidates d) Increases ballot complexity

16. Match the following: [1]

Column A	Column B
(A) Ms. Usha	(i) Peer Coaching and Mutual Support
(B) Ms. Sheeba	(ii) Election Officer
(C) Ahmed	(iii) Arts Curriculum Music, Theatre and Visual Art
(D) Gurmat	(iv) Witness of Counting Process
(E) Ravi	(v) Cleanliness

- a) A-(iv), B-(iii), C-(ii), D-(v), E-(i) b) A-(ii), B-(iv), C-(v), D-(iii), E-(i)
 c) A -(iv), B-(ii), C-(i), D-(v), E-(iii) d) A-(ii), B-(iv), C-(v), D-(i), E-(iii)

17. Match the following: [1]

Column A	Column B
a. Election Commission of India	i. Option to reject all candidates
b. Postal voting	ii. Organises elections in India
c. Uttaramerur inscriptions	iii. Describe an ancient transparent selection process

d. NOTA	iv. Available for a specific category of voters
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a) a-i, b-ii, c-iv, d-iii

b) a-iii, b-i, c-ii, d-iv

c) a-iv, b-iii, c-i, d-ii

d) a-ii, b-iv, c-iii, d-i

18. Match the following:

[1]

Column A	Column B
a. Model Code of Conduct	i. First adoption of the Model Code of Conduct
b. Party in government	ii. Ensures free and fair elections
c. Gifts for votes	iii. Cannot announce new schemes during elections
d. Kerala, 1960	iv. Considered punishable

a) a-ii, b-iii, c-iv, d-i

b) a-iii, b-i, c-iv, d-ii

c) a-iv, b-iii, c-ii, d-i

d) a-i, b-ii, c-iii, d-iv

19. Match the following:

[1]

Column A	Column B
a. Article 326	i. Women received voting rights in 1971
b. Switzerland	ii. Constitutional provision for elections
c. Universal adult franchise	iii. Every adult citizen has equal voting rights
d. Voter registration	iv. Necessary before casting a vote

a) a-i, b-iv, c-ii, d-iii

b) a-iv, b-iii, c-i, d-ii

c) a-iii, b-i, c-iv, d-ii

d) a-ii, b-i, c-iii, d-iv

20. Match the following:

[1]

Column A	Column B
a. Election Commission of India	i. Introduced major electoral reforms
b. Lok Sabha	ii. Produces a physical paper record of votes
c. VVPAT	iii. Conducts free and fair elections
d. T.N. Seshan	iv. Lower house of Parliament

a) a-iv, b-i, c-ii, d-iii

b) a-i, b-ii, c-iii, d-iv

c) a-iii, b-iv, c-ii, d-i

d) a-ii, b-iii, c-iv, d-i

21. **Assertion (A):** The Rajya Sabha is called a permanent house.

[1]

Reason (R): One-third of its members retire every two years.

a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.

c) A is true but R is false.

d) A is false but R is true.

22. **Assertion (A):** India has a NOTA option in its electoral system.

[1]

Reason (R): NOTA changes the election results if selected by the majority of voters.

- a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A. b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true but R is false. d) A is false but R is true.
23. **Assertion (A):** Elections in India are referred to as the 'Festival of Democracy'. [1]
Reason (R): Citizens participate actively and responsibly in choosing their representatives during elections.
- a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A. b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true but R is false. d) A is false but R is true.
24. **Assertion (A):** The Election Commission of India is an independent constitutional body. [1]
Reason (R): It ensures free and fair conduct of elections in India.
- a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A. b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true but R is false. d) A is false but R is true.
25. **Assertion (A):** Universal franchise permits every adult citizen of India to vote. [1]
Reason (R): Citizens should pay taxes and own property to be eligible to vote.
- a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A. b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true but R is false. d) A is false but R is true.
26. What is the cornerstone of Indian democracy concerning voting rights? [1]
27. Identify one major challenge to Indian democracy related to elections. [1]
28. Why is voter awareness considered an important aspect of the right to vote? [1]
29. What is celebrated as the world's largest democratic exercise in India? [1]
30. What year was the Election Commission of India established, and what is its primary role? [1]
31. What initiatives did the ECI introduce in 2024 to make voting more accessible? [1]
32. List the prerequisites for a citizen to be eligible to vote in India under the universal adult franchise. [1]
33. Explain the significance of NOTA in the Indian electoral system. [1]
34. Explain why empowering voters with information is crucial for India's democracy. [1]
35. Name the system that ensures voters can verify their electronic votes and provide a backup in case of disputes. [1]
36. Explain the significance of the Model Code of Conduct in the Indian election process. [2]
37. How does India accommodate seniors and individuals with disabilities in its voting process? [2]
38. What percentage of Indians were allowed to vote before Independence? [2]
39. What is the purpose of introducing assistive technologies in the electoral process? [2]
40. What were some of the methods used in the 10th-century electoral process as described by the Uttaramerur inscriptions? [2]
41. Discuss how EVMs and VVPAT systems are significant in the Indian electoral process. [2]
42. Explain the process of forming a government after elections in India. [2]
43. Analyse why geographic diversity poses a significant challenge in organizing Indian elections. [2]

