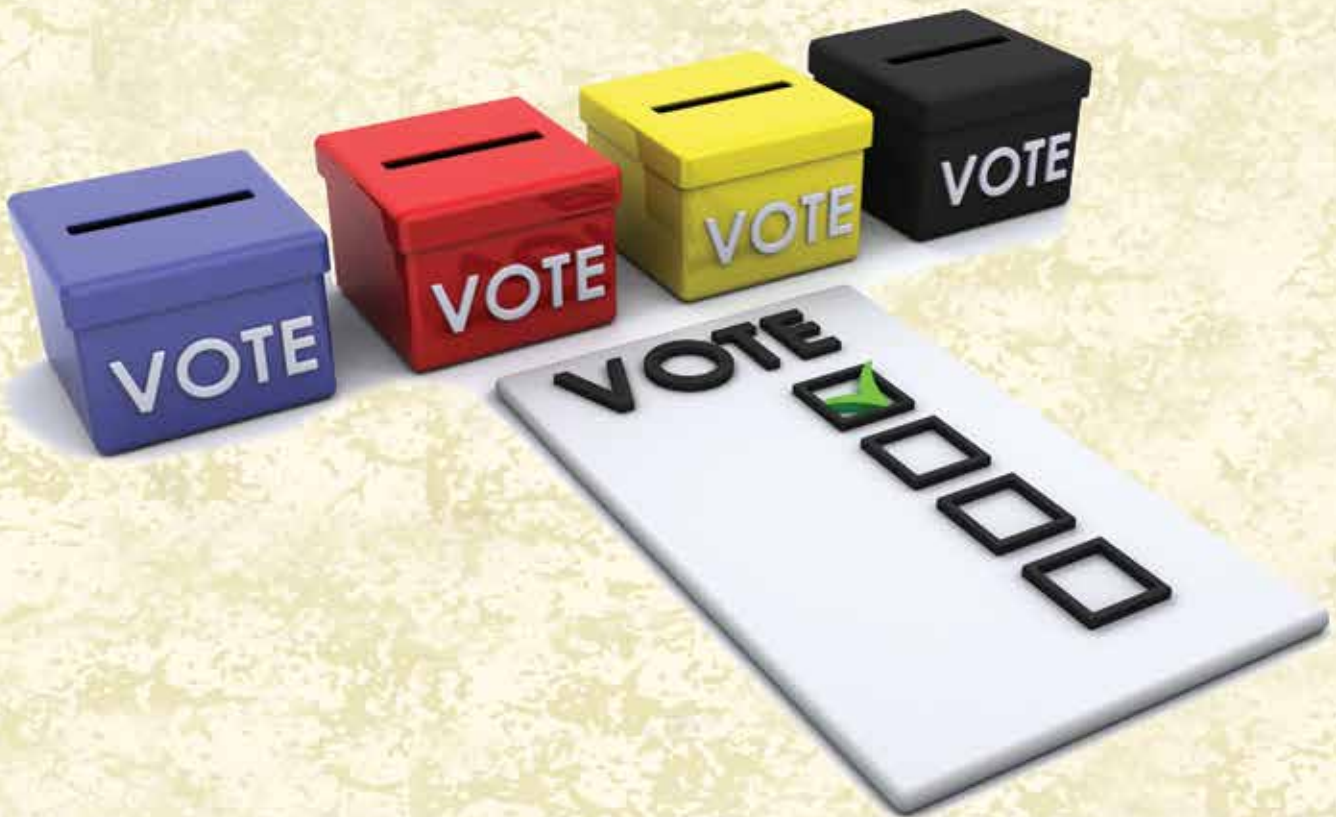
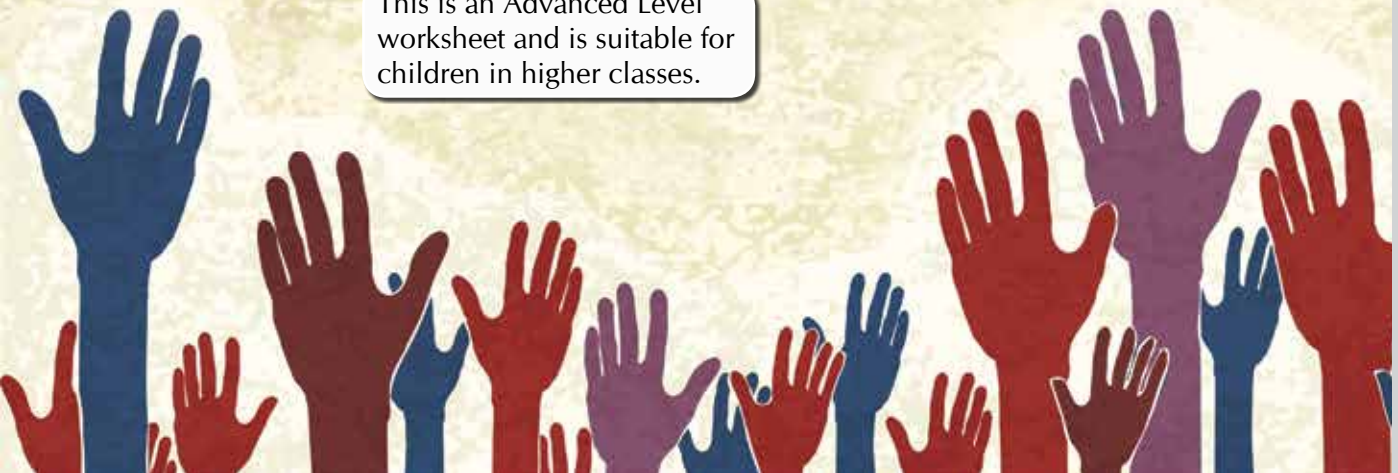


