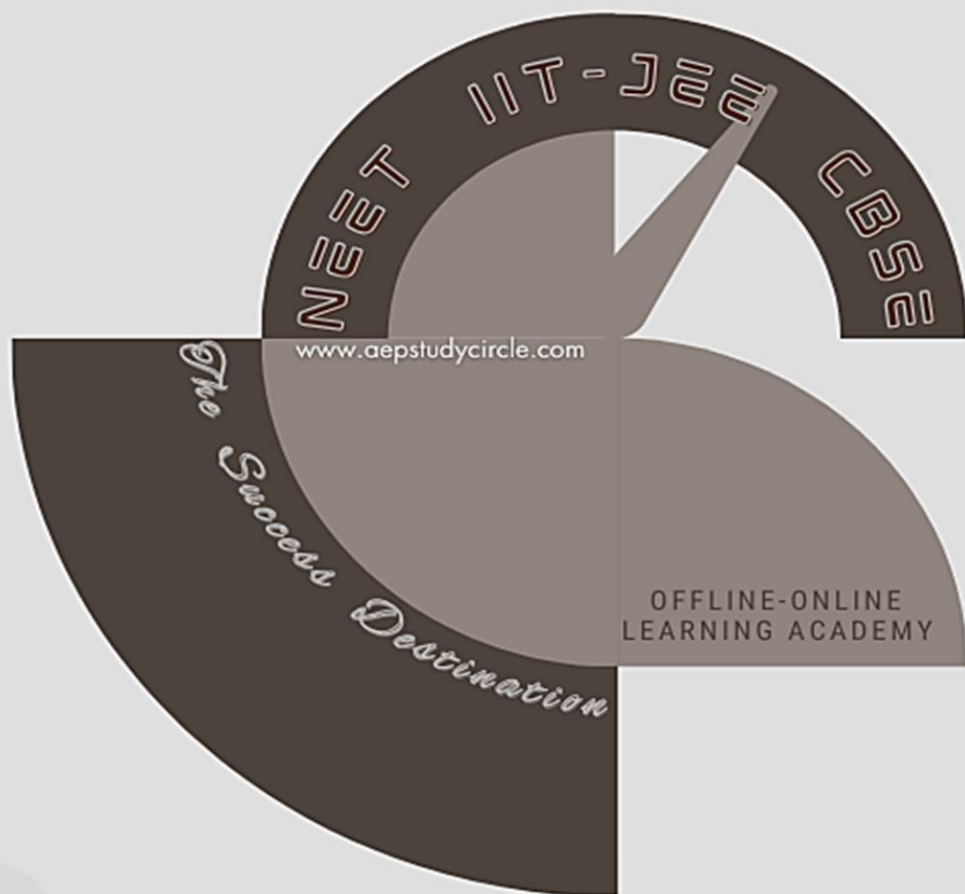


# POLITICAL -PARTIES

*Embark on a riveting exploration of the political landscape with our exclusive study material tailored for CBSE Class 10th. Dive into the world of Political Parties, gaining insights into their structures, functions, and impact on governance. This module is crafted to equip you with a comprehensive understanding of the political machinery that shapes our society.*



## POLITICAL PARTIES



**Party System Dynamics:** Navigate through the various types of party systems, from single-party dominance to multi-party systems. Explore how these systems influence the political climate and governance.



**Formation and Ideology:** Understand the intricate process of party formation and the ideologies that drive them. Uncover the diverse political philosophies that shape the goals and missions of different political entities.



**Roles and Functions:** Delve into the multifaceted roles that political parties play in a democracy. Analyze their functions in legislation, representation, and the formulation of public policy.



**Election Processes:** Explore the electoral processes and systems through which political parties participate and vie for power. Understand the significance of elections in shaping the political landscape.



**Political Campaigns:** Analyze the strategies employed by political parties during election campaigns. Explore the use of media, public relations, and grassroots mobilization to garner support.

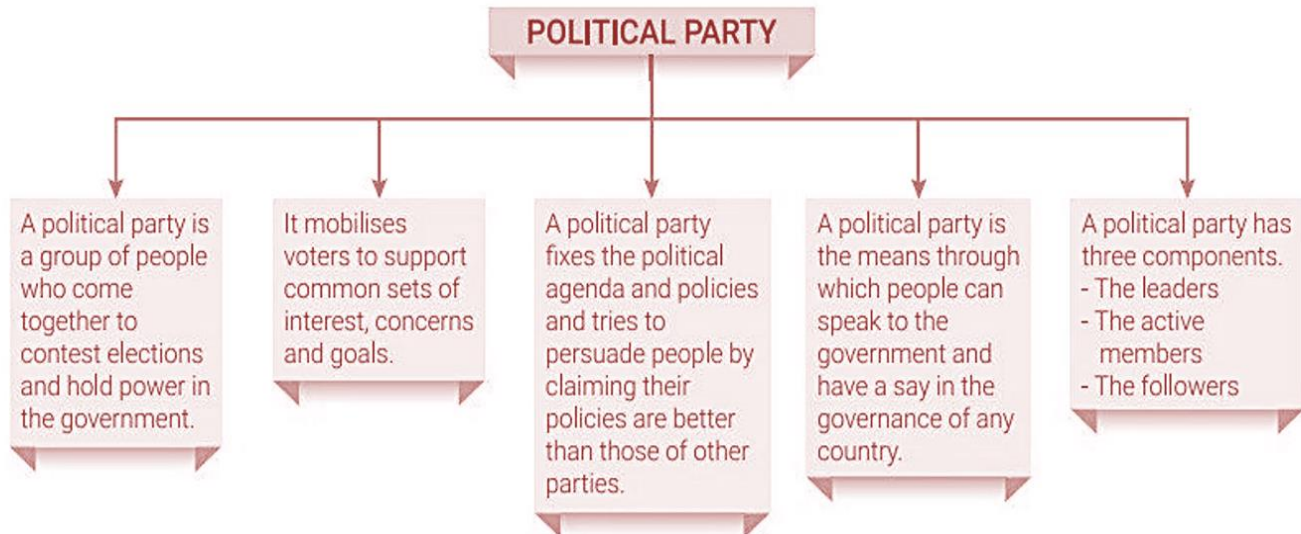


**Accountability and Transparency:** Examine the mechanisms that hold political parties accountable to the public. Understand the importance of transparency in ensuring democratic principles and ethical governance.



**Global Perspectives:** Gain insights into political parties beyond borders. Explore how international political dynamics and ideologies influence and shape the functioning of political entities worldwide.

