



These 10 characteristics of the electoral process describe democratic voting. Explain why each characteristic is important in a democracy.

Characteristics of the Vote	Why Is This Important?
1. One vote for every adult citizen	
2. The rules are explained to everyone	
3. Secret ballot	
4. Free vote (no bribes or bullying)	
5. Person with the most votes wins	

Characteristics of the Vote	Why Is This Important?
6. Elections must be held regularly	
7. Elected officials must answer to the voters (responsible government)	
8. There must be more than one candidate for each seat	
9. Anyone can form a political party and name candidates	
10. Each elected member represents about the same number of people	



There are three basic principles or rules governing democratic electoral processes:

- ⑦ participation ⑦ fairness ⑦ clearness

Sort each of the 10 characteristics under one of these three principles.

Participation	Fairness	Clearness

Discuss the following questions:

- What can the government do to make sure there is maximum citizen participation?
- What can the government do to make sure the voting process is fair?
- What can the government do to make sure the voting process is clear to everyone?
- What are the responsibilities of citizens in the electoral process?