Elections 2014



This is an Advanced Level worksheet and is suitable for children in higher classes.



Before the elections

Activity 1

India is a **parliamentary democracy** unlike the presidential democracy as in the United States. In India the Prime Minister is the most important functional head of the country. The Lok Sabha is the Lower House in Parliament. India is also a federation of states, that is, there are several states within the country each with its own government – state assemblies, **Vidhan Sabhas**. Besides that, there are local government bodies such as **village panchayats** and **municipal corporations**. Right on top we have a central body, the Parliament with a **Lok Sabha – House of the People** and a **Rajyasabha, the Upper House**.

1) What is meant by saying India is a Federation of states?

2) What is a Parliamentary form of government? Who is the head of the country in a Parliamentary form of government?

3) How many elections are held in India?

4) Which of these elections is referred to as the national election, state elections, local elections?

Activity 2

1) Match the following terms with their meanings

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| a) Lok Sabha | a form of government elected by the people made up of the people that works for the people |
| b) Electorate | Men and women over 18 have a right to vote |
| c) Democracy | the body of people eligible to vote |
| d) Constituency | lower house in parliament directly elected by the people |
| e) Universal Adult franchise | a subdivision of the country into areas with equal number of people eligible to vote |

2) Describe what you see or hear two months before an election in your city or town.



3) Why is it important that the population of each constituency should be about the same?

4) Why is the number of representatives from each state **not** a constant figure from election to election?

Activity 3

1) Refer to the following table and answer the questions that follow.

State-wise list of Parliamentary Constituencies (Lok Sabha seats) in India*

States	No. of Parliamentary Constituencies
1) Andhra Pradesh	42
2) Arunachal Pradesh	2
3) Assam	14
4) Bihar	40
5) Chhattisgarh	11
6) Goa	2
7) Gujarat	26
8) Haryana	10
9) Himachal Pradesh	4
10) Jammu Kashmir	6
11) Jharkhand	14
12) Karnataka	28
13) Kerala	20
14) Madhya Pradesh	29
15) Maharashtra	48
16) Manipur	2
17) Meghalaya	2
18) Mizoram	1
19) Nagaland	1
20) Orissa	21

States	No. of Parliamentary Constituencies
21) Punjab	13
22) Rajasthan	25
23) Sikkim	1
24) Tamil Nadu	39
25) Tripura	2
26) Uttar Pradesh	80
27) Uttarakhand	5
28) West Bengal	42
Union Territories	No. of Parliamentary Constituencies
Andaman and Nicobar	1
Chandigarh	1
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1
Daman and Diu	1
Delhi	7
Lakshadweep	1
Pondicherry	1
Total	543

*<http://164.100.47.132/LssNew/Members/Statewiselist.aspx>

a) How many elected members are there in the Lok Sabha?

b) Name the three States that have the largest number of constituencies? List them in order of their size.

c) Discuss how a State that has the most representatives to Parliament will affect the voting pattern about a law banning cow slaughter or a law permitting inter-caste marriage being passed.

d) Suggest a way how all the States can be represented more equitably so that in forming policies for the whole country every state has an equal voice?

e) Name three States that have the smallest number of constituencies? Why do you think that they are such small constituencies? Think of your answer in the geographical and historical context.

f) How many constituencies are there in India? How many constituencies are there in the state you live in?

