

**ST. ANDREWS SCOTS SCHOOL**  
**Adjacent Navniti Apartments,**  
**I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi-110092**  
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CLASS: VIII

SUB: SOCIAL SCIENCE

TOPIC: CIVICS

CH-6

**Universal Franchise And India's Electoral System**

**A. Tick (✓) the correct option:**

1. Universal Adult Franchise mean **Right to vote for all adults without discrimination.** [✓]
2. The minimum voting age in India today is **18 years.** [✓]
3. The Election Commission of India is **an independent constitutional body.** [✓]
4. The Model Code of Conduct is enforced from **declaration of election dates.** [✓]
5. Elections to Lok Sabha and State Assemblies use the **first-Past-The-Post system.** [✓]
6. Indirect elections are used to elect **President and Rajya Sabha members.** [✓]
7. VVPAT is used to **Provide printed confirmation of the vote.** [✓]

**B. Fill in the blanks:**

1. Universal Adult Franchise follows the principle of equality.
2. The voting age was reduced from 21 to 18 years by the 61<sup>st</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act.
3. The Election Commission supervises and controls elections in India.
4. The Model Code of Conduct ensures free and fair campaigning.
5. The election method used for Lok Sabha is the First-Past-The-Post system.
6. Electronic voting machines replaced paper ballots to ensure faster and safe voting.
7. Voter apathy refers to lack of interest toward voting.

**C. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements:**

1. Every vote has equal value under the Universal Adult Franchise. (T)
2. The Election Commission can not be influenced easily by the government. (F)
3. EVMs and VVPAT help prevent unfair practices in voting. (T)
4. Members of State Assemblies elect the Rajya Sabha members. (T)
5. The President of India is elected by direct popular vote. (F)
6. The Vice President is the ex-officio Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha. (T)
7. Money, power and misinformation are major challenges to free elections. (T)

**D. Answer the following questions in brief:**

1. **What is Universal Adult Franchise and why is it important?**

- Universal Adult Franchise means that every adult citizen of a country has the right to vote in elections.
  - It is very important because it ensures political equality.
- 2. Why was the voting age reduced to 18 years?**  
The voting age was reduced to 18 years because government felt that young people should also get a chance to participate in the progress of the nation.
  - 3. What is the independence of the Election Commission and why is it essential?**
    - The independence of election Commission means it does not work under the control of government.
    - It is essential because elections must not be influenced by the ruling party or any political group.
  - 4. What is the Model Code of Conduct?**  
These are the guidelines issued by ECI for political parties and candidates to ensure fair campaigning.
  - 5. What is the First-Past-The-Post system?**  
It is the electoral system where the candidate with the highest number of votes wins the election.
  - 6. What is VVPAT and why was it introduced?**  
A machine that provides visual confirmation to the voter that their vote has been recorded correctly.
  - 7. What does voter apathy mean?**  
Voter apathy means that many people do not show interest in voting. They feel that their single vote doesn't matter, or they do not trust politicians.

**E. Answer the following questions in detail:**

- 1. Explain how the Election Commission ensures free and fair elections.**
  - **Supervision and control** : it supervises and control the preparation of voter list , It conducts elections to Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha , State legislative assemblies and even the elections for president and vice president of India , ensures that election happens smoothly and peacefully.
  - **Recognition of political parties** : Gives recognition to political parties as national or state , allot symbols to identify the candidates of their choice .
  - **Model code of conduct** : It is a set of rules created by election Commission to ensure fairness during elections hits stops political party from doing things that could unfairly influence voters. Example : use of government vehicles and buildings for campaigning, hate speech statements that cause religious or cause division.
  - **Settling disputes** : It acts like a court and it's decision is respected by all the parties.
- 2. Describe the process and significance of direct elections in India.**
  - Direct elections are the most common type of elections in India, People vote to choose their representatives then they form government and are responsible for making laws and decisions on the behalf of people.
  - It gives citizens the power to shape the future of the country and their state through their vote.

### 3. Explain the election of the President of India through the STV system.

- The election of the president uses a special voting method called single transferable vote under the system of proportional representation.
- The voters do not choose only one candidate, they rank the candidate as first, second and third preference and so on.
- If no candidate get the required quota of votes on the first count votes are transferred according to the next preference until one candidate received the necessary support to win.
- This method ensures that the elected president has board nationwide approval and is not chosen by a narrow group.

### 4. Differentiate between direct and indirect elections with examples.

Feature	Direct Elections	Indirect Elections
<b>Definition</b>	Citizens cast their votes directly to elect their representatives.	Citizens elect representatives who, in turn, vote to elect the final official.
<b>Public Participation</b>	High; every eligible adult citizen participates in the voting process.	Lower; the general public does not vote directly for the candidate.
<b>Complexity &amp; Cost</b>	More expensive and logistically complex due to the large number of voters.	Less expensive and easier to manage as the number of voters is small.
<b>Examples</b>	Elections for the <b>Lok Sabha</b> and <b>State Legislative Assemblies (MLAs)</b> .	Elections for the <b>President of India, Vice President, and Rajya Sabha</b> .

### 5. Describe the major challenges faced by India's electoral system today.

- **Influence of Money:** Candidates often spend huge amounts of money to "buy" votes or run massive campaigns, which makes it hard for honest but less wealthy people to compete fairly.
- **Criminals in Politics:** Sometimes people with criminal records or pending court cases stand for elections, which can lead to fear and corruption in the government.
- **Misleading Information:** Misleading information and "fake news" spread very fast online, which can confuse voters and create tension between different groups of people.
- **Misuse of Power:** There are often complaints that the party currently in power uses government vehicles, officials, or funds to help their own election campaign.