## BASIC CONCEPTS – A FLOW CHART

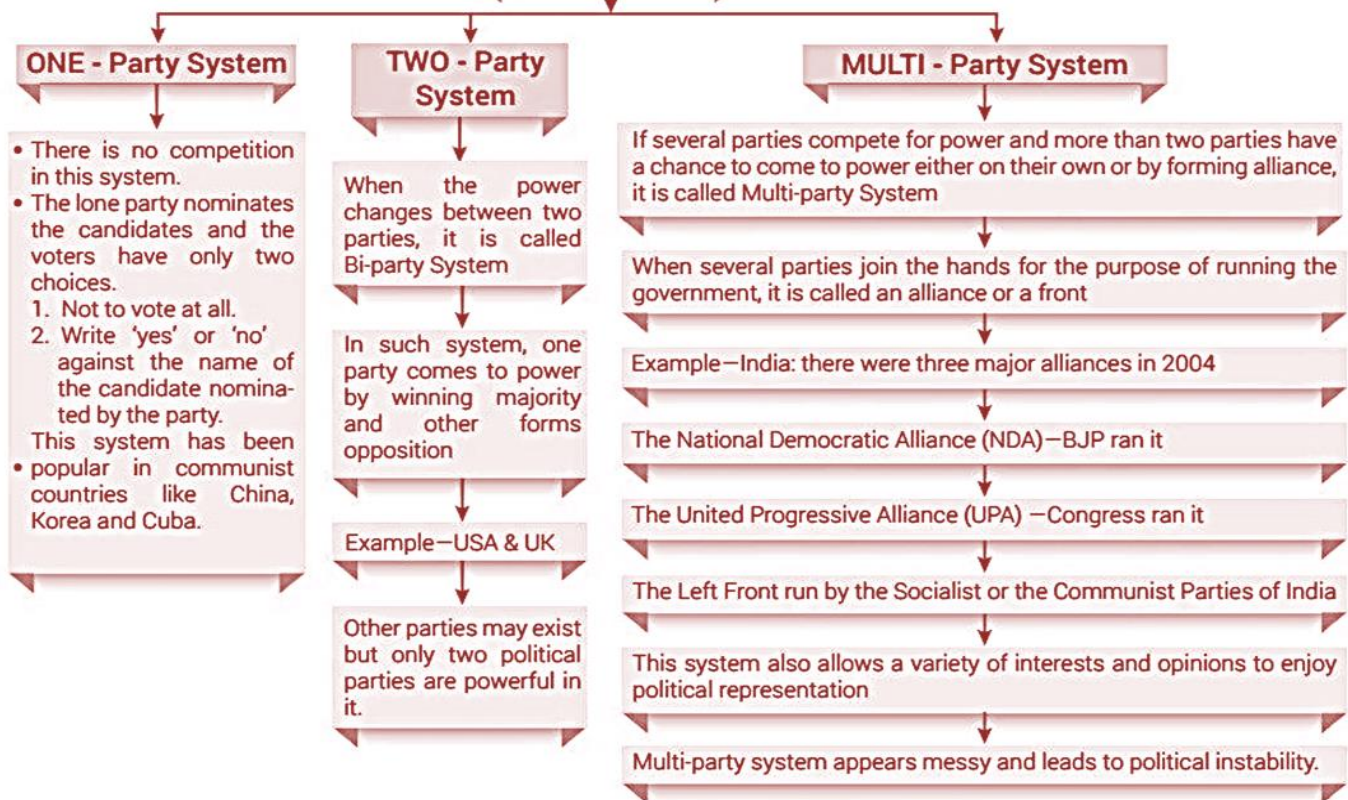


## FUNCTIONS OF A POLITICAL PARTY

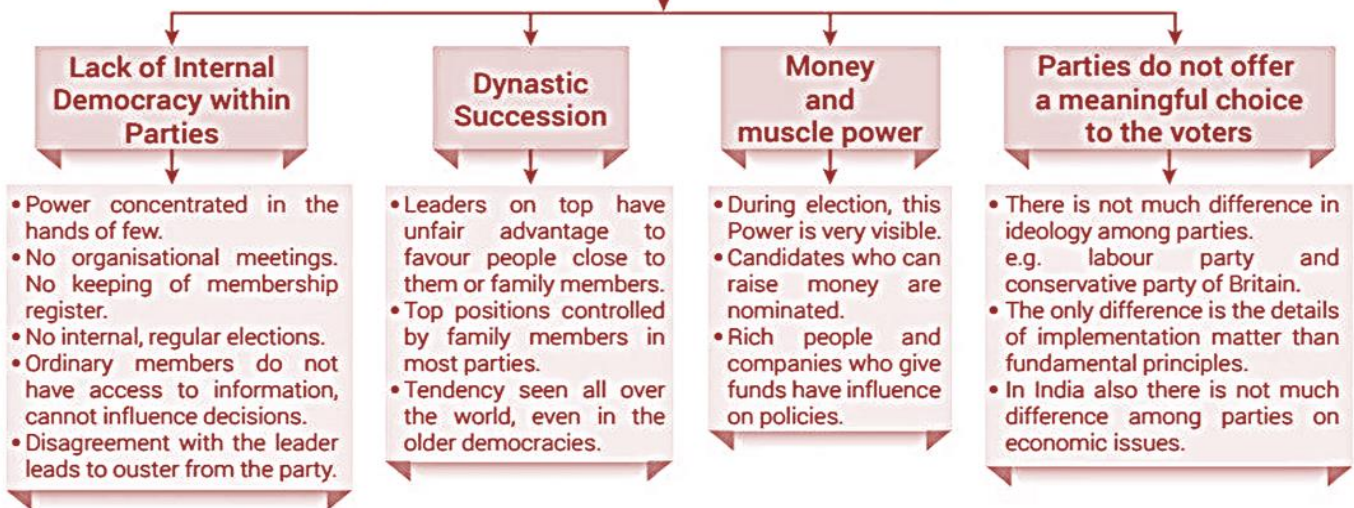
- Parties contest elections by putting up candidates.
- In some countries, candidates are selected by members and supporters of a party (e.g. USA)
- In other countries, candidates are chosen by top party leaders (e.g. India)
- Parties have different policies and programmes, voters choose from them.
- The parties that lose elections play the role of opposition and voice different views and criticise government for its failures and wrong policies.
- They shape public opinion. Parties with the help of pressure groups launch movements for solving problems faced by the people.
- They provide people access to government machinery and welfare schemes. The local party leaders act as a link between the citizens and the government officer.