44. What is the primary role of the Lok Sabha in India's parliamentary system? [2]
45. What is the significance of universal adult franchise in the Indian electoral system? [2]
46. When were the first general elections held in independent India? [3]
47. Examine why the Rajya Sabha is termed a 'Permanent House' in India. [3]
48. What is the significance of Article 326 of the Indian Constitution concerning elections? [3]
49. Why is universal franchise considered a cornerstone of Indian democracy? [3]
50. What is the role of Rajya Sabha members, and how are they elected in India? [3]
51. List three key responsibilities of the Election Commission of India? [3]
52. Explain how geographic diversity poses a challenge in the organization of elections in India. [3]
53. List the different entities involved in holding elections in India. [3]
54. What is the universal adult franchise? [3]
55. Define 'Universal Adult Franchise' as per the constitutional framework of India. [3]
56. **Read the following text carefully and answer the questions that follow:** [4]
- Elections in India are a festival of democracy, allowing citizens to choose representatives at national, state, and local levels. Lok Sabha and state assembly elections follow the first-past-the-post system, while Rajya Sabha and presidential elections use the single transferable vote. The Rajya Sabha is never dissolved, and the President is elected indirectly by an electoral college of MPs and MLAs. The Vice President is elected similarly and chairs the Rajya Sabha.
- Questions:**
- How are members of the Rajya Sabha elected? (1)
 - Who elects the President of India and why? (1)
 - Explain the process of election for the Vice President of India. (2)
57. **Read the following text carefully and answer the questions that follow:** [4]
- Democracy thrives when every eligible citizen can participate freely in elections. India's geographic and population diversity makes election management complex. The Election Commission organises elections and ensures accessibility through measures like postal voting, braille-enabled voter cards, and home voting for elderly or disabled citizens. Historical practices, such as the Uttaramerur inscriptions, ensured transparency in selection. Voters can also choose NOTA, expressing dissatisfaction with all candidates, highlighting the importance of choice in democracy.
- Questions:**
- What accessibility measures does the Election Commission of India provide for voters? (1)
 - What is the purpose of the NOTA option in Indian elections? (1)
 - How do historical practices like the Uttaramerur inscriptions reflect democratic principles in India? (2)
58. **Read the following text carefully and answer the questions that follow:** [4]
- Universal adult franchise ensures that every Indian citizen aged 18 and above has the right to vote, with all votes carrying equal value. Elections at local, state, and national levels are conducted through this system. Before Independence, only 13% of Indians could vote. India granted women the right to vote from the beginning, reflecting its democratic values. Voter registration is required, and serious criminals are barred from voting.
- Questions:**

- a. What does universal adult franchise mean in India? **(1)**
- b. Why is voter registration necessary in India? **(1)**
- c. How was India progressive in granting voting rights compared to other countries? **(2)**

59. **Read the following text carefully and answer the questions that follow:** **[4]**

India's electoral system, the world's largest democratic exercise, faces challenges like the growing influence of money, candidates with criminal records, and voter apathy, especially in urban areas. The way forward lies in empowering voters through media, education, and awareness campaigns. Universal adult franchise is the cornerstone of Indian democracy, and responsible voting is essential. The Election Commission of India oversees all elections, ensuring participation, fairness, and vigilance.

