

Teacher's Guide

Electoral Politics

Part 2

Based on the NCERT Syllabus for Standard IX



JANAAGRAHA CENTRE FOR CITIZENSHIP & DEMOCRACY

Janaagraha's initiative to improve citizen engagement in India's democracy through their civic learning program Developed in collaboration with Young Leaders for Active Citizenship (YLAC)



Electoral Politics | Teacher's Guide (2/4)

Part 1

Class IX

Board – CBSE

Subject – Social Science

Textbook – Democratic Politics- I for class IX (NCERT)

Chapter 4- Electoral Politics

Number of parts – 04

Length – 50-60 minutes (estimated, for a class of 40-45 students)

Note: Teachers may divide the lesson plan into as many periods as they see fit

Section I – What are we going to learn and why is it important?

Learning objectives

Students will:

- Explain the nomination process
- Explain the meaning and importance of Universal Adult Franchise

Learning outcomes

Students will be able to:

Analyse election practices and candidates in real life situations.

Key Terms

Nomination	Assembly Elections	Parliamentary Constituencies	Assembly Constituencies	Reserved Constituencies
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Materials needed

- Projector to show video and case study
- A white chart with the flow chart drawn on it and a chart with guiding questions for the activity – Understanding General and State elections
- Print outs of activity sheets



Section II – How are we going to learn?

1. Two truths and a lie: Recap activity

Time: 15 minutes

Note to the teacher:

- The purpose of this activity is to recall the facts studied in the previous lesson.
- Display the following sets of statements on the board or a chart paper. In groups, Students must identify the 'lie' among the statements and justify their choice.
- Explain the instructions with a simple example to ensure that students have understood the game.

Facilitation notes:

- In the last class we studied about various concepts and ideas related to elections in India. Let's put our knowledge to the test through a fun game called 'Two truths and a lie'.
- Each group will be assigned a set of 3 three statements. 2 of these statements are true and one is a lie.
- In your respective groups, you must Identify the 'lie' and explain the reason for your choice.
- Let's do one together. Let's examine these three statements, one by one.
- (Choose students to read the statements and identify whether they are true or not.
 1. Elections are held every 5 years in India.
 2. The last Lok Sabha elections were held in 2019.
 3. All state elections are conducted along with Lok Sabha elections.
- (After discussing each statement) You're absolutely right! The third statement is a lie. Imagine the chaos if all states and the Lok Sabha had elections together! Plus, we just witnessed the Lok Sabha elections and many state elections that take place at different points in time.
- Now in your groups, you will discuss the statements assigned to the group and find the 'lie' among them. You have 5 minutes to do this.

Debrief:

- After 5 minutes of discussion time, conduct a whole class discussion where students from each group identify the lie and explain their reason for identifying a statement as the lie.
- The teacher should help students arrive at the answers mentioned at the bottom of each set of statements.

1. The Chief Minister is chosen by the members of the winning party.
 2. The Chief minister is chosen by the Prime Minister.
 3. A party needs over 50% of the seats in the Assembly to form the government.
- (Statement 2 is a lie because the Chief Minister is chosen by the party that wins the majority.)

1. Non- democratic countries may also hold elections.
 2. In India, elections are held regularly.
 3. In India, all citizens can vote.
- (Statement 3 is a lie because all citizens above the age of 18 can vote)

1. In the Lok Sabha, one third seats are reserved for women.
 2. In panchayats, one third seats are reserved for women.
 3. Some constituencies are reserved for people from weaker sections like Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- (Statement 1 is a lie because one third seats are not reserved for women in the Lok Sabha but in local governing bodies like Panchayats.)

- In an election,
1. Voters choose who makes laws for them.
 2. Voters choose judges to uphold the law in Courts.
 3. Voters choose their own representatives in the government.
- (Statement 2 is a lie because voters do not choose judges of courts, but members of Parliament)

1. In India, each state is divided into equal number of constituencies.
 2. For Lok Sabha elections, the country is divided into 543 constituencies.
 3. Each constituency elects one representative to the Lok Sabha.
- (Statement 1 is a lie because each state is divided into different number of constituencies depending of its populations size)

1. Political competition is beneficial as people get to observe various parties and their strategies.
2. Political competition can often lead to 'dirty politics'
3. Good political leaders stay in power indefinitely.