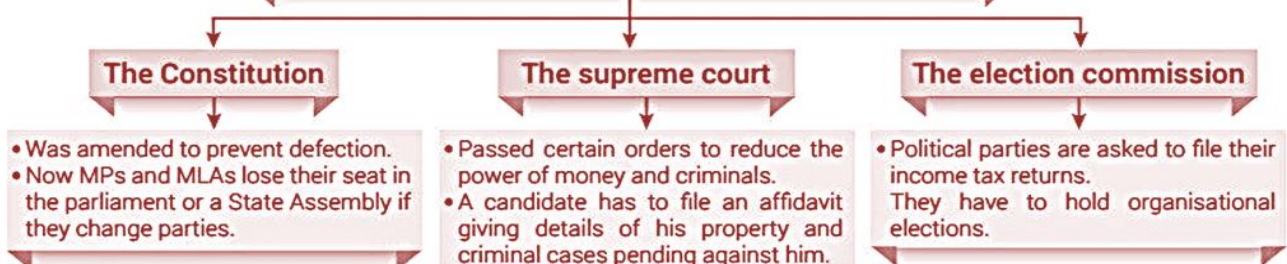
**PARTY SYSTEM**



**CHALLENGES FACED BY POLITICAL PARTIES**



**EFFORTS MADE TO REFORM THE POLITICAL PARTIES**





## IMPORTANT TERMS

1. **Partisanship** is a tendency to support a particular group, cause or viewpoint over another.
2. **Election**: An election is a process in which people vote to choose a person or group of people to hold an official position.
3. **Ruling Party**: A party that is in power in a given country, usually through a majority in parliament, or as part of the ruling coalition.
4. **Opposition Party**: The opposition comprises of one or more political parties or other organised groups that are opposed to the government party. It is the party that goes against the ruling party.
5. **Election Commission** is a body in charge for overseeing the implementation of **election** procedures.
6. **Two-party System** is a party system where two major political parties dominate the government. One of the two parties typically holds a majority in the legislature and is usually referred to as the majority or governing party while the other is the minority or opposition party.
7. **Communism**: A theory or system of social organisation in which all property is owned by the community and each person contributes and receives according to their ability and needs.
8. **Communist**: A person who supports or believes in the principles of communism.
9. **Multi-party System** is a **system** in which multiple political **parties** across the political spectrum run for national election, and all have the capacity to gain control of government offices, separately or in coalition.
10. **Alliance**: A union or association formed for mutual benefit, especially between countries or organisations.
11. **Federal**: Having or relating to a system of government in which power is shared between a central government and individual states.
12. **Federalism**: The federal principle or system of government in which power is shared between Central authority and the constituent units (states).
13. **Legislative Assembly** is the name given in some countries to either a legislature, or to one of its organs of the government.
14. **Lok Sabha** (House of the People) is the Lower house of India's bicameral Parliament in which representatives are directly elected by the people with the Upper house being the **Rajya Sabha**. Membership of Lok Sabha is 550 (maximum) and the present strength is 545.
15. **Rajya Sabha**: Council of States is the upper house of the Parliament of India. Membership of **Rajya Sabha** is limited by the Constitution to a maximum of 250 members, and current laws have provision for 245 members.
16. **Marxism**: **Marxism** is a theory of Karl Marx which says that society's classes are the cause of struggle and the society should have no classes.
17. **Internal Democracy** also known as intra-party **democracy**, refers to the level and methods of including party members in the decision making and deliberation within the party structure.



18. **Defection:** Its is changing party allegiance from the political party from which a person got elected to a different party.
19. **Affidavit:** A written statement confirmed by oath or affirmation, for use as evidence in court.

## NCERT Textbook Questions

Q. 1. What are the various challenges faced by political parties?

OR

Examine the main 'challenges' before 'political parties'.

[CBSE Delhi 2017]

OR

Define 'Political Party'. Describe any four main challenges faced by the Indian political parties.

[CBSE 2020, 32/2/1, CBSE (Comptt.) 2017]

Ans. A political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government. They agree on some policies and programmes for the society with a view to promote collective good.

**Main challenges before political parties:**

- Lack of internal democracy:** All over the world, there is a tendency of political parties towards the concentration of power in one or few leaders at the top. Parties do not keep membership register. They do not regularly hold organisational meetings. They do not conduct interval elections regularly. Ordinary members of the party do not have sufficient information as to what happens inside the party. As a result, the leaders assume greater power to make decisions in the name of the party.
- Dynastic succession is related to the first one:** A rule in which the family's generation rules forever. This is against democracy. This is one of the major problems that political parties have to confront with and is a hindrance for ordinary citizens, who aspire to join politics.
- Money and muscle power:** Rich people and companies who give funds to the parties tend to have influence on the policies and decisions of the party.
- No meaningful choice:** It means, in recent years, there has been a decline in the ideological differences among parties in most parts of the world. Parties are no longer significantly different. Sometimes people cannot even elect very different leaders either, because the same set of leaders keep shifting from one party to another. For example, the difference between the labour party and the conservative party in Britain is very low.
- Casteism and religion** have always been challenged. People prefer to vote for the representatives of their own caste and religion.

Q. 2. Suggest some reforms to strengthen parties so that they perform their functions well.

Ans. Various reforms that can be taken to strengthen parties are:

- There has to be a mechanism to check that the information given by a candidate for election in his affidavit is correct and true.
- There has to be a mechanism for elected members to dissent without needing to defect and losing their seat.
- Internal elections have to be held for all decision making positions of a party with a transparent list of voters.
- Initiatives have to be taken to stop the flow of illegal money to political parties during elections.

Q. 3. What is a political party?

[CBSE Delhi 2017]

Ans. A political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government. A political party has three important components:

- (i) Party Leadership      (ii) Party members      (iii) Party Followers

Political parties contest elections and occupy political offices to exercise political power.



Q. 4. State the various functions political parties perform in a democracy.

[CBSE Delhi 2017, 2019 32/1/3]

OR

Analyse the main functions of a 'political parties'.

[CBSE Delhi 2017]

OR

Describe any five functions of a political party.

[CBSE 2018, 2020, 32/1/1]

Ans.

Introduction : Political parties perform many crucial functions in democracy:-

(a) It contest elections. Parties choose candidates to contest elections. The process of choosing candidates varies eg:- In USA, party members chose the candidates while in India top party leaders choose.

(b) It puts forward policies and programmes and people choose from them. They pile up the similar opinions into major stance that the parties support usually on the line of ruling party.

(c) They make laws. Legislature makes laws since majority of the members are from a party, they go by the lines parties take. Moreover, they train and make people (party members) leader which constitute the executive.