Questions:

- a. What are the main challenges faced by India's electoral system? **(1)**
- b. How can voter awareness strengthen Indian democracy? **(1)**
- c. Explain the importance of universal adult franchise and the role of the Election Commission of India in addressing electoral challenges. **(2)**

60. **Read the following text carefully and answer the questions that follow:** **[4]**

The Election Commission of India (ECI), established in 1950, is an independent constitutional body responsible for conducting free and fair elections to the Parliament, state assemblies, and the offices of President and Vice President. It manages massive electoral processes, implements EVMs and VVPAT systems, and enforces the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) to ensure impartiality. Reforms by Chief Election Commissioner T.N. Seshan strengthened transparency, fairness, and voter rights in Indian elections.

Questions:

- a. What is the role of the Election Commission of India in conducting elections? **(1)**
- b. What is the purpose of the VVPAT system in Indian elections? **(1)**
- c. Explain the significance of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) in Indian elections. **(2)**

61. **State whether the given statement is True or False:** **[5]**

- (a) The Election Commission of India oversees only the presidential elections. **[1]**
- (b) Every adult citizen in India has the right to vote only if they are educated. **[1]**
- (c) The Election Commission of India ensures free and fair elections. **[1]**
- (d) Voting in elections is a powerful way for people to express their will in a democracy. **[1]**
- (e) Nominated members of the Rajya Sabha do not participate in the election of the President of India. **[1]**

62. **Fill in the blanks:** **[5]**

- (a) The electoral system used for _____ elections is First-Past-the-Post. **[1]**
- (b) The Chief Election Commissioner who introduced major reforms in 1990 was _____. **[1]**
- (c) Universal adult franchise is mentioned in Article _____ of the Constitution. **[1]**
- (d) Before Independence, only _____ per cent of Indians were allowed to vote. **[1]**
- (e) The Election Commission of India was established in _____. **[1]**

63. Explain why universal adult franchise is considered a cornerstone of Indian democracy. **[5]**

64. Explain how the electoral system for the Rajya Sabha ensures fair representation for smaller states in India. **[5]**

65. How is the election of members to the Lok Sabha different from that to the Rajya Sabha? **[5]**
66. Explain the purpose of the Model Code of Conduct and its importance during elections. **[5]**
67. What is the significance of the 'NOTA' option in elections, and how does it empower voters? **[5]**

USP

Solution
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1. **(b)** Six years
Explanation:
Rajya Sabha members have a six-year term.
2. **(c)** First-Past-the-Post
Explanation:
India uses the 'First-Past-the-Post' system for Lok Sabha elections.
3. **(d)** Palm leaves drawn randomly.
Explanation:
Candidates' names were written on palm leaves, which were then drawn randomly.
4. **(c)** Inform voters to make responsible choices
Explanation:
Campaigns aim to educate voters about their rights and responsibilities to ensure wise electoral choices.
5. **(c)** Conduct free and fair elections
Explanation:
The Election Commission of India ensures that elections are conducted in a free, fair, and impartial manner. It manages the entire election process, from preparing voter lists to declaring results, without any political interference.
6. **(c)** 1950
Explanation:
The ECI was established in 1950.
7. **(a)** 543
Explanation:
India is divided into 543 constituencies for Lok Sabha elections.
8. **(c)** Universal Adult Franchise
Explanation:
The right to vote for every adult citizen forms the foundation of India's democratic system.
9. **(a)** All eligible voters in a country
Explanation:
The term electorate refers to all citizens who are eligible and registered to vote in elections. These people together form the voting population of a country.
10. **(d)** 47

Explanation:

In India, some Lok Sabha constituencies are reserved for Scheduled Tribes (ST) to ensure their fair representation in Parliament. Only ST candidates can contest from these seats, but all eligible voters in the constituency can vote.

11.

(c) 18 years**Explanation:**

The universal adult franchise in India allows citizens aged 18 and above to vote.

12.

(b) Article 326**Explanation:**

Article 326 of the Indian Constitution outlines the provision for universal adult franchise.

13.