(Statement 3 is a lie because regular elections are conducted where political leaders may be changed and cannot retain power indefinitely)

2. Who can vote?

Time: 25 minutes

Material required:

2 Graphs per group (printable version in the appendix), Table to be drawn on the board for students to copy.

Note to the teacher:

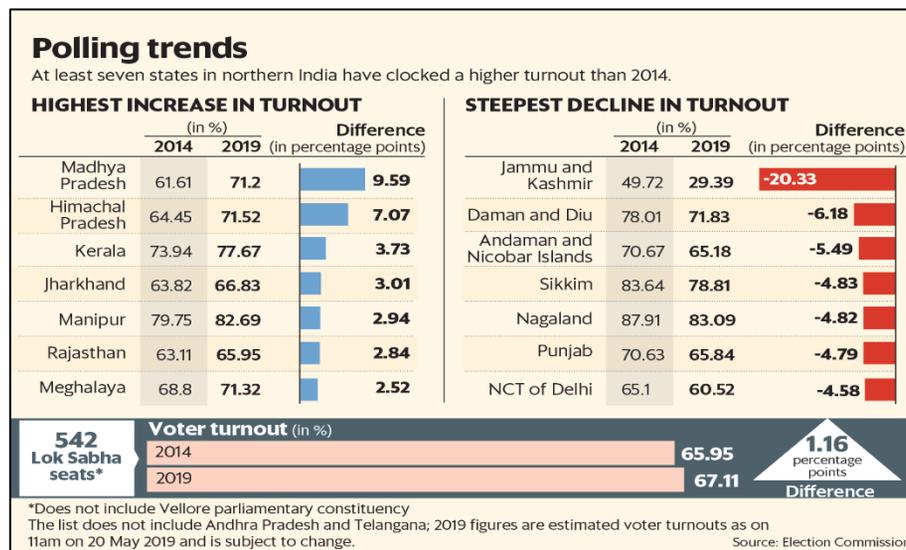
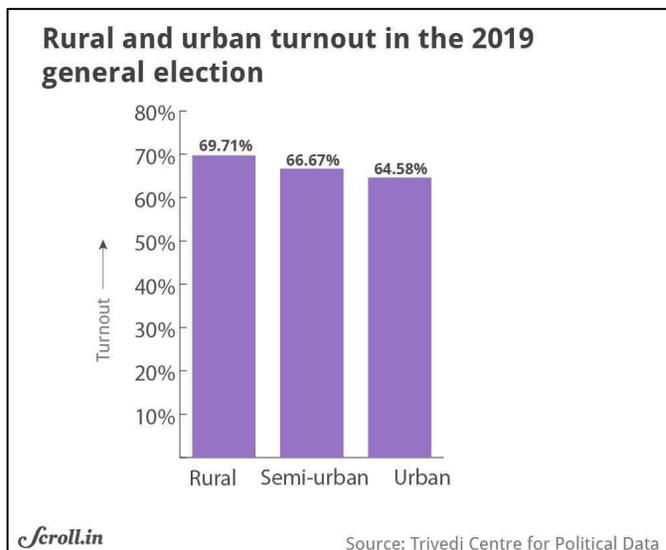
The purpose of this activity is for students to understand:

- I. The purpose of a voter's list
- II. Voting patterns.
 - Students will read and analyse two graphs related to voting patterns.

S.no	Statement	Agree/Disagree	Reason
1.	More number of people voted in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections.	Disagree	This is because voter turnout in 2019 was 67.11% and 65.95% in 2014
2.	Voter turnout means the total number of people who voted.	Agree	The graphs tell us the number of people who voted and refer to this information as 'voter turnout'
3.	In the 2019 elections, people living in villages voted in larger numbers than people living in towns.	Agree	This is because voter turn-out in rural areas was 69.71% and voter turnout in urban areas was 64.58%
4.	A Voters List or Electoral Roll is prepared before the elections. This has the names of all eligible voters and helps to establish voter turnout.	Agree	This is because voter turnout can only be calculated if we know the total number of eligible voters
5.	All eligible voters in Rajasthan cast their vote in the 2019 elections.	Disagree	This is because the voter turnout was 65.95%, meaning that only 65.95% of the eligible voters voted.
6.	As new persons attain voting age, their names are added to the electoral roll.	Agree	This is because India follow the principle of Universal Adult Franchise, where all those above 18years of age are allowed to vote
7.	In Sikkim, voter turnout increased from 2014.	Disagree	This is because voter turn in 2014 was 83.64% and 78.81% in 2019

8.	Names of those who move out of a place or those who are dead are not deleted and remain in the Voter's List.	Disagree	These names are deleted as dead people obviously cannot vote and names of those who move out of their constituency are deleted and added to another
9.	An eligible voter can vote for another person.	Disagree	This is because he/she may not vote according to the person's choice but their own
10.	For voting, a voter needs to show a proof of identity.	Agree	This is to ensure that the person is voting only for himself or herself and to keep a record of who has cast their vote.

