**Forms of electoral systems:**

1. **First, the Plurality/Majority System**

Many political frameworks for a country are defined in its constitution. The electoral system allows for the adjustment of laws without the need for constitutional amendments, making it an institution that can be manipulated, both positively and negatively, by translating votes into seats in the legislative body.

**Forms of electoral systems:**

Plurality/Majority System, which is divided into:

a. First-Past-The-Post (Winner-Takes-All) System.

b. Block Vote System.

c. Party Block Vote System.

d. Alternative Vote System.

e. Two-Round System.

**Proportional Representation System, including:**

a. Party List System.

b. Single Transferable Vote System.

Mixed-Member System:

a. Parallel Systems.

b. Unrestrained Plurality System.

c. Limited Vote System.

d. Two-Round System.

**First, the Plurality/Majority System:**

Plurality systems are based on the simple principle that candidates or political parties with the highest number of votes after they have been counted and considered win. There are five types:

a. First-Past-The-Post (Winner-Takes-All) System:

This is the simplest form of the plurality electoral system. The candidate who receives the most votes, even if they do not secure an absolute majority of valid votes, wins. This system is used in single-member constituencies where people vote for candidates rather than parties.

Most common in countries like the United Kingdom, Canada, India, the United States, Malaysia, Ethiopia, Uganda, Bermuda, Bangladesh, Trinidad and Tobago, Tanzania, the Bahamas, and Jamaica.

**Advantages of the system:**

* Provides a clear choice for voters between the two major political parties.
* Allows for parliamentary opposition.
* Favors broad-based parties.
* Discourages extremist parties from gaining parliamentary representation.
* Offers the opportunity to choose between candidates, not just parties.
* User-friendly and easy to understand.

**Disadvantages of the system:**

* Excludes small parties and limits their fair parliamentary representation.
* Disadvantages minorities from gaining fair representation.
* Weakens fair gender representation in parliament.

**b- Block Vote System:**

Used in multi-member constituencies, where each voter has a number of votes equal to the number of representatives to be elected in their electoral district. The candidates with the highest votes win, and voters usually cast their votes for individual candidates rather than parties. In most cases, voters can use any number of their allotted votes.

More common in: Cayman Islands, Kuwait, Lebanon, Maldives, Syria, Palestine, but changed to a parallel system in some of these countries after 2006.

**Advantages of the system**: It allows voters to freely choose their candidates regardless of their party affiliations.

**Disadvantages of the system**: Sometimes it leads to unexpected and undesired consequences.

**c- Party Block Vote System:**

In this system, the voter casts a single vote for the party list they want to elect, without selecting individual candidates. The party with the highest number of votes is awarded all the seats allocated for the electoral district (lists, not candidates).

More common in: Cameroon, Chad, Djibouti, Singapore, Kuwait.

**Advantages of the system**: It is easy to use and encourages political parties to nominate diverse groups of candidates.

**Disadvantages of the system:** It can lead to disproportionate results by enabling a party to win all seats despite obtaining a slim majority of the votes.

**t- Alternative Vote System:**

Voters use ranked numbers to express their preferences among candidates on the ballot. A candidate wins directly if they receive an absolute majority of preferences (50%+1). If no candidate achieves this majority, the candidates with the lowest preferences are eliminated, and their votes are redistributed to the remaining candidates. This process continues until one candidate obtains an absolute majority.

More common in: Australia, Papua New Guinea, Ireland.

**Advantages of the system:** Enables cumulative voting for a group of candidates, allowing for the representation of converging interests, despite differences, in parliament.

**Disadvantages of the system:** Requires a good level of awareness and education to implement correctly and may lead to disproportionate results due to single-member constituencies compared to proportional representation systems.

**j- Two-Round System:**

A second round of voting is held if no candidate secures a specified majority in the first round, usually defined as 50%+1. The most popular candidates typically participate in the second round, and the candidate with the most votes in the second round wins, regardless of whether they achieve an absolute majority. A gap of usually a week separates the two rounds.

More common in: Egypt, Iran, Vietnam, former Soviet Union countries.

**Advantages of the system:** It gives voters a second chance to vote for their preferred candidate or change their minds between the first and second rounds. It encourages coalitions and mutual support agreements among leading candidates to prepare for the second round.

**Disadvantages of the system:** Can burden election authorities with the organization of a second round, and it tends to fragment political parties and encourage divisions within emerging democracies.