(c) To provide a paper record for vote verification**Explanation:**

VVPAT allows voters to verify their electronic votes were cast correctly by providing a printed receipt.

14.

(b) Registering as a voter in their constituency**Explanation:**

To vote, citizens must be registered as voters in their respective constituencies.

15.

(b) Enhances the responsibility of voting**Explanation:**

Voter awareness ensures that citizens understand the significance of their voting rights and responsibilities.

16.

(d) A-(ii), B-(iv), C-(v), D-(i), E-(iii)**Explanation:**

Column A	Column B
(A) Ms. Usha	(ii) Election Officer
(B) Ms. Sheeba	(iv) Witness of Counting Process
(C) Ahmed	(v) Cleanliness
(D) Gurmat	(i) Peer Coaching and Mutual Support
(E) Ravi	(iii) Arts Curriculum Music, Theatre and Visual Art

17.

(d) a-ii, b-iv, c-iii, d-i**Explanation:**

- The Election Commission of India organises elections in the country → ii
- Postal voting is available for a specific category of voters → iv
- Uttaramerur inscriptions describe an ancient transparent selection process → iii
- NOTA allows voters to reject all candidates → i

18. (a) a-ii, b-iii, c-iv, d-i

Explanation:

- Model Code of Conduct ensures free and fair elections → ii
- The ruling party cannot announce new schemes during elections → iii
- Gifts for votes are considered punishable → iv
- Kerala first adopted the Model Code of Conduct in 1960 → i

19.

(d) a-ii, b-i, c-iii, d-iv

Explanation:

- Article 326 provides the constitutional basis for elections through universal franchise → ii
- Switzerland granted women voting rights only in 1971 → i
- Universal adult franchise ensures equal voting rights for every adult citizen → iii
- Voter registration is necessary before voting → iv

20.

(c) a-iii, b-iv, c-ii, d-i

Explanation:

- Election Commission of India conducts free and fair elections → iii
- Lok Sabha is the lower house of Parliament → iv
- VVPAT produces a physical paper record of votes → ii
- T.N. Seshan introduced major electoral reforms → i

21. (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Explanation:

The Rajya Sabha is not dissolved; its continuity is maintained because one-third of the members retire every two years.

22.

(c) A is true but R is false.

Explanation:

NOTA does not change the result but is a form of protest.

23. (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Explanation:

The statement accurately describes the nature of elections in India as a democratic celebration.

24. (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Explanation:

The ECI is an independent body explicitly tasked with conducting impartial elections, so the reason given is a correct explanation.

25.

(c) A is true but R is false.

Explanation:

Universal franchise in India does not require tax payments or property ownership.

26. Universal adult franchise is the cornerstone of Indian democracy.

27. The growing influence of money in elections is a major challenge.

28. Voter awareness ensures that every voter understands their responsibility, making informed decisions at the polls.

29. India's electoral system is celebrated as the world's largest democratic exercise.

30. The Election Commission of India was established in 1950. Its primary role is to conduct free and fair elections in the country.

