

Grade :- **10**

Subject :- Citizenship Education

Unit :- **1.2**

Name :- Features of a Democratic Governance

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Features of a Democratic Governance

- Election of governments and rulers using universal franchise
- Competitive party system
- Polling division system
- Free and fair elections
- Existence of a government and an opposition
- Freedom, equality and rights
- Act accordance with the constitution
- Media freedom and the right of access to information
- Sovereignty of the judiciary
- The supremacy of law

01. Election of governments and rulers using universal franchise

- The ability to elect representatives for everyone who completes the essential age limit sans any difference is franchise.
- Sri Lankans were given franchise by the Donoughmore Constitutional Reforms in 1931.
- Earlier, people who were above 21 received franchise but after 1960, the age limit reduced to 18.
- Franchise, fundamental rights and administration are inclusive in the sovereignty of the public.
- Administration of the government is done by the elected representatives.

02. Competitive party system

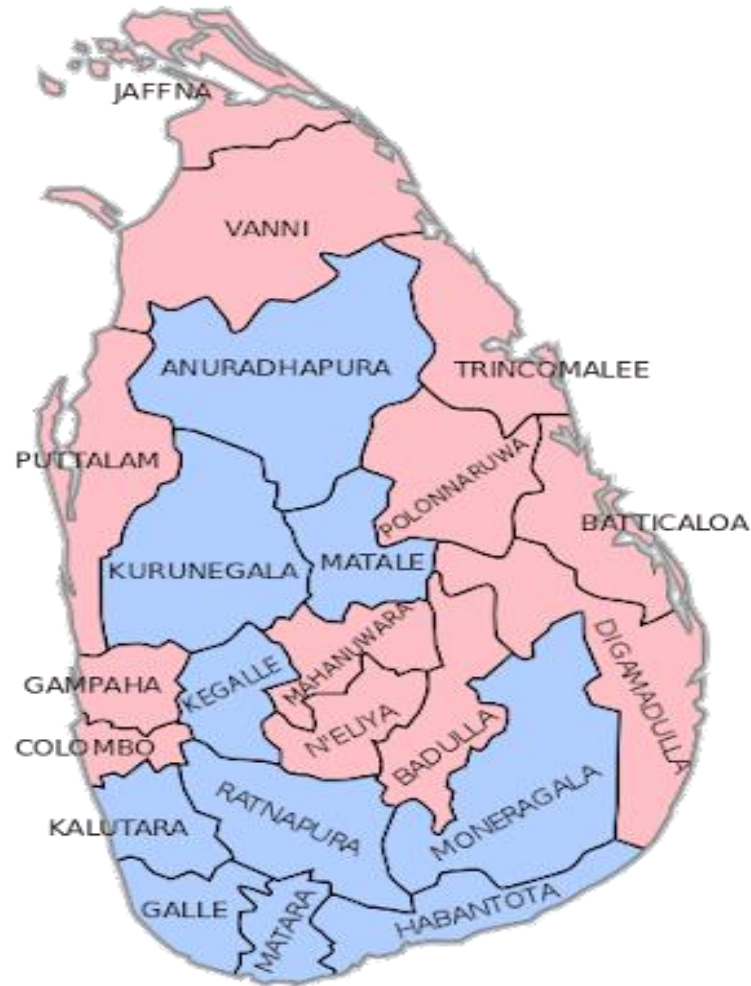
“The organized entity of persons with the aim of acquiring ruling power of a country based on principles of governing of the country is a political party”

- ❖ Basically, there are three types of party system. Edmon Burg
 - Single Party System – Cuba, China, North Korea
 - Two – Party System – Britain, United States of America
 - Multi – Party System – Sri Lanka, India
- ❖ There are some benefits of a competitive party system.
 - Prevention autocracy
 - Representation of controversial ideas.
 - Wide opportunity for representing public opinion
 - Opportunity to represent the diversity that exists in the society.

03. Polling division system

- A strategy to make the selection of representatives easy.
 - This is used for the legislature of the Central Government as well as for the Local Government Institutions.
 - This is important for the Regional representation system/Simple majority representation system and the Proportionate representation system.
 - Polling divisions are divided by the Demarcation Commission under the criteria like land and population.
 - There 22 electoral districts in Sri Lanka.
- ❖ There are benefits of having polling divisions.
- Every ethnic group has the opportunity for the representation.
 - Opportunity for regional development.
 - Opportunity to elect a representative responsible for the division.
 - Ability to generate regional leaders.

The map of polling divisions in Sri Lanka.



04. Free and fair elections

- The essential part of the representative democracy to hold elections.
- Therefore it is called as electoral democracy.
- The most powerful occasion where people take part in governance.
- Citizens should have to express their will freely.

❖ There are five types of elections in Sri Lanka.

- Presidential election (Once a five years)
- Parliamentary election (Once a five years)
- Provincial Council election (Once a five years)
- Local government institutional election (Once a four years)
- Referendum (If necessary)

❖ There are lot of features of a free and fair election.

- Holding elections in due course.
- Holding elections in line with the election laws.
- Holding elections in peaceful surroundings.
- Opportunity to participate in electoral activities freely.