# Class 11 Political Science (Indian Constitution at Work) Chapter 3: Election and Representation - Notes, Important Questions and MCQs (2026-27)

Free PDF notes from Nextoper.in | Session 2026-27 | Read online:
https://nextoper.in/class-11-political-science-constitution-chapter-3-pdf-notes/

These Class 11 Political Science Chapter 3 notes cover “Election and Representation” from the NCERT textbook Indian Constitution at Work (2026-27): elections and democracy, electoral systems – First Past the Post and Proportional Representation – why India adopted FPTP, reservation of constituencies, free and fair elections, universal adult franchise, the Election Commission and electoral reforms – with tables, Q&A, 10 MCQs and a free PDF.

Use the table of contents below to jump to the part you need, or read top to bottom for a complete revision of the chapter.

## Table of Contents

- Chapter Overview
- Important Topics and Concepts
- FPTP vs Proportional Representation
- Key Facts on Indian Elections
- Important Definitions and Terms
- Short Answer Questions
- Long Answer Questions
- MCQs with Answers
- Quick Revision Points
- Chapter Summary
- Exam Tips and PYQ Pattern
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Conclusion

Want notes for every chapter? Explore the full Class 11 Political Science notes on Nextoper, arranged book-wise and chapter-wise.

## Chapter Overview

In large modern democracies, people rule through representatives chosen in elections – indirect democracy. The rules of the electoral system decide how votes become seats, which strongly affects which parties and groups get represented.

India chose the simple First Past the Post (FPTP) system for Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections, reserved constituencies for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, granted universal adult franchise and set up an independent Election Commission. Over time, many reforms have been proposed to make elections fairer.

# Important Topics and Concepts

## Elections and Democracy

- Direct democracy: citizens decide directly (Gram Sabha); indirect democracy: they elect representatives.
- Elections are the mechanism through which people choose and control their representatives.
- The Constitution sets out rules for who votes, who contests, how elections are conducted and supervised.

## First Past the Post (FPTP)

- Country divided into constituencies; one representative per constituency.
- The candidate with the most votes wins, even without a majority (plurality system).
- Voters vote for a candidate; parties may get more or fewer seats than their vote share.
- Simple to understand, gives voters a clear local representative and tends to give stable governments.

## Proportional Representation (PR)

- Seats are allocated to parties in proportion to their vote share.
- In Israel and the Netherlands the whole country is one constituency; parties publish ranked lists.
- India uses a variant – Single Transferable Vote – for Rajya Sabha, President and Vice-President elections.
- PR represents small parties better but can produce unstable coalition governments.

## Why India Chose FPTP and Reserved Constituencies

- FPTP is simple for a large and largely first-time electorate; voters choose a person, not just a party.
- It encourages broad parties that bring different social groups together.
- Reserved constituencies for SCs and STs ensure their representation – all voters in the constituency vote, but only candidates from the reserved group can contest.
- The Delimitation Commission decides constituency boundaries and which are reserved.

## Free and Fair Elections

- Universal adult franchise: every citizen aged 18 and above can vote (reduced from 21 by the 61st Amendment, 1989).
- Right to contest: candidates must meet basic conditions such as minimum age (25 for Lok Sabha).
- Election Commission: independent body headed by the Chief Election Commissioner with Election Commissioners; prepares voter lists, conducts elections, enforces the model code of conduct and can countermand polls.
- Electoral reforms suggested: state funding, curbing criminals and money power, more representation of women, NOTA option, better voter registration.

# FPTP vs Proportional Representation

Most-asked comparison.

| FPTP | Proportional Representation |
|---|---|
| Small constituencies, one member each | Large constituencies or whole country, many members |
| Voter votes for a candidate | Voter votes for a party |
| Party may get more/fewer seats than votes | Seats in proportion to votes |
| Winner needs plurality, not majority | Seats shared by quota |
| Stable governments, simple | Better representation of small parties |
| India: Lok Sabha, Vidhan Sabha | Israel, Netherlands; India: Rajya Sabha (STV) |

## Key Facts on Indian Elections

| Aspect | Fact |
|---|---|
| Voting age | 18 years (since 61st Amendment, 1989) |
| Minimum age to contest Lok Sabha | 25 years |
| System for Lok Sabha | First Past the Post |
| System for Rajya Sabha | Proportional representation (STV) |
| Reserved constituencies | For SCs and STs |
| Election body | Election Commission of India |

## Important Definitions and Terms

| Term | Meaning |
|---|---|
| Indirect democracy | Rule through elected representatives |
| Constituency | Area that elects a representative |
| FPTP | Candidate with most votes wins |
| Plurality | Most votes, not necessarily majority |
| Proportional Representation | Seats according to vote share |
| STV | Single Transferable Vote, a form of PR |
| Reserved constituency | Seat where only SC/ST candidates can contest |
| Delimitation | Fixing boundaries of constituencies |
| Universal adult franchise | Right to vote for all adults |
| Model code of conduct | Election Commission rules for parties |

## Short Answer Questions

Q1. What is the FPTP system?

The candidate who gets the most votes in a constituency is declared elected.