31. In 2024, ECI allowed home voting for the elderly and disabled, and extended postal voting for specific voter categories.
32. To be eligible to vote in India under the universal adult franchise, a citizen must be at least 18 years old and need to be registered as a voter in their constituency. However, individuals found guilty of certain serious crimes are barred from voting.
33. NOTA is significant as it allows voters to express dissatisfaction with all candidates, signaling a demand for better choices without affecting election results.
34. Empowering voters with information helps them make thoughtful and responsible choices, strengthening the democratic process.
35. The system is called the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT). It produces a physical paper record that allows voters to verify their electronic votes.
36. The Model Code of Conduct is vital as it ensures free and fair elections. It lays down dos and don'ts for political leaders, parties, and candidates during elections to prevent misuse of power, influence voters, and maintain peace.
37. India employs various accommodations such as allowing postal voting, home voting for seniors and the disabled, and providing assistive technologies like wheelchair assistance and braille-enabled voter cards. These measures aim to make voting more accessible for these groups.
38. Before Independence, only 13% of Indians were allowed to vote, as the franchise was not universal at the time.
39. The purpose of introducing assistive technologies, such as braille-enabled voter cards and app-based electoral assistance, is to improve accessibility for individuals with disabilities and ensure they can participate fully in the electoral process, aligning with democratic principles.
40. The Uttaramerur inscriptions describe using palm leaves to inscribe names of eligible candidates, which were then randomly drawn from a pot in public by a young boy, ensuring transparency and fairness in the selection process.
41. Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) are significant as they enhance transparency. VVPAT provides a paper trail for verifying votes' accuracy, ensuring credibility and reducing election disputes.
42. After elections, the political party or coalition that wins a majority of seats in the Lok Sabha forms the government. The leader of this majority is typically appointed as the Prime Minister. At the state level, the majority party or coalition installs its leader as the Chief Minister, initiating government operations.
43. India's geographic diversity includes remote mountains, dense forests, and sprawling rural areas, making infrastructure access a logistical challenge. To ensure inclusive elections, the country must address transportation, communication, and accessibility issues across its vast and varied terrain.
44. The Lok Sabha serves as the lower house of India's Parliament, primarily responsible for forming the government. It consists of elected representatives who legislate, debate, and vote on national issues, with its majority party leader typically becoming the Prime Minister.
45. Universal adult franchise is vital as it grants every adult citizen the right to vote, ensuring equal participation in the democratic process. It upholds democratic principles by allowing diverse sections of society to select their representatives, influencing decisions that shape national, state, and local governance.
46. The first general elections in independent India were held in 1951-1952. These elections laid the foundational stone for the country's democratic process, allowing citizens to select their representatives for the legislative bodies. The Election Commission of India, established shortly before in 1950, was responsible for overseeing this monumental event, ensuring transparency, fairness, and smooth conduct of the elections.
47. The Rajya Sabha is known as the 'Permanent House' because it is not subject to dissolution like the Lok Sabha. It is designed to remain continuously in session, sustained through staggered elections. Every two years, one-third of its members retire, allowing for the induction of new members. This feature provides stability and continuity in legislative experience, ensuring that India's bicameral parliamentary system balances change with consistency in governance.
48. Article 326 of the Indian Constitution is significant as it governs the elections to the Lok Sabha and the legislative assemblies of states and union territories, ensuring they are based on universal adult

suffrage. This article enshrines the principle that every citizen of India who is 18 years or older, irrespective of any discrimination, has the right to vote, highlighting India's commitment to democratic values.

49. Universal franchise is considered a cornerstone of Indian democracy because it guarantees equal participation of all adult citizens in the electoral process. By allowing every adult citizen the right to vote, it ensures that governance is influenced by diverse voices across the nation. This democratic inclusivity fosters equality and prevents discrimination based on social or economic factors, thereby strengthening the fabric of democracy and empowering citizens by creating a more representative and accountable government.
50. Members of the Rajya Sabha, India's upper house of Parliament, play a crucial role in reviewing and revising legislation proposed by the Lok Sabha. These members are elected indirectly by the elected members of state legislative assemblies using the single transferable vote system, which ensures fair representation. A total of 245 members exist, comprising 233 elected members and 12 nominated by the President. Unlike the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha is a permanent body that cannot be dissolved.
51. Three key responsibilities of the Election Commission of India (ECI) include:
- i. **Managing Elections:** ECI conducts elections for the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislative assemblies, and offices of the President and Vice President.
 - ii. **Ensuring Fairness:** ECI enforces the Model Code of Conduct to maintain fair play, and it regulates campaign finances.
 - iii. **Voter Education:** ECI educates voters about their rights and ensures transparent electoral processes through updated systems like EVMs and VVPATs.
52. Geographic diversity in India encompasses diverse terrains and varying degrees of accessibility in its vast expanse. Organizing elections with over one billion eligible voters becomes complex due to logistical hurdles such as transporting electoral materials, arranging polling booths in remote villages and urban centers alike, and ensuring all citizens can vote without significant travel. To address these challenges, the Election Commission orchestrates measures to adapt to local conditions, facilitating maximum participation.
53. The critical entities involved in conducting elections in India are primarily spearheaded by the Election Commission of India. This regulatory body ensures the organization, administration, and supervision of free and fair electoral processes. Superior to that, electoral officials and other state and regional bodies collaborate with local governments and polling staff to execute the logistics, manage polling stations, and facilitate voting across varying regional terrains.
54. Universal adult franchise is the principle that every Indian citizen aged 18 and above has the equal right to vote in elections, regardless of **caste, creed, race, religion, gender, education, or income**.
- As outlined in **Article 326** of the Indian Constitution, it ensures that all eligible voters have one vote of equal value, forming the cornerstone of **India's democracy**.
 - This inclusive system allows citizens to participate in choosing representatives for the **Lok Sabha**, state legislative assemblies, union territories, and local bodies, reflecting the democratic spirit of equality and participation.
 - India adopted this from its inception, granting voting rights to all adults, including women, unlike some nations like **Switzerland**, where women gained voting rights only in 1971.
55. Universal Adult Franchise, as defined in the Indian context, means that every adult citizen aged 18 and above has the right to vote. This system ensures that all votes have equal value, regardless of the voter's caste, creed, race, religion, gender, education, or income. It is a fundamental aspect of India's democratic framework, outlined by the constitution makers, ensuring inclusivity and equality in the electoral process.
56. a. Members of the Rajya Sabha are mostly elected indirectly by state legislative assemblies using the single transferable vote system, while the President nominates 12 members to ensure representation of various skills and expertise.
- b. The President is elected by an electoral college consisting of elected MPs and MLAs. This indirect method ensures democratic legitimacy and reflects both central and state government support.
- c. The Vice President is elected by an electoral college of elected and nominated MPs from both houses of Parliament, using the single transferable vote system. The Vice President serves as the chairperson