- In groups, students will read several statements related to voters and voting patterns. Students will discuss each statement in their groups and use the two graphs below for information.
- They must agree or disagree with these statements and specify the reason for their choice, as shown in the table below. (Printable version can be found in the Appendix. The table below includes the answers, which should be shared only onwards the end of the discussion)
- All students must make and complete the table in their notebooks.



Facilitation Notes:

- In this lesson, we have learnt that India is a representative democracy. This means that we choose or elect individuals to represent us, our needs and interests in the Government.

- But who all can make this choice? Who all can vote? (Take responses)
- Yes, that's right- All people above the age of 18 can vote in India. Is it a good idea to allow all people to vote? Why? (Take 3-5 responses)
- Excellent answers! Everyone is given the right to vote so that everyone has an equal voice. All people, irrespective of their class, caste, religion or gender should have the right to express their needs, interests and opinions. Only then can we truly be a representative democracy.
- But does everyone vote? What is done to ensure that there are no errors in the voting process?
- To get an understanding of this idea, let's look at some data about the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.
- Each group has been given a hand-out with two graphs. These graphs give information about the number of people who voted. Use this information and all that we have learnt about elections so far to fill up the table drawn on the board.
- I will now read out some statements written on the board. You must all write down each statement and the table in your notebook.
- Then, in your groups, you should discuss the statement and agree or disagree with it and give reasons for the same.
- Let's do the first one together. In your groups, I want you to discuss the first statement and decide whether you agree or disagree with the same. Be sure to know the reason for your choice. Take 2-3 minutes to do this.
- (After the discussion time is over, choose any 1 group) So, Group, if you agree with the statement, all of you must give a thumbs up. If not, then you must give a thumbs down.
- Do you agree or disagree that 'More number of people voted in the 2014 elections'?
- Why do you think so? (ask any 1 student from the group to give the reason for the answer. Guide the group towards the correct answer in case of error)
- Excellent! Now take 10 minutes to complete the rest of the table.
- (After 10 minutes) Let's discuss the answers! (Choose different groups to give the answers for different statements. Repeat the 'thumbs-up/thumbs down method given above when discussing each of the statements)

De-brief:

- The elections in India is a huge task! In the 2019 elections almost 900 million Indians — more than the population of all the countries of Europe combined — cast their votes. 11 million officials helped to conduct the election at 1.04 million polling stations which used over 2 million electronic voting machines (EVMs).
- The Election Commission is the body appointed with the responsibility of conducting the elections smoothly. Do you think their job is challenging? Why? (Take 2 responses)



- The Commission now issues an Election Photo Identity Card (EPIC). The card is not compulsory for voting and any other government issued photo id like a driving license can be used. For home-work, you are required to look at your parent or relatives and answer some questions related to the same. We will discuss these questions towards the end of the lesson.

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3. Who can contest an election? - Group Activity

Note to the teacher:

- The aim of this activity is for students to understand the ‘nomination’ process and the minimum requirements to contest an election.
- To achieve this, students will be divided into groups (no more than 5) which will act as political parties. 6 student volunteers will act as the candidates and will read out details from their ‘Nomination Form’ (given below). You can even write this down on a large piece of paper, so the candidates can hold them up for the class to see.
- Each group/ political party must discuss the candidates and make their choice. Each group must pick a minimum of 3 candidates. They will then give a ‘ticket’ (a small piece of paper with the word ‘Ticket’ written on it) to the candidates of their choice.

Materials required: 6 ‘tickets’ per group.

Facilitation Notes:

- Now that we have understood who all can vote, let’s get to the question of who can stand in an election. So, who do you think can contest an election? (Take responses)
- (After a few responses) Any citizen above the age of 25 can contest an election. There are almost no other conditions, except some against criminals which apply in very rare cases.
- Political parties choose or ‘nominate’ which candidates will contest the elections on behalf of their party. However, candidates can also contest independently, without the support of any political party.
- What would the nomination process look like? Let’s do a small activity to find out.
- Imagine, each group represents a political party. Each group will be given some choices and must nominate or choose their candidates for the elections. These candidates get the ‘ticket’ or the party’s nomination and support.
- Imagine that these candidates are for a state where the main occupation is agriculture and unemployment is one of the biggest problems.
- Can 6 students volunteer to become our potential candidates? (choose any 6 students)

- Now the 6 of them will share the details of their 'Nomination Form' with you. Listen to them carefully, discuss within your groups and make a choice. (You can print/write the details on a large piece of paper which the candidates can hold up for the class to see)
- We want to understand how political parties should decide which candidates to give a 'ticket' to. So, take 5 minutes to discuss which candidates you would choose and why. You must choose any three candidates. It does not matter if 2 groups end up choosing the same candidates as the purpose of this activity is only to understand what kind of candidates that political parties should choose.
- (After 5 minutes), One student from each Political Party should come and give the tickets to the candidates of your choice.
- Now each party will get 2 minutes to explain their choices.