During the election

Activity 4

1) Explain what is a polling station.



2) Explain why you cannot vote.

3) How does the election procedure established by the Election Commission of India ensure people do not vote twice?

4) Find out the different symbols that represent each party? Make a poster for the class.

Activity 5

1) What are political parties? Why are they formed?

2) Name some important national parties.

3) What is the purpose of party manifestos?

4) How will you know which party's manifesto will work in the best interests of all? Look up the Internet for the manifestos of the BJP Party and the Congress Party in 1998 and give your opinion based on that.

Activity 6

1) What is the meaning of winning by a majority in an election.

2) Imagine a scenario where 5 parties contest 200 parliamentary seats.

Contesting parties	Party A	Party B	Party C	Party D	Party E
Seats won by each party	60	50	30	20	40
Votes obtained by each party	30%	25%	15%	10%	20%

3) How many parties contested the election?

4) How many seats did each party win?

5) Did any party win by an absolute majority? Which party won the most seats?

6) How many seats of the 200 contested needed to be won by any one of the political parties to be in the majority to form the government? Which party will be called upon by the President to form a government?

7) In the given example, as there is no party with a majority. Discuss how the coalition government will be formed? Enact the situation in class.

i) Can party A and party E form the government? Why or Why not?

ii) Assuming Party A, Party C and Party D form the coalition government

- Who will form the opposition?
- What percentage of voters' interests will be overlooked?



8) What is a coalition government? How is it formed?

9) Which of the two systems – multi-party or two-party system allows more diverse opinions to be represented? Why?

10) Comment on this statement

Elections are a good deal like marriages. There's no accounting for anyone's taste. Every time we see a bridegroom we wonder why she ever picked him, and it's the same with public officials.

What does Will Rogers convey through this statement?(William Rogers (November 4, 1879 – August 15, 1935) was born into a native American Indian, Cherokee family, He was a comedian, a social commentator, and an actor).

Activity 7

1) Enact a problem that might arise out of a coalition government. What happens if the coalition party pulls out of the government? Role Play.

2) Hold a debate discussing the advantages and disadvantages of a two party system vis a vis a multiparty system.

3) Answer the following questions

- Name some countries with a one party system. Which system of government would go in for a one party system? Remember, with a one party system there are no parties in opposition.

- Name the party that has formed the government in Britain and the U.S.A. Who is the leader in each of these countries?

- Name the party that has presently formed the government in India. Is it a coalition government? Who is the leader of the country?

- 4) Form three groups within your class. Pretend you and your like-minded friends are forming a political party. Draw up a manifesto on how you will run the country. Think of all the reforms that are needed in our society. What problems should be given priority? What ideals would you seek to establish? Choose a leader to speak on your behalf. Write the manifesto on a poster. Discuss your program and evaluate the programme of the other groups.
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Activity 8

For Class Nine/Ten

- 1) Refer to the website of the Election Commission results for 2009 General elections – http://eci.nic.in/eci_main1/statistical_report.aspx. Make a folder on 2009 General elections. Write a report on your findings:
- Number of constituencies
 - List of political parties that participated and were recognised
 - List of the National parties
 - List of the regional parties
 - Did any party win by a majority?
 - Who was called upon to form the government and why? Who were the coalition members in the ruling group?
 - The conclusions you have drawn from this report
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- 2) Follow the 2014 elections through headlines in the newspapers. Follow the main parties – The Aam Aadmi AAP, Bharatiya Janata Party-BJP, Congress and important regional parties. What are their manifestos, their symbols. Paste them into a collage and predict what might happen in the next elections evaluating the events of the last five years.
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Prepared by **Rohini Oomman**. The author has been a teacher for nearly 40 years and has taught English and Social Studies at the middle school level as well as Economics and History at the high school level. She has also compiled a series of readers and workbooks. Currently, along with others she trains teachers for municipal schools run by Muktangan, an NGO. She can be reached at <rohini.oomman@gmail.com>.