of the Rajya Sabha and steps in to discharge the President's functions if necessary.

57. a. The Election Commission provides postal voting, home voting for elderly and disabled, braille-enabled voter cards, wheelchairs, ramps, and app-based assistance to ensure all citizens can participate in elections freely.
- b. NOTA, or None Of The Above, allows voters to reject all candidates if they are dissatisfied, sending a message that voters want better choices without changing the election result.
- c. The Uttaramerur inscriptions from the 10th century describe a transparent method for selecting representatives, where candidates' names were drawn randomly and announced publicly. This ensured fairness, transparency, and public participation, reflecting the democratic principles of accountability and impartiality even in early India.
58. a. Universal adult franchise means every Indian citizen aged 18 and above has one vote, and all votes have equal value, regardless of caste, religion, gender, education, income, or social status.
- b. Voter registration is necessary to exercise the right to vote in elections, ensuring that only eligible citizens participate and that no one votes on another person's behalf.
- c. India was among the early nations to grant women the right to vote from the beginning of its democracy, unlike many countries where women had to fight for decades. This reflects India's commitment to equality, democracy, and inclusive participation in governance.
59. a. India's electoral system faces challenges such as the increasing influence of money in elections, a notable number of candidates with criminal records, and voter apathy, particularly in urban areas, affecting the quality of democracy.
- b. Voter awareness, through media, education, and campaigns, helps citizens make informed and responsible choices, encourages active participation, and ensures that the democratic system functions effectively, safeguarding rights and promoting accountability.
- c. Universal adult franchise gives every citizen the right to vote, forming the foundation of Indian democracy. The Election Commission of India oversees elections, ensures fairness, promotes participation, and addresses challenges like voter apathy, criminal candidates, and misuse of money, safeguarding democratic principles and encouraging informed voting.
60. a. The ECI conducts free and fair elections for the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, state assemblies, and the offices of President and Vice President. It manages voting systems, monitors election rules, and ensures transparency and impartiality.
- b. The Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) allows voters to verify that their votes are correctly recorded electronically. It provides a physical paper trail for verification and recounting in case of disputes or electronic failures.
- c. The MCC ensures free and fair elections by setting rules for political parties and candidates, preventing misuse of government resources, restricting inducements to voters, and promoting peaceful campaigns. Adopted in 1960 and enforced by the ECI, it helps maintain transparency and integrity in the electoral process.
61. State whether the given statement is True or False:
- (a) **(b)** False
Explanation:
The ECI oversees all elections in the country, including the presidential and vice-presidential elections.
- (b) **(b)** False
Explanation:
Education is not a criterion for voting in India.
- (c) **(a)** True
Explanation:
A constitutional institution charged with overseeing and administering elections impartially.
- (d) **(a)** True
Explanation:
Voting empowers citizens to influence decision-making.

