# Class 9 Social Science Chapter 7: Elections - Notes, Important Questions and MCQs (2026-27)

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These Class 9 Social Science Chapter 7 notes cover “Elections” from the new NCERT textbook Understanding Society: India and Beyond (Part 1, 2026-27): why elections matter, electoral systems (First Past the Post, majority and Proportional Representation), the Representation of the People Acts, delimitation, the Election Commission of India, political parties and their recognition, voter facilitation and challenges to free and fair elections – with tables, Q&A, 10 MCQs and a free PDF.

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## Chapter Overview

Elections are the soul of democracy: they give every citizen an equal voice in forming the government. Voting is both a constitutional right and a duty. An electoral system decides how votes are converted into seats, and different systems produce different results.

In India, laws such as the Representation of the People Acts of 1950 and 1951, the Delimitation Commission and the autonomous Election Commission of India (ECI) ensure free, fair and transparent elections for over 96.8 crore voters (2024). Political parties offer choices, and the ECI uses tools like EVMs, VVPAT and the Model Code of Conduct to keep elections fair.

# Important Topics and Concepts

## Why Elections Matter

- Through elections citizens choose representatives and hold them accountable.
- Voting is a right and also a responsibility of every citizen aged 18 and above.
- Regular elections allow peaceful change of government.
- They reflect the will of the people.

## Electoral Systems

- First Past the Post (FPTP): the candidate with the most votes in a constituency wins, even without a majority. Used for Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections in India.
- Majority system: winner needs more than half the votes, sometimes through a second round.
- Proportional Representation (PR): parties get seats in proportion to their vote share; India uses a form of PR for Rajya Sabha and President's election.
- Different systems can turn the same votes into very different seat outcomes.

## Laws and Delimitation

- RP Act, 1950: allocation of seats, delimitation of constituencies, preparation of electoral rolls.
- RP Act, 1951: conduct of elections, qualifications, electoral offences and corrupt practices (e.g. bribing voters).
- Delimitation: fixing the number and boundaries of constituencies so each has roughly equal population.
- India has had four Delimitation Commissions – 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002.

## Election Commission of India

- Autonomous, permanent constitutional body set up on 25 January 1950 (now celebrated as National Voters' Day).
- Conducts elections to Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislatures and the offices of President and Vice-President.
- Prepares and revises electoral rolls, recognises parties, allots symbols and enforces the Model Code of Conduct; acts as a quasi-judicial body in party disputes.
- Facilitation: EVMs (with Braille), VVPAT, postal ballots and ETPBS for service voters, home voting for senior citizens and persons with disabilities, voter awareness campaigns.

## Political Parties

- India has a multi-party system reflecting its diversity.
- Parties present programmes and policies, helping voters choose.
- Since 1967 coalitions grew; the Janata Party formed the first coalition government at the Centre in 1977 after the Emergency.
- ECI recognises national and state parties on vote-share and seat criteria; others are registered unrecognised parties.

## Challenges to Free and Fair Elections

- Money power and muscle power.

- Misinformation and fake news.
- Intimidation of voters and booth capturing.
- Remedies: Model Code of Conduct, EVMs and VVPAT, strict laws, voter awareness campaigns and alert citizens.

## FPTP vs Proportional Representation

Most-asked comparison.

| FPTP | Proportional Representation |
|---|---|
| Candidate with most votes wins | Seats shared by vote percentage |
| Single-member constituencies | Large multi-member regions or whole country |
| Simple and quick | More representative of all votes |
| May give big seat majority with less vote share | Often leads to coalitions |
| Lok Sabha, Vidhan Sabha | Rajya Sabha, President (in India) |

## Party Recognition Criteria (any one)

| National Party | State Party |
|---|---|
| 6% votes in 4+ states and 4 Lok Sabha seats | 6% votes in state assembly poll + 2 assembly seats |
| 2% of Lok Sabha seats from at least 3 states | 6% votes in state Lok Sabha poll + 1 Lok Sabha seat |
| Recognised as state party in 4 states | 3% of assembly seats or at least 3 seats |

## Important Definitions and Terms

| Term | Meaning |
|---|---|
| Election | Process of choosing representatives by voting |
| Constituency | Area whose voters elect one representative |
| FPTP | System where candidate with most votes wins |
| Proportional Representation | Seats allocated by vote share |
| Delimitation | Fixing number and boundaries of constituencies |
| Electoral roll | List of eligible voters |
| ECI | Election Commission of India, set up 25 January 1950 |
| Model Code of Conduct | ECI guidelines for parties and candidates during elections |
| VVPAT | Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail |
| Coalition | Alliance of parties to form government |

## Short Answer Questions

Q1. Why are elections called the soul of democracy?

They give every citizen an equal voice in choosing the government and holding it accountable.

The candidate who gets the most votes in a constituency wins, even without a majority.

Q3. What does the RP Act, 1950 deal with?

Allocation of seats, delimitation of constituencies and preparation of electoral rolls.

Q4. Why is delimitation necessary?

Population changes over time; delimitation keeps the population of constituencies roughly equal so votes have equal value.

Q5. When was the ECI established?

On 25 January 1950.

