

**ANSWER KEY & MARKING SCHEME · CBSE CLASS 11****Election and Representation**

Political Science · Chapter 3 · Use this with the Board Paper · Companion to Quick Drill

**HOW TO USE**

Attempt the Board Paper first (closed-book, full time). Then come here. For 2-mark+ questions, compare your answer to the model. For 3-4 mark questions, also consult the **Topper Templates** below — these show the exact step-by-step structure that scores full marks per CBSE marking-scheme conventions.

**MODEL ANSWERS · BOARD PAPER****Section A — Very Short Answer (1 mark each, 4 Qs)**

**Q1. Under which Article of the Constitution is the Election Commission of India established? [1 mark]**

| **Ans:** Article 324.

**Q2. What is the minimum voting age in India, and which amendment fixed it? [1 mark]**

| **Ans:** 18 years; fixed by the 61st Constitutional Amendment, 1989.

**Q3. Write the full forms of FPTP and STV. [1 mark]**

| **Ans:** FPTP = First-Past-The-Post; STV = Single Transferable Vote.

**Q4. Who appoints the Chief Election Commissioner of India? [1 mark]**

| **Ans:** The President of India.

**Section B — Short Answer I (2 marks each, 3 Qs)**

**Q5. What is meant by universal adult franchise? State one reason why its adoption in India was significant. [2 marks]**

| **Ans:** Universal adult franchise means that every adult citizen has the right to vote regardless of caste, religion, gender, education, property or income, with no literacy test. Its adoption was significant because India granted it from the very first election to a poor and largely illiterate population — a bold democratic experiment embodying political equality (one person, one vote, one value).

**Q6. What is a reserved constituency? Clarify who may contest and who may vote in it. [2 marks]**

| **Ans:** A reserved constituency is one in which only a candidate belonging to a particular group — the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes — may CONTEST the election. However, EVERY voter of that constituency, of any caste or community, votes as usual. Reservation thus governs candidature, not the right to vote, and is meant to ensure adequate representation of disadvantaged groups.

**Q7. State any two functions of the Election Commission of India. [2 marks]**

| **Ans:** (i) It prepares and periodically revises the electoral rolls (voters' lists) and supervises the conduct of polling and counting. (ii) It grants recognition to political parties, allots them election symbols, and frames and enforces the Model Code of Conduct during elections.

**Section C — Short Answer II (3 marks each, 3 Qs)**

**Q8. Explain how the First-Past-The-Post system works, and state one merit and one demerit. [3 marks]**

| **Ans:** Under FPTP the country is divided into single-member constituencies; each voter casts one vote for one candidate, and the candidate with the HIGHEST number of votes (a plurality, not necessarily a majority) is declared elected. Merit: it is simple to understand and tends to produce a stable single-party majority government with a clearly accountable local representative. Demerit: a party's share of seats can differ sharply from its share of votes, and small or dispersed parties are under-represented, so the legislature is a less accurate mirror of the people's preferences.

**Q9. Why did the makers of the Indian Constitution choose the FPTP system for direct elections? Give three reasons. [3 marks]**

**Ans:** (i) Simplicity — FPTP is easy for ordinary voters to understand, which mattered for a large, newly enfranchised and partly illiterate electorate. (ii) Clear local accountability — each constituency elects one identifiable representative answerable to that area. (iii) Stable government — FPTP tends to give a working majority to one party, producing a stable and effective government, which the framers thought essential for a newly independent nation. They judged PR too complex and prone to unstable coalitions.

**Q10. Why is the independence of the Election Commission considered essential for democracy? Explain. [3 marks]**

**Ans:** The Election Commission must conduct elections fairly even when this goes against the ruling party; if the government controlled it, the party in power could never lose a fair contest. To secure this independence, the Constitution (Article 324) makes it a separate constitutional body and gives the Chief Election Commissioner security of tenure — he can be removed only in the same difficult manner as a Supreme Court judge. This independence lets the Commission enforce the Model Code of Conduct, act against any party including the ruling one, and order repolls, thereby guaranteeing free and fair elections.

