

EXAM-DAY · 90-MIN REVISION CARD

Election and Representation

Print this · Fold it · Carry to the exam-hall gate · Revise once · Then walk in.

FORMULAS & KEY RESULTS

Representative democracy: people rule **INDIRECTLY** through elected representatives; elections are the mechanism that makes this possible.

FPTP = First-Past-The-Post: country divided into constituencies; candidate with **MOST** votes (plurality, **NOT** majority) wins. India uses it for Lok Sabha + State Assemblies.

PR = Proportional Representation: seats roughly **IN PROPORTION** to share of votes. Two types: (a) List system, (b) Single Transferable Vote (STV).

India uses PR-STV only for **INDIRECT** polls: President, Vice-President, Rajya Sabha, State Legislative Councils.

Why India chose FPTP: simple to understand · clear local accountability · tends to give a stable single-party majority.

Reserved constituencies: only SC or ST candidates may **CONTEST**; **ALL** voters still vote. Goal = adequate representation / social justice.

Universal Adult Franchise: **EVERY** adult citizen votes — no test of caste, religion, gender, wealth or literacy. Voting age lowered 21 → 18 by the 61st Amendment, 1989.

Election Commission (Article 324): independent constitutional body; CEC + Election Commissioners appointed by President; CEC has security of tenure (removed like a SC judge).

EC functions: supervise whole election · prepare electoral rolls · recognise parties + allot symbols · enforce Model Code

TOP 5 PYQ PATTERNS

1 Distinguish FPTP from Proportional Representation

6 marks · 85% of years

Define each, then contrast on four heads (victory basis / vote-to-seat / small parties / stability) + state India's use of each.

2 Composition, powers and functions of the Election Commission

6 marks · 70% of years

Art. 324 independent body + CEC security of tenure → functions (rolls, symbols, conduct) → powers (repoll, countermand, Model Code).

3 Why did India adopt FPTP?

4 marks · 55% of years

Simplicity for voters + clear local accountability + tends to produce stable majority government.

4 VSA: who appoints CEC, voting age, full form FPTP/STV, Art. 324

1 mark · 90% of years

President appoints CEC; voting age 18; FPTP=First-Past-The-Post; STV=Single Transferable Vote; EC under Article 324.

5 Reserved constituencies / universal adult franchise

4 marks · 50% of years

Reserved = only SC/ST may **CONTEST**, all vote, ensures representation. Franchise = every adult votes, no literacy bar, 18+.

90-MIN REVISION FLOW

0-15 min

Draw the FPTP-vs-PR two-column table from memory across all four heads, plus one line on where India uses each system. Self-check.

15-30 min

Write the composition, three functions and two powers of the Election Commission, and the one line about security of tenure that makes it independent.

30-45 min

Write a 3-point answer to 'Why did India adopt FPTP?' and a clear definition of reserved constituencies (who contests vs who votes).

45-60 min

Memorise the VSA facts: President appoints CEC; voting age 18 (61st Amendment 1989); FPTP and STV full forms; Article 324. Recite without looking.

60-75 min

Take the 15-MCQ Quick Drill under a 20-minute timer. Target >= 12/15.

75-90 min

Review every wrong answer and re-read the matching notes-slide. Re-lock the two traps: FPTP needs only a plurality (not 50%), and reservation is about who **CONTESTS** (not who votes).

of Conduct · order repoll/
countermand on malpractice.

Confidence, not anxiety. You've practised this all year. Trust your steps. Don't change strategy on exam morning.
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