(d) They influence play the role of opposition. The parties which lose elections form opposition, criticising govt policies and wrong decisions. Mobilise public support against them.

(e) They make govt machinery and welfare schemes accessible to people. People feel close to parties than govt officials.

Conclusion :- Parties perform crucial roles in democracy.

[Topper's Answer 2018 (32/1/1)]

**Q. 5. What are the characteristics of a political party?**

**OR**

**What is a political party? Explain any four characteristics of a political party.**

[CBSE 2019, 32/2/1]

**Ans.** A political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold powers in the government.

A political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government.

**Characteristics of a political party:**

- Political Parties agree on some policies & programmes for the society with a view to promote the collective good.
- Since there can be different views on what is good for all, parties try to persuade people why their policies are better than others.
- They seek to implement these policies by winning popular support through elections.
- Parties reflect fundamental political division in a society, parties are about the part of a society & thus involve partisanship.
- Thus a party is known by which part it stands for, which policies it supports & whose interests it upholds.

**Q. 6. A group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government is called a \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Ans.** Political party.

**Q. 7. Match List I (organisations and struggles) with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists:**

List-I	List-II
1. Congress Party	A. National Democratic Alliance
2. Bharatiya Janata Party	B. State Party
3. Communist Party of India (Marxist)	C. United Progressive Alliance
4. Telugu Desam Party	D. Left Front

	1	2	3	4
(a)	C	A	B	D
(b)	C	D	A	B
(c)	C	A	D	B
(d)	D	C	A	B

**Ans.** (c) CADB

**Q. 8. Who among the following is the founder of the Bahujan Samaj Party?**

- Kanshi Ram
- Shahu Maharaj
- B.R. Ambedkar
- Jyotiba Phule

**Ans.** (a) Kanshi Ram

**Q. 9. What is the guiding philosophy of the Bharatiya Janata Party?**

- Bahujan Samaj
- Revolutionary democracy
- Integral humanism
- Modernity

**Ans.** (d) Modernity

**Q. 10. Consider the following statements on parties.**

**A. Political parties do not enjoy much trust among the people.**



**B. Parties are often rocked by scandals involving top party leaders.**

**C. Parties are not necessary to run governments.**

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- (a) A, B, and C                      (b) A and B                      (c) B and C                      (d) A and C

**Ans.** (b) A and B

**Q. 11. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below:**

Muhammad Yunus is a famous economist of Bangladesh. He received several international honours for his efforts to promote economic and social development for the benefit of the poor. He and the Grameen Bank started jointly, received the Nobel Peace Prize for 2006. In February 2007, he decided to launch a political party and contest in the parliamentary elections. His objective was to foster proper leadership, good governance and build a new Bangladesh. He felt that only a political party different from the traditional ones would bring about new political culture. His party would be democratic from the grassroot level. The launching of the new party, called Nagarik Shakti (Citizens' Power), has caused a stir among the Bangladeshis. While many welcomed his decision, some did not like it. "Now I think Bangladesh will have a chance to choose between good and bad and eventually have a good government," said Shahedul Islam, a government official. "That government, we hope, would not only keep itself away from corruption but also make fighting corruption and black money, a top priority." But leaders of traditional political parties who dominated the country's politics for decades were apprehensive. "There was no debate (over him) winning the Nobel, but politics is different – very challenging and often controversial," said a senior leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party. Some others were highly critical. They asked why he was rushing into politics. "Is he being planted in politics by mentors from outside the country," asked one political observer.

**Do you think Yunus made a right decision to float a new political party?**

**Do you agree with the statements and fears expressed by various people? How do you want this new party organised to make it different from other parties? If you were the one to begin this political party, how would you defend it?**

**Ans.** Yunus has done to what he believes will serve his purpose and aim to improve Bangladesh. The support that he has earned from the people for his initiative of Grameen Bank may allow him to win elections and bring change through political power.

People are entitled to their opinion. It is the duty of Yunus to assure the people and remove the reasons of fear that some people may have.

The new party should have internal democracy. There should be transparency with regards to the flow of money. Only those individuals should be nominated for elections that have no criminal backgrounds. The party should also remain true to its ideological promises.

I would defend it through honesty. I would assure the people that I will form an effective government by showcasing an honest and transparent political party. The policies and programmes would ensure that interests of everyone will be accounted for and release a balanced vision of future for Bangladesh.

## Multiple Choice Questions

*Choose and write the correct option.*

- A political party is an association of:
 

(a) people	(b) children
(c) parties	(d) none of the these
- The clearly visible institutions of a democracy are:
 

(a) people	(b) societies
(c) political parties	(d) pressure groups



3. Without the political parties, the utility of the government will remain:  
(a) uncertain (b) powerful (c) peaceful (d) none of these
4. Parties are a necessary condition for a:  
(a) democracy (b) authoritarian (c) dictatorship (d) none of these
5. In a democratic country, any group of citizens is free to form:  
(a) a political party (b) society (c) religion (d) none of these
6. \_\_\_\_\_ is an organised group of persons who come together to contest election and try to hold power in government.  
(a) Political Party (b) Democracy (c) Parliament (d) None of these
7. The political parties of a country have a fundamental political \_\_\_\_\_ in a society.  
(a) choice (b) division (c) support (d) power
8. Members of ruling party follows the directions of:  
(a) people (b) party leaders (c) pressure groups (d) none of these
9. Political parties reflect fundamental \_\_\_\_\_ in a society. Parties are about a part of the society and thus involve partnership.  
(a) social division (b) economic division (c) religious division (d) political division
10. Who are ineligible to vote in the Presidential elections in India? [CBSE Question bank]  
(a) members of the state legislative assemblies (b) members of the state legislative council  
(c) members of the Rajya Sabha (d) members of the Lok Sabha
11. Which of the following statements are true about political parties?  
(a) The proportion of those who said they were members of some political party was lower in India than in many advanced countries like Canada, Japan.  
(b) Over the last three decades, the proportion of those who report to be members of political parties in India has gone down steadily.  
(c) The proportion of those who say they feel close to a political party has gone down in India.  
(d) None of these
12. National parties have their units in various states, but by and large, all these units follow the same policies, programmes and strategy that is decided at the \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) national level (b) state level (c) district level (d) village level
13. A party that secures at least six per cent of the total votes in an election to the legislative Assembly of a state and wins at least \_\_\_\_\_ is recognised as a state party.  
(a) two seats (b) three seats (c) one seat (d) four seats
14. Which is a recognised political party?  
(a) A party that is present in only one of the federal units.  
(b) A party that is based on regional and commercial diversities.  
(c) A party that is recognised by the 'Election Commission' with all the privileges and facilities.  
(d) A party that is present in several and all units of the federation.
15. According to the given classification, there were \_\_\_\_\_ national recognised parties in India in 2006.  
(a) seven (b) six (c) five (d) ten
16. Many of the pressure groups are extensions of \_\_\_\_\_ among different sections of society.  
(a) legislature (b) government  
(c) political parties (d) bureaucracy