#### Section D — Long Answer / Passage-Based (4 and 7 marks, 2 Qs)

**Q11. Read the following and answer: 'In an election held under one system, Party A wins 40% of the votes, Party B 35% and Party C 25%. Under one system Party A wins a clear majority of seats; under another, the three parties win seats roughly matching these percentages.' (a) Name the system under which seats roughly match the vote percentages. (b) Name the system under which Party A could win a clear majority of seats with only 40% of the votes. (c) Which of the two systems does India use for Lok Sabha elections? (d) State one reason India chose that system. [4 marks]**

**Ans:** (a) Proportional Representation (PR). (b) The First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) system. (c) India uses FPTP for elections to the Lok Sabha. (d) One reason (any): it is simple for voters to understand / it gives a clear, accountable local representative / it tends to produce a stable single-party majority government.

**Q12. Distinguish between the First-Past-The-Post system and the system of Proportional Representation. In your answer, define each system, contrast them on at least three points, and state where India uses each. [7 marks]**

**Ans:** Definitions (2): Under FPTP the country is divided into single-member constituencies and the candidate with the most votes (a plurality, not a majority) in each wins. Under PR the seats a party wins are roughly in proportion to its total share of votes, implemented either through the list system (voters vote for a party, which fills its seats from a ranked list) or the Single Transferable Vote. Contrast (3): (i) Basis of victory — FPTP: most votes in a constituency; PR: proportion of total votes. (ii) Vote-to-seat relation — under FPTP a party's seat share can differ sharply from its vote share, while under PR the two closely match. (iii) Small parties and stability — FPTP under-represents small or dispersed parties but tends to give a stable single-party majority, whereas PR fairly represents small parties but often produces coalition governments. Indian usage (2): India uses FPTP for direct elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies, and PR by the Single Transferable Vote for the indirect election of the President, the Vice-President, the Rajya Sabha and the State Legislative Councils. The choice of system therefore shapes how faithfully votes are converted into seats and how stable the resulting government is.

★ **TOPPER TEMPLATE — 5-6 mark question: 'Distinguish between the First-Past-The-Post system and the system of Proportional Representation.' (also asked as 'Explain FPTP and PR with their merits')**

CBSE SQP 2019, 2021, 2023; School Annual 2020, 2022 — extremely common

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| <b>Step 1</b><br>[2 marks] | <b>Define each system</b>            | 'In the First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) system the country is divided into small geographical constituencies, each electing one representative; the candidate who secures the highest number of votes (a simple plurality, not necessarily a majority) is declared elected. In Proportional Representation (PR) the seats a party wins are roughly in proportion to its share of the total votes; PR works either through the list system (voters vote for a party, which then fills its quota of seats from a ranked list) or through the Single Transferable Vote.' |
| <b>Step 2</b><br>[2 marks] | <b>Contrast on the key heads</b>     | Contrast point by point: (a) Basis of victory — FPTP: most votes in a constituency wins; PR: seats proportional to votes nationwide. (b) Vote-to-seat relation — FPTP: a party's share of seats can differ sharply from its share of votes; PR: the two are closely matched. (c) Small parties — FPTP tends to under-represent small and dispersed parties; PR gives them a fairer share. (d) Government formation — FPTP usually produces a clear majority and stable government; PR often produces coalitions.   |
| <b>Step 3</b><br>[2 marks] | <b>Indian usage + why it matters</b> | 'India uses FPTP for direct elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies because it is simple for voters to understand and tends to give a stable government, while PR by the Single Transferable Vote is used for the indirect election of the President, Vice-President and the Rajya Sabha. The choice of system therefore shapes how faithfully votes are converted into seats and how stable the resulting government is.'   |

**COMMON LOSS OF MARKS:**

- Saying FPTP needs a majority (50%+) of votes — it needs only a plurality. This single error can cost the whole concept.
- Defining the two systems but not CONTRASTING them on clear heads — the question asks you to distinguish, so a two-column or point-wise contrast is essential.
- Forgetting that India uses BOTH — FPTP for Lok Sabha/Assemblies, PR-STV for President/Rajya Sabha.