(e) (a) True

Explanation:

Only directly elected representatives participate in the election of the President.

62. Fill in the blanks:

- (a) Lok Sabha
- (b) T.N. Seshan
- (c) 326
- (d) 13
- (e) 1950

63. Universal adult franchise is seen as the cornerstone of Indian democracy because it embodies the principles of equality and inclusivity. This right enables every adult citizen to participate in the electoral process, irrespective of socio-economic or demographic distinctions. It empowers marginalized groups and gives a voice to the previously unheard. The inclusive nature of universal adult franchise facilitates diverse representation and ensures that governmental decisions reflect the varied perspectives of its citizens. By unifying individuals under a common democratic right, it reinforces the cooperative structure of Indian society and fortifies the democratic institution at its core.

64. The electoral system for the Rajya Sabha employs the 'single transferable vote system,' which is distinctly designed to promote equitable representation for smaller states. Under this system, voters rank candidates in order of preference, allowing for transferable voting that can benefit less populous regions. Electors from state legislative assemblies vote, and the proportional representation element ensures that minority voices can gain representation in parliament. This method acknowledges disparities in population across states, allowing states with smaller populations to secure fair representation. Thus, ensuring balanced governmental policies and decisions that reflect the broader consensus of the nation, this system underscores India's commitment to nuanced federalism.

65. The election processes for the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha differ significantly in method, electorate, and structure:

Lok Sabha Elections:

- **Method:** Direct elections where citizens aged 18 and above vote in 543 constituencies using the "First-Past-the-Post" system, where the candidate with the most votes wins, even without a majority.
- **Electorate:** Universal adult franchise applies, with about 980 million eligible voters in 2024. Every registered voter in a constituency can participate.
- **Term and Structure:** Members of Parliament (MPs) serve five-year terms unless the Lok Sabha is dissolved earlier. The house is temporary and can be dissolved for fresh elections.
- **Purpose:** Lok Sabha MPs represent constituencies and form the national government, with the majority party's leader becoming Prime Minister.

Rajya Sabha Elections:

- **Method:** Indirect elections where elected Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) vote for 233 of 245 members, using the single transferable vote system for proportional representation. The President nominates 12 members for their expertise.
- **Electorate:** Only MLAs from state assemblies vote, not the general public. The number of seats per state varies by population (e.g., more for Uttar Pradesh than Arunachal Pradesh).
- **Term and Structure:** Rajya Sabha is a permanent house, never dissolving. Members serve six-year terms, with one-third retiring every two years, ensuring continuity.
- **Purpose:** Rajya Sabha represents states in the federal structure, acting as a revising chamber and balancing regional interests.

Key Differences:

Feature	Lok Sabha	Rajya Sabha
Voting Method	Direct public voting	Indirect voting by MLAs
Term Duration	Fixed five-year term (unless dissolved)	Permanent with staggered terms
Representation	Reflects popular will	Ensures state representation and continuity

66. The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) is a set of guidelines established to ensure free and fair elections in India. It serves to maintain a level playing field by dictating dos and don'ts for political parties, candidates, and the ruling government. Its primary purpose is to prevent unfair practices, such as misuse of government facilities for campaign purposes and announcing new projects to influence voters. The MCC requires candidates to maintain decorum and ensure peaceful conduct during campaigns, while also prohibiting actions like voter bribery. By advocating for transparency and accountability, the MCC helps uphold the integrity of the electoral process, reinforcing public confidence in democratic governance. Its adherence is critical for a fair contest and reflects the ethical responsibilities of the contesting entities.
67. 'None Of The Above' (NOTA) is an electoral option that allows voters to reject all the candidates if they find none of them satisfactory. While NOTA does not affect the election results directly, it empowers voters by enabling them to express their dissatisfaction without abstaining from voting. This option can signal to political parties and candidates that voters demand better choices, fostering a push for improved governance and representative quality. It serves as a quiet but potent tool in a democracy, offering citizens a way to voice their discontentment and advocate for change through the electoral system.

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