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Why Do We Need Elections?

Elections take place regularly in any democracy. There are more than 100 countries in the world in which elections take place to choose people's representatives. The mechanism by which people can choose their representatives at regular intervals and change them whenever they want to is called an **election**.

In an election the voters make many choices:

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

What Makes an Election Democratic?

Minimum conditions of a democratic election include the following points.

1. Everyone should be able to choose their own representative.
2. Parties and candidates should be free to contest elections and should offer some real choice to the voters.
3. Elections must be held regularly after every few years.
4. The candidate preferred by the people should get elected.
5. Elections should be conducted in a free and fair manner where people can choose as they really wish.

Is it Good to have Political Competition?

Elections are all about political competition. This competition takes various forms. At the constituency level, it takes the form of competition among several candidates. Here are a few reasons that support political competition as being good for people.

1. Regular electoral competition provides incentives to political parties and leaders.
2. Political parties know that if they raise issues that people want to be raised, their popularity and chances of victory will increase in the next

elections. On the contrary, if they fail to satisfy the voters with their work, they will not be able to win again

3. If a political party is motivated only by the desire to be in power, despite that, it will be forced to serve the people.

Read the above passage carefully and try to understand and give the answer the following questions:

Q.1.What is an Election?

Q.2.Why do we need an Election?

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