★ **TOPPER TEMPLATE — 5-6 mark question: 'Describe the composition, powers and functions of the Election Commission of India.'**

CBSE SQP 2020, 2022; School Annual 2019, 2023

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| <b>Step 1</b><br>[2 marks] | <b>Composition and independence</b>      | 'The Election Commission of India is an independent constitutional body set up under Article 324. It is a multi-member body consisting of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners, appointed by the President. To keep it independent of the government of the day, the Chief Election Commissioner enjoys security of tenure and can be removed only through the same difficult process as a judge of the Supreme Court.' |
| <b>Step 2</b><br>[2 marks] | <b>Functions</b>                         | 'Its functions include: superintendence, direction and control of the entire election process; preparing and revising the electoral rolls; supervising the nomination of candidates and the conduct of polling and counting; recognising political parties and allotting election symbols; and enforcing the Model Code of Conduct during elections.'   |
| <b>Step 3</b><br>[2 marks] | <b>Powers + why independence matters</b> | 'The Commission has wide powers: it can order a repoll or countermand an election where malpractice has occurred, transfer officials it considers partisan, and act against any party or candidate — including the ruling party — that violates election rules. This independence and these powers are precisely what enable it to conduct free and fair elections, the foundation of Indian democracy.'  |

**COMMON LOSS OF MARKS:**

- Describing the Commission as a government department — it is an INDEPENDENT constitutional body (Art. 324).
- Listing functions without mentioning the security of tenure that makes the Commission independent — examiners reward this evaluative point.
- Omitting the Model Code of Conduct, which is a frequently expected function.

★ **TOPPER TEMPLATE — 3-4 mark question: 'Why did India adopt the FPTP system?' or 'What are reserved constituencies and why are they provided?'**

CBSE SQP 2021, 2023; School Annual 2022, 2024

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| <b>Step 1</b><br>[1 mark]  | <b>Simplicity</b>   | 'The FPTP system was adopted partly because it is extremely simple for ordinary voters to understand — the voter simply votes for one candidate in one constituency, and the candidate with the most votes wins. For a largely new and partly illiterate electorate, this simplicity was a major advantage.'   |
| <b>Step 2</b><br>[1 mark]  | <b>Clear accountability + stable government</b>               | 'FPTP creates a direct link between a voter and one identifiable representative for the local constituency, making the representative accountable to a specific area. It also tends to give a clear parliamentary majority to one party, producing a stable and effective government — important for a newly independent nation.'  |
| <b>Step 3</b><br>[2 marks] | <b>Reserved constituencies (for the alternative question)</b> | 'A reserved constituency is one where only a candidate belonging to a particular group — Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes — may contest, though all voters of that area vote as usual. They are provided because, under open competition, weaker and dispersed sections might never win seats; reservation guarantees them adequate representation in the legislature in proportion to their population, in keeping with the constitutional commitment to social justice.' |

**COMMON LOSS OF MARKS:**

- For reserved constituencies, wrongly saying only SC/ST voters can vote there — reservation is about who can CONTEST.
- Giving only one reason for FPTP; the question usually wants two to three distinct reasons (simplicity, accountability, stable government).
- Not linking reserved constituencies to the goal of adequate representation / social justice.

**MARKING SCHEME — GENERAL NOTES**

- Section A (1-mark) answers must be exact — a wrong Article, date or full form earns zero; no partial credit.
- For FPTP questions, the answer MUST state that the winner needs only a plurality (most votes), not a majority of 50%+; this is the key discriminating point.
- For 'distinguish FPTP from PR', full marks require a point-wise CONTRAST on at least three heads plus where India uses each system — defining the two systems separately without contrasting them caps at half marks.
- For reserved constituencies, the answer must make the distinction that reservation governs who may CONTEST, not who may vote; mixing these up earns no marks for that point.
- For the Election Commission, full marks require mention of its independence / security of tenure (Article 324), not merely a list of functions.
- In passage-based questions, answers must be drawn from or consistent with the given extract; award marks point-wise as per the sub-parts.