Debrief:

- As we just saw each candidate who wishes to stand in an election, must necessarily share some information related to their educational qualifications, assets and liabilities and any criminal charges against them.
- Why do you think it is mandatory for candidates to give these details?
- (After a few responses) It is important so that we know whom to choose. It helps us make good decisions and choose the right person for the job! If you're buying vegetables, toys, or even a phone you see the details of different options and carefully consider all the options before making your choice. Similarly, when choosing a candidate, one must carefully consider all the details before making a choice.
- Do you think there needs to be a minimum educational qualification for a candidate? Write the answer in your notebook. Keep in mind that even a graduate degree qualification will make large sections of our population ineligible to contest the elections. Take 5 minutes to write your answers.
- (After 5 minutes, ask 3-4 students with differencing ideas to share their answers with the class)

Candidate 1 – Mohan

- Occupation- College Lecturer
- Educational Qualifications: M.A (English), Phd, College topper
- Criminal Cases Pending: 0
- Assets: 1 luxury car, 1 large house
- Liabilities: None
- Other details: This is Mohan's first ever involvement in active politics. His interests lie mostly in writing and his plan is to build another university in the constituency.

Candidate 2- Kumar

- Occupation- Shopkeeper
- Educational Qualifications: 8th Pass
- Criminal Cases Pending: 0
- Assets: 1 small house, 1 shop in the city centre
- Liabilities: Housing loan worth Rs.X
- Other details: Kumar had earlier worked as a member of the panchayat. He has helped many locals set up shops in the local market and has a plan to promote local businesses and industry. Since he comes from a family of farmers, he has ideas to improve the lives of farmers and start adult literacy programmes.

Candidate 3- Priya

- Occupation- Farmer
- Educational Qualifications: 5th Pass
- Criminal Cases Pending: 0
- Assets: 1 small house in joint ownership with her husband, jewellery worth Rs.X
- Liabilities: None
- Other details: Priya is a part of a Self Help Group where she has learnt ways for additional income. She plans to start many such SHGs.

Candidate 4- Lakshmi

- Occupation: Banker
- Educational Qualifications: Graduate in Economics.
- Criminal Cases Pending: 1
- Assets: 2 small houses, Bank deposits worth Rs.X, 1 car.
- Liabilities: None
- Other details: Lakshmi's belongs to a family of politicians. She has lived abroad most of her life and plans to work on providing easy loans and credit facilities to farmers.

Candidate 5- Robin

- Occupation: Property Dealer
- Educational Qualifications: 8th Pass
- Criminal Cases Pending: 2
- Assets: 2 large houses, 3 cars, Bank deposits worth Rs.X
- Liabilities: loan worth Rs.X
- Other details: Robin has many connections with big businessmen and plans to use them to help improve employment opportunities in the constituency.

Candidate 6- Meeta

- Occupation: Social worker
- Educational Qualifications: B.Tech/Engineering
- Criminal Cases Pending: 0
- Assets: 1 small house, Bank deposits worth Rs.X
- Liabilities: Education loan worth Rs.X
- Other details: Meeta has started a rainwater harvesting projects with the help of farmer unions to help farmers get easier access to water during dry spells. She plans to start vocational training camps to help the youth find employment.

Section III- Assessment –

Q.1 Chinappa was convicted for torturing his wife for dowry. Satbir was held guilty of practicing untouchability. The court did not allow either of them to contest elections. Does this decision go against the principles of democratic elections?

