

## Needs of election

Elections are needed to elect representatives. In most democracies, people rule through their representatives.

The elections are needed for any representative democracy because

1. They solve problem of assessing people on the basis of education, knowledge or experience.
2. They help in analysing that the people like their representatives or not.
3. They ensure that the representatives rule as per the wishes of the people and make sure that those who are not working for the people, do not remain their representatives.

In an election, the voters make many choices like

1. They can choose who will make laws for them.
2. They can choose who will form the government and take major decisions.
3. They can choose the party whose policies will guide the government and law making.

## What makes an election democratic

The minimum conditions which make an election democratic are

1. Everyone should have the right to choose representatives. It means everyone has one vote and every vote has equal value.
2. Political parties and candidates should be free to contest elections and offer some real choices to the voters.
3. The choices should be offered at regular intervals by conducting elections after a certain period.
4. The candidate preferred by the people only, should get elected.
5. Elections are conducted in a free and fair manner where people choose those representatives whom they really wish.

## Political competition

Elections are all about competition. Political competition takes place when different political parties compete to gain the confidence and the vote of the voters. They make promises and give incentives to motivate the voters to vote them.

This electoral competition has many demerits.

1. It creates a sense of disunity and factionalism and party politics in every locality.
2. Different political parties and candidates often use dirty tricks like booth capturing to win elections.
3. The pressure to win electoral fights does not allow to form useful long term policies.
4. The competition leads to the idea of being dragged into unhealthy competition. That's why good people do not enter and participate in the political competition.

The electoral competition has some merits too

1. Regular electoral competition provides incentives to political parties and leaders. If they can satisfy the voters with their work, they will be able to win again.
2. If a political party is motivated only by desire to be in power, even then it will be forced to serve the people.
3. It reveals the real motive of political parties.
4. It gives choices to voters to choose among the best.