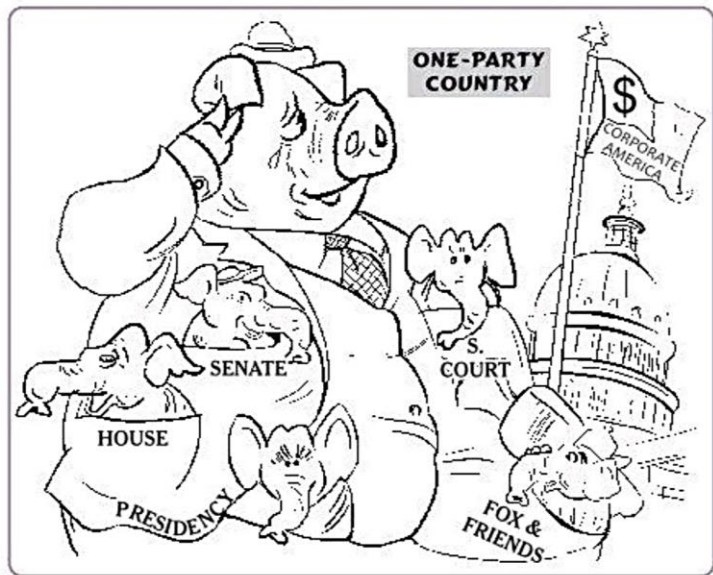


17. Which one of the following options best signifies the cartoon?



- (a) Political parties are easily one of the most visible institutions in a democracy.
- (b) For most ordinary citizens, democracy is equal to political parties.
- (c) Most people tend to be very critical of political parties.
- (d) Parties have become identified with social and political divisions.

18.



Which one of the following options best signifies this cartoon?

- (a) In some countries power usually changes between two main parties, who win majority of seats.
- (b) In some countries only one party is allowed to control and run the government.
- (c) Party system evolves over a long time, depending on the nature of society, its social and regional divisions.
- (d) Each country develops a party system that is conditioned by its special circumstances.

19. Which one of the following options best signifies this cartoon?



- (a) It suggests that in democracies people contest elections only to make money.  
 (b) Since parties focus only on winning elections, they tend to use shortcuts to win elections.  
 (c) They tend to nominate those candidates who have or can raise lots of money.  
 (d) Democrats all over the world are worried about the increasing role of rich people and big companies in democratic politics.

20. What is not an integral part of the government?

[CBSE 2022 (32/1/4)]

- (a) Office of the Prime Minister  
 (b) Legislature  
 (c) Executive  
 (d) Judiciary

## ANSWERS

1. (a)      2. (c)      3. (a)      4. (a)      5. (a)      6. (a)      7. (b)      8. (b)  
 9. (d)      10. (c)      11. (d)      12. (a)      13. (a)      14. (c)      15. (b)      16. (c)  
 17. (c)      18. (b)      19. (a)      20. (a)

## Correct and Rewrite

Correct the following statements and rewrite them.

- Parties put forward the same policies and programmes and the voters choose from them.
- Parties do not play a decisive role in making laws for a country.
- Those parties that win in the elections play the role of opposition to the parties in power, by voicing different views and criticising government for its failures or wrong policies.
- Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) was formed under the leadership of Mayawati. [CBSE 2020, 32/5/1]

## ANSWERS

- Parties put forward different policies and programmes and the voters choose from them.
- Parties play a decisive role in making laws for a country.
- Those parties that lose in the elections play the role of opposition to the parties in power, by voicing different views and criticising government for its failures or wrong policies.
- BSP was formed under the leadership of Kanshiram. [CBSE Marking Scheme 2020 (32/5/1)]



## Assertion-Reason Questions

The following questions consist of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer these questions selecting the appropriate option given below:

- Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
  - Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
  - A is correct but R is wrong.
  - A is wrong but R is correct.
- Assertion(A)** : In some countries, power usually changes between two main parties.  
**Reason (R)** : In India there were three major alliances in 2004 parliamentary elections— the National Democratic Alliance, the United Progressive Alliance and the Left Front.
  - Assertion(A)** : Every party in the country has to register with the Election Commission.  
**Reason (R)** : While the Commission treats all parties equally, it offers some special facilities to large and established parties.
  - Assertion(A)** : Over the last three decades, the number and strength of these parties has expanded.  
**Reason (R)** : This made the Parliament of India politically less and less diverse.
  - Assertion(A)** : Since 1994, nearly every one of the State parties has got an opportunity to be a part of one or the other national level coalition government.  
**Reason (R)** : National level coalition government has contributed to the strengthening of federalism and democracy in our country.
  - Assertion(A)** : The first challenge is lack of internal democracy within parties.  
**Reason (R)** : Very often parties do not seem to offer a meaningful choice to the voters.

## ANSWERS

1. (b)      2. (a)      3. (c)      4. (d)      5. (b)

## EXPLANATIONS OF SELECTED ASSERTION-REASON QUESTIONS

- Several other parties exist, contest elections and win a few seats in the national legislatures.
- This made the parliament of India politically more and more diverse.
- Since 1996, nearly every one of the state parties has got an opportunity to be a part of one or the other national level coalition government.
- All over the world there is a tendency in political parties towards the concentration of power in one or few leaders at the top.

## Source-based/Case-based Questions

Read the passages given below and answer the questions that follow:

### PASSAGE-1

Every party in the country has to register with the Election Commission. While the Commission treats all parties equally, it offers some special facilities to large and established parties. These parties are given a unique symbol – only the official candidates of that party can use that election symbol. Parties that get this privilege and some other special facilities are ‘recognised’ by the Election Commission for this purpose. That is why these parties are called, ‘recognised political

parties'. The Election Commission has laid down detailed criteria of the proportion of votes and seats that a party must get in order to be a recognised party. A party that secures at least six per cent of the total votes in an election to the Legislative Assembly of a State and wins at least two seats are recognised as a State party. A party that secures at least six per cent of the total votes in Lok Sabha elections or Assembly elections in four States and wins at least four seats in the Lok Sabha is recognised as a national party.