Q2. Name two countries using proportional representation.

Israel and the Netherlands.

Q3. Which elections in India use PR (STV)?

Q4. Why did India adopt FPTP?

It is simple, gives a local representative and encourages broad, stable parties.

Q5. What is a reserved constituency?

A constituency where only SC or ST candidates can contest, though all voters vote.

Q6. What is the voting age in India?

18 years.

Q7. Who heads the Election Commission?

The Chief Election Commissioner.

Q8. Name two suggested electoral reforms.

State funding of elections and barring candidates with criminal records.

## Long Answer Questions

Q1. Compare FPTP and proportional representation.

FPTP: one-member constituencies; PR: large multi-member regions.

FPTP voters choose a candidate; PR voters choose a party.

FPTP winner needs plurality; PR uses quotas.

FPTP can distort vote–seat ratio; PR matches them.

FPTP gives stability; PR gives wider representation.

Q2. Explain the role and independence of the Election Commission.

Constitutional body headed by the CEC with other commissioners.

Prepares and updates voter lists.

Schedules and conducts elections; enforces model code of conduct.

Can order re-polls and countermand elections.

CEC can be removed only like a Supreme Court judge, ensuring independence.

Q3. Why are reserved constituencies needed in India?

To ensure representation of historically disadvantaged SCs and STs.

FPTP alone might not elect them in proportion.

All voters in the constituency vote – reservation applies only to candidates.

Delimitation Commission identifies reserved seats.

It balances fair representation with common citizenship.

## MCQs with Answers

1. Lok Sabha elections use(a) PR (b) FPTP (c) STV (d) majority run-offAnswer: (b) FPTP

2. Rajya Sabha members are elected by(a) FPTP (b) STV (PR) (c) direct vote (d) nomination onlyAnswer: (b) STV (PR)

4. Minimum age to contest Lok Sabha(a) 18 (b) 21 (c) 25 (d) 30Answer: (c) 25

5. A country using national-list PR(a) India (b) Israel (c) UK (d) USAAnswer: (b) Israel

6. In FPTP the winner needs(a) majority (b) plurality (c) two-thirds (d) 50% turnoutAnswer: (b) plurality

7. Boundaries of constituencies are fixed by(a) Parliament (b) Delimitation Commission (c) Supreme Court (d) PresidentAnswer: (b) Delimitation Commission

8. In a reserved constituency, who can vote?(a) only SCs (b) all voters (c) only STs (d) only candidatesAnswer: (b) all voters

9. Election Commission is headed by(a) President (b) CEC (c) Prime Minister (d) SpeakerAnswer: (b) CEC

10. PR tends to produce(a) one-party rule (b) coalitions (c) no elections (d) monarchyAnswer: (b) coalitions

## Quick Revision Points

- Direct vs indirect democracy.
- FPTP: plurality, one seat per constituency.
- PR: seats by votes; Israel, Netherlands; STV for Rajya Sabha.
- Why India chose FPTP.
- Reserved constituencies; delimitation.
- Universal adult franchise (18), Election Commission, reforms.

## Chapter Summary

In representative democracy, elections translate votes into seats according to the electoral system. India uses First Past the Post for most direct elections because it is simple and stable, while proportional representation through the Single Transferable Vote is used for Rajya Sabha and presidential elections.

Reserved constituencies ensure representation of Scheduled Castes and Tribes, universal adult franchise gives every adult a vote, and an independent Election Commission conducts free and fair elections. Electoral reforms aim to reduce money and muscle power and widen representation.

## Exam Tips and PYQ Pattern

- FPTP vs PR table is a sure question.
- Remember Israel and Netherlands as PR examples.
- Learn ages and amendment numbers.
- Explain reserved constituencies clearly – voters vs candidates.
- List at least four electoral reforms.

## Frequently Asked Questions

Is this chapter in the 2026-27 CBSE syllabus?

Yes. It is part of the NCERT Class 11 Political Science textbook “Indian Constitution at Work”, prescribed in the CBSE 2026-27 syllabus.

Can I download these notes as a PDF?

Yes. Use the free PDF link at the top of this page – no signup needed.

What is the difference between FPTP and proportional representation?

In FPTP the candidate with most votes wins each constituency; in PR seats are shared according to vote share.

Why are some constituencies reserved?

To guarantee representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in legislatures.

## Conclusion

Election and Representation shows how votes become power in India. Learn the comparison table, practise the Q&A here and save the free PDF for revision.

More Notes: Class 11 Political Science (Indian Constitution at Work) Chapter 2: Rights in the Indian Constitution notes | Class 11 Political Science (Indian Constitution at Work) Chapter 4: Executive notes | All Class 11 Political Science notes

Author Bio: Written and reviewed by the Nextoper Editorial Team, a group of CBSE political science educators who build chapter notes directly from the NCERT textbook and past board paper patterns.

Freshness Note: These notes follow the NCERT Class 11 Political Science (Indian Constitution at Work) textbook, Indian Constitution at Work (NCERT reprint 2026-27, rationalised syllabus), and the CBSE syllabus for the 2026-27 session. Last checked on 25 November 2026.