

Chp -5 Universal Franchise and India's Electoral System

Answer Key

GEAR UP

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1. We need this card for the following reasons:
 - It shows that a person is a registered voter in their constituency.
 - It helps confirm the voter's identity at the polling station and prevents fake or multiple voting.
 - It allows the voter's name to be matched with the electoral roll before voting.
2. This set-up is used for the following purposes:
 - It is used to conduct voting during elections.
 - It allows voters to cast their vote by pressing a button for their chosen candidate.
 - It records votes electronically in a secure manner.
3. We need this set-up for the following reasons:
 - It makes the voting process quick and accurate.
 - It reduces mistakes in counting votes.
 - It prevents tampering with ballot papers.
 - It allows voters to verify their vote through VVPAT.
 - It increases transparency and public trust in elections.

PROGRESS MILESTONE

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|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1. (✓) | 2. (✓) | 3. (✗) | 4. (✗) | 5. (✓) |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|

LET US PRACTISE

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- A. 1. (b) 1950
2. (c) Article 326
3. (b) Privacy of the voter's choice
4. (c) VVPAT
- B. 1. 18 years 2. 25 January 1950
3. secret 4. electoral roll
- C. 1. The word 'universal' signifies that there is no discrimination based on caste, religion, gender, education or wealth in granting the right to vote.
2. The Electoral Roll in India is updated by the Election Commission of India through Electoral Registration Officers.
3. The main advantage of using EVMs is that they make voting quick, accurate and free from tampering.
4. Elderly voters or persons with disabilities were allowed to vote from home during elections in 2024.

- D. 1.** India's decision to adopt universal adult franchise in 1950 was remarkable for the following reasons:
- (i) Every adult citizen was given the right to vote from the very beginning.
 - (ii) No restrictions were imposed based on gender, caste, literacy or property.
 - (iii) Many developed countries granted voting rights gradually, but India adopted it at once.
 - (iv) It strengthened equality and democratic participation in a newly independent nation.
- 2.** The Election Commission ensures free and fair elections through the following measures:
- (i) It prepares and updates the Electoral Roll.
 - (ii) It enforces the Model Code of Conduct.
 - (iii) It supervises polling, counting and declaration of results.
 - (iv) It uses EVMs and VVPAT for transparency.
 - (v) It monitors misuse of money and power during elections.
- 3.** India has taken the following steps to make voting accessible:
- (i) Providing ramps and wheelchair facilities at polling stations.
 - (ii) Allowing home voting for certain categories of voters.
 - (iii) Offering Braille-enabled EVMs for visually impaired voters.
 - (iv) Conducting voter awareness programmes for inclusive participation.
- 4.** Equality in voting is essential for democracy for the following reasons:
- (i) It ensures 'one person, one vote, one value'.
 - (ii) It gives equal political voice to all citizens.
 - (iii) It prevents discrimination in the electoral process.
 - (iv) It strengthens fairness and legitimacy in democratic governance.
- E. 1.** Universal adult franchise promotes equality and strengthens democracy in India in the following ways:
- (i) It gives every adult citizen the right to vote, regardless of caste, religion, gender, education or wealth.
 - (ii) It ensures that each vote has equal value under the principle of 'one person, one vote, one value'.
 - (iii) It allows citizens to choose their representatives freely.
 - (iv) It makes leaders accountable to the people.
 - (v) It encourages participation from all sections of society.
 - (vi) It helps citizens shape national and local policies through elections.
- 2.** The elections of the President and Vice-President of India can be described as follows:
- (i) The President is elected indirectly by an Electoral College of elected MPs and MLAs.
 - (ii) Nominated members do not participate in this election.
 - (iii) The system used is proportional representation with a single transferable vote.

- (iv) The Election Commission announces the schedule, scrutinises nominations and conducts voting.
 - (v) The Vice-President is elected by elected and nominated members of the Rajya Sabha and elected members of the Lok Sabha.
 - (vi) The Vice-President is elected by secret ballot using the single transferable vote system.
3. The Election Commission has improved transparency and voter confidence in the following ways:
- (i) EVMs record votes electronically, reducing errors and speeding up counting.
 - (ii) They prevent tampering and misuse of ballot papers.
 - (iii) VVPAT displays a paper slip with the candidate's name and symbol for verification.
 - (iv) Voters can confirm that their vote is recorded correctly.
 - (v) This increases trust in the election process.
 - (vi) It strengthens the credibility of election results.
4. Fair elections are important for a democracy for the following reasons:
- (i) They allow people to choose their representatives freely.
 - (ii) They ensure accountability of leaders.
 - (iii) They protect political equality.
 - (iv) They maintain public trust in governance.
- The challenges faced during elections in India include:
- (i) Influence of money and power.
 - (ii) Spread of fake news and misinformation.
 - (iii) Low voter turnout in some areas.
 - (iv) Difficulties in reaching remote regions.
 - (v) Misuse of social media and violation of campaign rules.
 - (vi) Social and political divisions.

ASSERTION-REASON

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1. (c) (A) is true but (R) is false.
2. (a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

PICTURE-BASED QUESTIONS

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1. The components shown are the Ballot Unit, Control Unit and VVPAT.
2. (a) The Ballot Unit allows the voter to cast a vote.
(b) The Control Unit stores votes and manages the election process.
(c) The VVPAT prints a paper record for voter verification.

MAP SKILLS

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1. (i) Uttar Pradesh (ii) Maharashtra
(iii) West Bengal (iv) Bihar
2. Uttar Pradesh



3. States with more seats play an important role in forming the central government because they elect a larger number of Members of Parliament, which increases their influence in deciding which party or coalition gains a majority in the Lok Sabha.

HOTS (HIGHER-ORDER THINKING SKILLS)

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Voting is considered both a right and a responsibility for the following reasons:

- (i) It is a right because every adult citizen is legally allowed to choose representatives.
- (ii) It gives people a voice in forming the government.
- (iii) It is a responsibility because decisions affect the whole nation.
- (iv) Careless voting can lead to poor leadership.
- (v) Thoughtful voting strengthens democracy.
- (vi) Informed choices help ensure honest and capable governance.

LIFE SKILLS

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I would vote based on the candidate's abilities and responsibility rather than friendship, because leadership should be based on merit and honesty.