- (i) Who gives a unique symbol to every party?
- (ii) How many per cent of votes does a party needs to win in a legislative assembly of a state?
- (iii) Which parties are recognised as political parties?

### PASSAGE-2

The Supreme Court passed an order to reduce the influence of money and criminals. Now, it is mandatory for every candidate who contests elections to file an AFFIDAVIT giving details of his property and criminal cases pending against him. The new system has made a lot of information available to the public. But there is no system of check if the information given by the candidates is true. As yet we do not know if it has led to decline in the influence of the rich and the criminals. The Election Commission passed an order making it necessary for political parties to hold their organisational elections and file their income tax returns. The parties have started doing so but sometimes it is mere formality. It is not clear if this step has led to greater internal democracy in political parties. Besides these, many suggestions are often made to reform political parties: A law should be made to regulate the internal affairs of political parties. It should be made compulsory for political parties to maintain a register of its members, to follow its own constitution, to have an independent authority, to act as a judge in case of party disputes, to hold open elections to the highest posts. It should be made mandatory for political parties to give a minimum number of tickets, about one-third, to women candidates. Similarly, there should be a quota for women in the decision making bodies of the party.

- (i) Who issue an order mandating that political parties hold their internal elections?
- (ii) What an affidavit signifies?
- (iii) One-third is the minimum number in which category it included in the political party?

### ANSWERS

1. (i) The Election Commission.  
(ii) at least 6 per cent  
(iii) Parties that are given a unique symbol and that get this privilege and some other special facilities are 'recognised' by the Election Commission for this purpose.
2. (i) The Election Commission passed an order making it necessary for political parties to hold their organisational elections and file their income tax returns. The parties have started doing so but sometimes it is mere formality.  
(ii) Signed document where a person makes a sworn statement regarding his or her antecedents.  
(iii) Women



## Very Short Answer Questions

Each of the following questions is of 2 marks.

Q. 1. (i) What do you understand by 'Partisanship'?

(ii) How do parties run the government of a country?

Ans. (i) It is marked by a tendency to take a side and inability to take a balanced view on an issue.

(ii) Parties recruit leaders, train them and then make them ministers.

Q. 2. What are the components of a political party?

[CBSE (AI) 2016]

Ans. (i) The leaders (ii) The active members (iii) The followers

Q. 3. (i) What is the role of opposition in a democracy?

(ii) At what level, there are non-party based elections in our country?

Ans. (i) They voice different views and criticise the government for its failures or wrong policies.

(ii) Non-party based elections are held in panchayats of many states in India.

Q. 4. (i) Which organisation does recognise 'Political Parties' in India?

[CBSE (Comptt) 2017]

(ii) What is an 'alliance' or a 'front'?

Ans. (i) Election Commission

(ii) When several parties in a multi-party system join hands for the purpose of contesting elections and winning power.

Q. 5. (i) Give one merit of multi-party system.

(ii) Give one demerit of multi-party system.

Ans. (i) This system allows a variety of interests and opinions to enjoy political representation.

(ii) Appears very messy and leads to political instability.

Q. 6. When was INC formed? What is its symbol?

Ans. Indian National Congress was formed in 1885. Its symbol is 'hand'.

Q. 7. How do money and muscle power tend to help the contestant of the elections?

Ans. Rich people and companies who give funds to the parties tend to have influence on the policies and decisions of the party.

Q. 8. What is 'defection'?

Ans. Changing party allegiance from the party on which a person got elected (to a legislative body) to a different party.

Q. 9. Name any one political party that has national level political organisation but not recognised as the national political party.

[CBSE Delhi 2016]

Ans. The political party that has national level political organisation but not recognized as the National Party: Samajwadi Party/Samata Party/Rashtriya Janata Dal.

Q. 10. (i) Name any one political party of India which grew out of a movement. [CBSE 2017, 32/2/2]

(ii) Why is one party political system not considered a good democratic system?

[CBSE (F) 2016]

Ans. (i)

8. / Any one political party in India that grew out of a movement is 'AIADMK'. [Topper's Answer 2017 (32/2/2)]

(ii) One party system has no democratic option.



**Q. 11. Why did India adopt multi-party system?**

[CBSE (AI) 2016]

- Ans.** (i) India is a large country and has social and geographical diversities.  
(ii) It is easy to absorb different diversities in a multi-party system.

**Q. 12. How does a country choose a party system?**

- Ans.** It evolves over a long time, depending on the nature of a society, its social and regional divisions, its history of politics and its system of elections.

**Q. 13. Why did India choose to have a multi-party system?**

OR

**Examine the reason to accept multi-party system in India.**

[CBSE (F) 2017]

- Ans.** India has evolved as multi-party system because the social and geographical diversity in such a large country is not easily absorbed by two or even three parties.

**Q. 14. Give one merit and one demerit of a single-party system.**

- Ans. Merit:** There is no competition between parties but there is competition between candidates.

**Demerit:** One-party system is not a democratic option. Any democratic country must allow at least two parties to compete.

## Short Answer Questions

Each of the following questions is of 3 marks.

**Q. 1. How do state or regional political parties contribute in strengthening federalism and democracy in India? Explain with examples.**

- Ans.** State and regional political parties contribute in strengthening federalism and democracy in India in the following ways.

- (i) State and regional political parties provide a variety of choices to people as each of them has different agendas and focuses on different issues.
- (ii) They provide a platform for different pressure and social groups, and communities to put forward their demands.
- (iii) They help in power sharing by sharing power of government with the help of coalition government.

**Q. 2. What is a multi-party system? Why has India adopted a multi-party system? Explain.**

[CBSE 2015]

- Ans.** (i) If several parties compete for power, and more than two parties have a reasonable chance of coming for power either on their own strength or in alliance with other, we call it a **multi-party system**.
- (ii) India has evolved a multi-party system. It is because the social and geographical diversity in such a large country is not easily absorbed by two or even three parties.
- (iii) Party system is not something any country can choose. It evolves over a long time depending on the nature of society, its social and regional divisions, its history of politics and its system of elections.

**Q. 3. What is the role of the opposition party in a democracy?**

[CBSE (AI) 2017]

OR

**Explain three functions of opposition political parties.**

[CBSE Delhi 2019]

- Ans.** Those parties that lose elections play the role of opposition to the parties in power. Role played by opposition is:

- (i) It gives its own opinion which may oppose the ruling party.
- (ii) Opposition party mobilises opposition to the government.



- (iii) It puts its different views in the parliament and criticises the government for its failures or wrong policies.
- (iv) By doing this, it can keep a check on the ruling party, which is made to move on the track.

**Q. 4. What are the major differences between the policies of CPI(M) and CPI?**

Ans.