(No, this decision does not go against the principle of democratic elections as it still allows voters to choose from the available candidates. Further, it eliminates choices that may not be everyone's best interests. Other principals of democratic elections like choice at regular intervals and election of candidates preferred by voters are also met)

Q.2. Over 80 lakh first time voters voted in 2019 elections. Imagine that it is 2024 and the elections are around the corner. Make a pamphlet with all the important things that a first-time voter needs to know and do before casting their vote. You may divide the pamphlet into the following components:

- a) A catchy title
- b) Things to carry when you go to vote



c) Things to know before you cast your vote

d) Message to encourage people to vote

Q.3. Define the following:

a) Electoral Roll

(is a list of people who are eligible to vote)

b) Nomination Form (is a form that has to be filled by every individual who wishes to contest an election. It provides important details about the individual)

Section IV – Homework

Q.1. Look at the Election Photo Identity Card (EPIC) of a family member and note the details written on it. Why do you think its is important to record the following details of voters?

a) Address

b) Date of Birth

Answers:

a) Address- to ensure that the person is voting in the correct constituency.

b) Date of Birth- to ensure that the person is over 18 years of age and legally allowed to vote.

Q.2. Find out about any 3 candidates who contested the election from your constituency. Write down the following information about them-

a) Educational Qualifications

b) Assets and Liabilities

c) Criminal Charges

Use the following links to help gather this information:

myneta.info/LokSabha2019/

affidavit.eci.gov.in/



Section V – Additional Resources

Resources for teachers

1. Article: [Are you a first time voter?](#)

The article explains everything one needs to know before casting our vote. Teachers can discuss this article with students to help them answer Q.2 in the assessment.

Resources for students

1. Article: [5 reasons India's election is unique](#)

The Article explains various features of the Indian 2019 elections and what makes them unique.

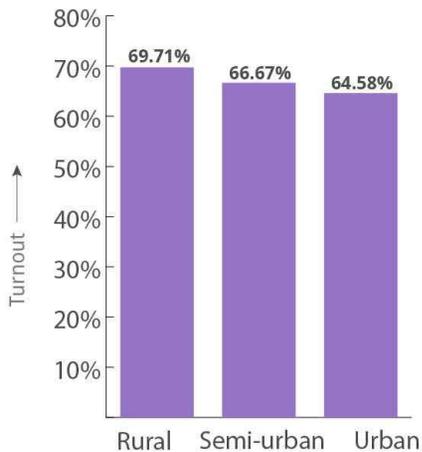
Appendix

Activity 2- Worksheet: Who can vote?

S.no	Statement	Agree/Disagree	Reason
1.	More number of people voted in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections.		
2.	Voter turnout means the total number of people who voted.		
3.	In the 2019 elections, people living in villages voted in larger numbers than people living in towns.		
4.	A Voters List or Electoral Roll is prepared before the elections. This has the names of all eligible voters and helps to establish voter turnout.		
5.	All eligible voters in Rajasthan cast their vote in the 2019 elections.		
6.	As new persons attain voting age, their names are added to the electoral roll.		
7.	In Sikkim, voter turnout increased from 2014.		
8.	Names of those who move out of a place or those who are dead are not deleted and remain in the Voter's List.		
9.	An eligible voter can vote for another person.		
10.	For voting, a voter needs to show a proof of identity.		

Handout for 'Who can vote' activity. (1 per group)

Rural and urban turnout in the 2019 general election



Scroll.in

Source: Trivedi Centre for Political Data

Polling trends

At least seven states in northern India have clocked a higher turnout than 2014.

HIGHEST INCREASE IN TURNOUT

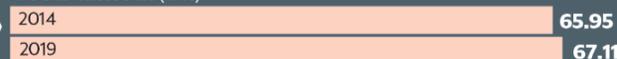
	(in %)		Difference (in percentage points)
	2014	2019	
Madhya Pradesh	61.61	71.2	9.59
Himachal Pradesh	64.45	71.52	7.07
Kerala	73.94	77.67	3.73
Jharkhand	63.82	66.83	3.01
Manipur	79.75	82.69	2.94
Rajasthan	63.11	65.95	2.84
Meghalaya	68.8	71.32	2.52

STEEPEST DECLINE IN TURNOUT

	(in %)		Difference (in percentage points)
	2014	2019	
Jammu and Kashmir	49.72	29.39	-20.33
Daman and Diu	78.01	71.83	-6.18
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	70.67	65.18	-5.49
Sikkim	83.64	78.81	-4.83
Nagaland	87.91	83.09	-4.82
Punjab	70.63	65.84	-4.79
NCT of Delhi	65.1	60.52	-4.58

542 Lok Sabha seats*

Voter turnout (in %)



1.16 percentage points Difference

*Does not include Vellore parliamentary constituency

The list does not include Andhra Pradesh and Telangana; 2019 figures are estimated voter turnouts as on 11am on 20 May 2019 and is subject to change.

Source: Election Commission

ichangemycity



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