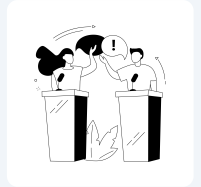


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Introduction

This worksheet provides fundamental information about the electoral system.

The Electoral System

An electoral system is the process through which votes in an election are converted into seats or positions. There are various types of electoral systems that determine how votes are counted and how results are decided. Electoral systems are a crucial part of democracy because they influence how the population is represented.

In a democracy, citizens have the right to choose their representatives. These representatives then make decisions on behalf of the citizens. The electoral system defines how these representatives are selected. There are several key terms that one should know to understand the electoral system.

An important term is the "majoritarian electoral system." In this system, the candidate with the most votes wins. There are two main forms of the majoritarian system: the first-past-the-post system and the absolute majority system. In the first-past-the-post system, it is enough to have the most votes, even if it is less than 50%. In the absolute majority system, the candidate must receive more than 50% of the votes.

Another significant electoral system is the "proportional representation system." In this system, seats are distributed proportionally to the votes each party receives. If a party gets 30% of the votes, it also receives about 30% of the seats. This system is often seen as fairer because it better reflects the diversity of opinions in the population.

There are also mixed systems that combine elements of majoritarian and proportional representation systems. An example is the "personalized proportional representation system," which is used in Germany. Here, voters have two votes: one for a direct candidate and one for a party. Direct candidates are elected by the majoritarian system, while party seats are distributed according to the proportional representation system.

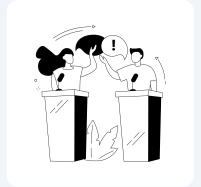
Electoral systems are politically very relevant because they determine how power is distributed. An electoral system can influence which parties enter parliament and how strongly they are represented. In many countries, there are discussions about which electoral system is best. Some people believe that the majoritarian system promotes stable governments, while others prefer the proportional representation system because it is fairer.

In summary, an electoral system is the mechanism through which votes in elections are converted into seats or positions. There are various types of electoral systems, such as the majoritarian system and the proportional representation system, each with its own advantages and disadvantages. Electoral systems play an essential role in democracy because they determine how the population is represented and how power is distributed.

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Mark the correct answer.

Why is an electoral system crucial in a democracy?

- ☐ It prevents any one party from gaining too much power.
- ☐ It guarantees that the most popular candidate always wins.
- ☐ It defines how representatives are selected and how votes are converted into seats.
- ☐ It ensures that all citizens have the right to vote.

What is the key difference between the first-past-the-post system and the absolute majority system?

- ☐ First-past-the-post requires more than 50% of the votes to win.
- ☐ Absolute majority requires more than 50% of the votes to win.
- ☐ Absolute majority allows multiple candidates to win.
- ☐ First-past-the-post is used in proportional representation systems.

How does the proportional representation system reflect the diversity of opinions in a population?

- ☐ By distributing seats proportionally to the votes each party receives.
- ☐ By allowing only the most popular party to gain seats.
- ☐ By requiring candidates to receive an absolute majority of votes.
- ☐ By ensuring that all votes are counted equally regardless of the candidate.

In the personalized proportional representation system, how are direct candidates elected?

- ☐ By the proportional representation system. ☐ By a random selection process.
- ☐ By receiving more than 50% of the votes. ☐ By the majoritarian system.

Which type of electoral system is often seen as fairer because it better reflects the diversity of opinions?

- ☐ Majoritarian electoral system. ☐ First-past-the-post system. ☐ Absolute majority system.
- ☐ Proportional representation system.

What is one argument in favor of the majoritarian system?

- ☐ It promotes stable governments. ☐ It distributes seats proportionally to votes.
- ☐ It ensures a fair representation of all parties.
- ☐ It combines elements of different electoral systems.

Why might some people prefer the proportional representation system over the majoritarian system?

- ☐ Because it ensures that only the most popular party gains seats.
- ☐ Because it promotes stable governments.
- ☐ Because it better reflects the diversity of opinions in the population.
- ☐ Because it requires candidates to receive more than 50% of the votes.

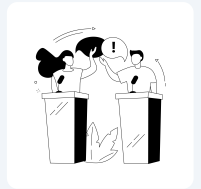
How do mixed electoral systems like the personalized proportional representation system function?

- ☐ By combining elements of majoritarian and proportional representation systems.
- ☐ By using a random selection process for candidates.
- ☐ By requiring all candidates to receive an absolute majority.
- ☐ By ensuring that only majoritarian principles are applied.

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 Name and describe the two main forms of the majoritarian electoral system.

 Explain how the personalized proportional representation system used in Germany works.

? Space for questions

Write down your questions on the topic here.