	Policies of CPI (M)	Policies of CPI
(i)	Accepts democratic elections as a useful and helpful means for securing the objective of socio-economic justice in India.	Accepts parliamentary democracy as a means of promoting the interests of the working class, farmers and the poor.
(ii)	Critical of the new economic policies that allow free flow of foreign capital and goods into the country.	Opposed to the force of secessionism and communalism.
(iii)	It was formed in 1964.	It was formed in 1925.

**Q. 5. Explain the three components of a political party.** [CBSE Delhi 2019 (32/1/2)]

- Ans.
- (i) **The leaders:** A political party consists of leaders who contest elections and if they win, perform the administrative job.
  - (ii) **The active members:** They are the ones who climb a ladder from being the follower and become the assistants of the leaders to gain knowledge about politics.
  - (iii) **The followers:** They are simply the ardent followers of the leaders and work under the able guidance of the active members.

**Q. 6. How do parties perform the job of making laws for the country?**

- Ans.
- (i) Parties play a decisive role in making laws for a country.
  - (ii) Formally, laws are debated in the form of first, second and third readings and then by popular voting, the bill is passed.
  - (iii) But since most of the members belong to a party, they follow what their leader says, irrespective of their personal opinions.

**Q. 7. How is a government of alliances formed?**

- Ans.
- (i) When several parties in a multi-party system join hands for the purpose of contesting elections and winning power, it is called an alliance or front.
  - (ii) In India, there were three major alliances in 2004 parliamentary elections.
  - (iii) These were the National Democratic Alliance or NDA formed by BJP and its allies. Then the United Progressive Alliance or UPA led by Congress and its allies. The third one was the Left Front, which is formed by Communists or their parties like CPI and CPI(M).

**Q. 8. "Nearly every one of the state parties wants to get an opportunity to be a part of one or the other national level coalition." Support the statement with arguments.** [CBSE (AI) 2019]

- Ans. **State Parties Seeking National Level Coalition:** Before general election of 2014, in three general elections, no one national party was able to secure on its own a majority in Lok Sabha. With the result, the national parties were compelled to form alliances with state or regional parties. Since 1996, nearly every one of the state parties has got an opportunity to be a part of one or the other national level coalition government. This has contributed to the strengthening of federalism and democracy.

**Q. 9. What is meant by regional political party? State the conditions required to be recognised as a 'regional political party'.**

**Ans.** A regional Party is a party that is present only in some states.

Conditions required for a party to be recognised as a regional political party are:

- (i) A party that secures at least six per cent of the total votes in an election to the legislative Assembly of a state.
- (ii) Party should win atleast two seats in the Legislative Assembly.

**Q. 10. Name the 'National Parties' of India.**

- Ans.**
- (i) Indian National Congress
  - (ii) Bharatiya Janata Party
  - (iii) Bahujan Samaj Party
  - (iv) Communist Party of India (Marxist)
  - (v) Communist Party of India (CPI)
  - (vi) National Congress Party (NCP)

**Q. 11. It is said that, "No meaningful choice is given to the voters." Explain.**

**Ans.** It means, in recent years, there has been a decline in the ideological differences among parties in most parts of the world. Parties are no longer significantly different. Sometimes people cannot even elect very different leaders either, because the same set of leaders keep shifting from one party to another. For example, the difference between the labour party and the conservative party in Britain is very low.

**Q. 12. Identify and list the following political parties as National and Regional political parties:**

[CBSE 2019 (32/5/1)]

- |                            |                                 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| (i) National Conference    | (ii) Shiromani Akali Dal        |
| (iii) D.M.K.               | (iv) Nationalist Congress Party |
| (v) Bharatiya Janata Party | (vi) Shiv Sena                  |
| (vii) Forward Bloc         | (viii) Janata Dal (U)           |
| (ix) Rashtriya Janata Dal  | (x) Samajwadi Party             |

**Ans. National Parties**

National Congress Party  
 Bharatiya Janata Party

**Regional Parties**

National Conference  
 Shiromani Akali Dal  
 DMK  
 Shiv Sena  
 Forward Bloc  
 Janata Dal  
 Rashtriya Janata Dal  
 Samajwadi Party



## Long Answer Questions

Each of the following questions is of 5 marks.

- Q. 1. "Lack of internal democracy within parties is the major challenge to political parties all over the world." Analyse the statement. [CBSE 2015]

OR

In what way lack of internal democracy is seen in the political parties?

- Ans. (i) All over the world, there is a tendency of political parties towards the concentration of power in one or few leaders at the top.  
(ii) Parties do not keep membership registers.  
(iii) They do not regularly hold organisational meetings.  
(iv) They do not conduct internal elections regularly.  
(v) Ordinary members of the party do not have sufficient information as to what happens inside the party.  
(vi) As a result, the leaders assume greater power to make decisions in the name of the party.

- Q. 2. Highlight any five functions of political parties to strengthen democracy.

[CBSE 2019(32/5/1)]

Ans. Functions of political Parties:

- (i) Political parties contest elections.
- (ii) Political parties put forward different policies and programmes.
- (iii) Parties play a decisive role in making laws for the country.
- (iv) Parties play a decisive role to form and run the government.
- (v) Those parties that lose in the election play the role of opposition to the party in power.
- (vi) Political parties shape the public opinion.
- (vii) Parties provide people access to government machinery and welfare scheme implemented by the government.

*Any other relevant point*

- Q. 3. Describe the various party systems existing in different countries.

Ans. Party systems:

(i) One-party system:

- (a) In some countries, only one party is allowed to control and run the government. It is called one-party system.
- (b) We cannot consider one-party system as a good option because this is not a democratic option.
- (c) Any democratic system must allow at least two parties to compete in elections and provide a fair chance for the competing parties to come to power.  
*Example: Communist Party of China.*

(ii) Two-party system:

- (a) In some countries, power usually changes between two main parties.
- (b) Here, only the two main parties have a serious chance of winning majority seats to form the government.  
*Example: USA and UK.*

**(iii) Multi-party system:**

- (a) If several parties compete for power and more than two parties have a reasonable chance of coming to power, either on their own or in alliance with others, it is called a multi-party system.
- (b) The multi-party system often appears very messy and leads to political instability.
- (c) At the same time, this system allows a variety of interests and opinions to enjoy political representation.

*Example:* India.

**Major Coalitions—NDA, UPA, Left Front.**

**Q. 4. State any two advantages of the multi-party system. In what way is an alliance different from a coalition government?**

**Ans.** Two advantages of multi-party system:

- It offers a wider choice to voters during elections.
- It absorbs social and geographical diversity in a better way.