Q6. Name two technologies used by the ECI.

Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and VVPAT.

Q7. What is the Model Code of Conduct?

A set of guidelines issued by the ECI for parties and candidates to ensure fair campaigning.

Q8. Name two challenges to free and fair elections.

Money power and the spread of misinformation or fake news.

## Long Answer Questions

Q1. Compare FPTP and Proportional Representation systems.

FPTP: highest-vote candidate wins in each single-member constituency.

PR: parties receive seats according to their vote share.

FPTP is simple and gives stable governments but may under-represent smaller parties.

PR reflects voters more accurately but may produce coalitions.

India uses FPTP for Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabhas and PR for Rajya Sabha and President.

Q2. Describe the functions of the Election Commission of India.

Conducts elections to Parliament, State Legislatures, President and Vice-President.

Prepares and updates electoral rolls.

Recognises political parties and allots symbols; settles disputes.

Enforces the Model Code of Conduct.

Facilitates voters through EVMs, VVPAT, postal ballots, home voting and awareness drives.

Q3. What challenges do elections in India face and how are they addressed?

Money and muscle power – strict laws on corrupt practices.

Misinformation and fake news – fact-checking and awareness.

Intimidation – security forces and secret ballot.

Huge scale of 96.8 crore voters – technology and planning.

Alert citizens and an independent ECI keep elections fair.

## MCQs with Answers

1. Lok Sabha elections in India use(a) PR (b) FPTP (c) majority run-off (d) lotteryAnswer: (b) FPTP

2. ECI was established on(a) 26 Jan 1950 (b) 25 Jan 1950 (c) 15 Aug 1947 (d) 26 Nov 1949Answer: (b) 25 Jan 1950

3. Which Act deals with electoral offences?(a) RP Act 1950 (b) RP Act 1951 (c) RTI Act 2005 (d) Delimitation Act 1952Answer: (b) RP Act 1951

4. Number of Delimitation Commissions so far(a) two (b) three (c) four (d) fiveAnswer: (c) four

5. VVPAT stands for(a) Voter Verified Poll and Tally (b) Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (c) Vote Value Paper Audit Test (d) Voter Validation ProcessAnswer: (b) Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail

6. Eligible voters in India in 2024 were about(a) 50 crore (b) 96.8 crore (c) 140 crore (d) 20 croreAnswer: (b) 96.8 crore

7. First coalition government at the Centre was formed in(a) 1967 (b) 1977 (c) 1989 (d) 1999Answer: (b) 1977

8. Party seats by vote share is called(a) FPTP (b) PR (c) majority system (d) delimitationAnswer: (b) PR

9. Minimum voting age in India(a) 16 (b) 18 (c) 21 (d) 25Answer: (b) 18

10. ETPBS is meant for(a) senior citizens (b) service voters (c) first-time voters (d) NRIs onlyAnswer: (b) service voters

## Quick Revision Points

- Elections = soul of democracy; voting is right and duty.
- FPTP vs majority vs PR.
- RP Act 1950 (rolls, seats), 1951 (conduct, offences).
- Delimitation Commissions: 1952, 1963, 1973, 2002.
- ECI: 25 Jan 1950; functions; EVM, VVPAT, MCC.
- Multi-party system; party recognition criteria.
- Challenges: money, muscle, misinformation.

## Chapter Summary

Elections let citizens choose and change governments peacefully. Electoral systems such as FPTP, majority and proportional representation convert votes into seats differently; India uses FPTP for most direct elections.

Laws like the RP Acts of 1950 and 1951, delimitation and the autonomous Election Commission ensure fair elections for nearly a billion voters. Political parties offer choices, the ECI recognises them and enforces the Model Code of Conduct, and technology and awareness help tackle money power, intimidation and misinformation.

## Exam Tips and PYQ Pattern

- FPTP vs PR table is a sure-shot question.
- Learn ECI functions as 5 points.
- Remember key dates: ECI 1950, delimitation years.
- Case-based questions may involve voter ID and facilitation.
- Party recognition criteria can come as MCQs.

## Frequently Asked Questions

Is this chapter in the 2026-27 CBSE syllabus?

Yes. It is part of the new NCERT Class 9 Social Science textbook “Understanding Society: India and Beyond” (Part 1), prescribed for the 2026-27 session.

Can I download these notes as a PDF?

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

Which electoral system is used for Lok Sabha elections?

First Past the Post (FPTP).

What is the role of the Election Commission of India?

It conducts free and fair elections, prepares electoral rolls, recognises parties, allots symbols and enforces the Model Code of Conduct.

## Conclusion

Elections shows how India’s huge democracy chooses its governments fairly. Learn the comparison and criteria tables, practise the Q&A here and save the free PDF for revision.

More Notes: Class 9 Social Science Chapter 6: Democracy notes | Class 9 Social Science Chapter 8: Building Blocks in Economics: The Problem of Choice notes | All Class 9 Social Science notes

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

Freshness Note: These notes follow the NCERT Class 9 Social Science textbook, Understanding Society: India and Beyond (Parts 1 and 2, first edition 2026, NCF-SE 2023), and the CBSE syllabus for the 2026-27 session. Last checked on 23 November 2026.