**Alliance**

When several political parties join hands for the purpose of fighting an election, it is called an alliance.

For example, the National Democratic Alliance and United Progressive Alliance.

**Coalition**

When no single party enjoys majority support of the members in a legislature, in such a situation the government is formed by two or more parties coming together. It is called a coalition government. It reduces the dominance of any one party within that coalition.

**Q. 5. How are Political parties recognised as regional and National parties in India? Explain with examples.** [CBSE Delhi 2016, 2019]

**Ans.** India has a multi-party system, where political parties are classified as national, state or regional level parties. All parties are registered by the Election Commission.

Criterion for Recognition by The Election Commission as national or state level parties:

**National Party**

National political Party have units in various states they follow the same policies, programmes and strategy that is decided at the national level.

- (i) It has to win a minimum of two per cent of the seats in the Lok Sabha from at least three different states.
- (ii) In General Elections, the party must manage to win six per cent of the votes and win at least four Lok Sabha seats as well.
- (iii) The party is recognised as a 'state level party' in four or more states.

**Examples:** Congress, BJP

**State Party**

A party that secures at least 6% of the total votes in an election to the legislative assembly of a state and wins at least two seats is recognised as a state party.

**Examples:** Janata Dal

Despite the large number of political parties operating in India, very few are able to make their presence felt at the national level except when it comes to alliances.



Q. 6. Describe the role of Political Parties in Indian Democracy.

[CBSE (Comp.) 2017]

OR

Explain the role of Political Parties in a democracy.

[CBSE 2019 (34/4/2)]

OR

Assess the importance of political parties in democracy.

[CBSE (F) (2017)]

OR

Describe the role of Political Parties in India.

[CBSE Sample Paper 2020]

Ans.

21. The role of political parties are -

- (i) Political parties contest elections. Election in contemporary democracies are fought among the various candidates put forward by the political parties.
- (ii) Political parties shape public opinion. With the help of pressure groups, they launch movements for the resolving of the problems faced by the public.
- (iii) Political parties put forward policies and programme. People make choices on the basis of these.
- (iv) Political parties form and run the government. The major policies for the government comes from the political party that won the election.
- (v) Parties that lose the elections form the opposition. They criticize the government for its failures, point out faults and mobilise opposition to the government.
- (vi) Political parties play a major role in decision making. They recruit leaders, train them and appoint them as ministers.
- (vii) Political parties help people to access government machinery and welfare schemes.

[Topper's Answer 2019 (32/4/2)]

**Q. 7. What are recognised political parties?**

- Ans. (i) National parties are some countrywide parties and almost follow similar policies and programmes at the national level.
- (ii) Every party in the country has to register with the Election Commission. The Commission offers some special facilities to the large and established parties. These parties are given a unique symbol—only the official candidates of that party can use that election symbol.
- (iii) Parties that get this privilege and some other special facilities are ‘recognised’ by the Election Commission for this purpose. That is why these parties are called ‘Recognised Political Parties’.
- (iv) The Election Commission has laid down detailed criteria of the proportion of votes and seats that a party must get in order to be a recognised party.

**Q. 8. What is the status of regional parties in India?**

- Ans. (i) Some of the regional parties have succeeded only in some states.
- (ii) Parties like the Samajwadi Party, Samata Party and Rashtriya Janata Dal have national level political organisation with units in several states.
- (iii) Over the years, the number and strength of these parties have expanded.
- (iv) No single national party is able to secure majority on its own in Lok Sabha. As a result, the national parties are compelled to form alliances with state parties.
- (v) Since 1996, nearly everyone of the state parties got an opportunity to be a part of one or the other national level coalition government. This has contributed to the strengthening of federalism and democracy in our country.

**Q. 9. The first challenge faced by political parties is lack of internal democracy within parties. What do you understand by the statement? Explain. [CBSE Sample Paper 2016]**

- Ans. (i) All over the world there is a tendency in political parties towards the concentration of power in one or few leaders at the top.
- (ii) Parties do not keep membership registers, do not hold organisational meetings, and do not conduct internal elections regularly.
- (iii) Ordinary members of the party do not get sufficient information on what happens inside the party.
- (iv) They do not have the means or the connections needed to influence the decisions. As a result, the leaders assume greater power to make decisions in the name of the party.
- (v) Since one or few leaders exercise paramount power in the party, those who disagree with the leadership finds it difficult to continue in the party.
- (vi) More than loyalty to party principles and policies, personal loyalty to the leader becomes more important.

**Q. 10. Elucidate some of the recent efforts taken in our country to reform political parties and its leaders. [CBSE Delhi 2017, CBSE Sample Paper 2016]**

OR

**Examine any two institutional amendments made by different institutions to reform political parties and their leaders. [CBSE (F) 2016]**

- Ans. (i) The Constitution was amended to prevent elected MLAs and MPs from changing parties. This was done because many elected representatives were indulging in DEFECTION in order to become ministers or for cash rewards. Now, if any MLA or MP changes parties, he or she will lose the seat in the legislature.
- (ii) The Supreme Court passed an order to reduce the influence of money and criminals. Now, it is mandatory for every candidate who contests elections to file an AFFIDAVIT giving details of his property and criminal cases pending against him. The new system has made a lot of information available to the public. But there is no system of check if the information given by the candidates is true.



(iii) The Election Commission passed an order making it necessary for political parties to hold their organisational elections and file their income tax returns. The parties have started doing so but sometimes it is mere formality. It is not clear if this step has led to greater internal democracy in political parties.

11. "All over the world, people express their dissatisfaction with the failure of political parties to perform their functions well." Analyse the statement with arguments.

[CBSE Delhi 2016]

Ans. Popular dissatisfaction and criticism: It has focused on four areas in the working of political parties, need to face and overcome these challenges in order to remain effective instruments of democracy. Lack of internal democracy within parties.

(i) **Dynastic succession:** Since most political parties do not practice transparent procedures for their functioning, there are very few ways for an ordinary worker to rise to the top in a party. Those who happen to be leaders are in a position of unfair advantage to favour people close to them or even their family members.

(ii) **Growing role of money and muscle power in parties:** Since parties are focused only on winning elections, they tend to use shortcuts to win elections. They tend to nominate those candidates who have or can raise a lot of money. Rich people and companies who give funds to the parties tend to have influence on the policies and decisions of the party. In some cases parties support candidates who can win elections.

(iii) **No meaningful choice to the voters:** In recent years there has been a decline in the ideological parties of the world. Sometimes same leaders win because they shift from one party to another.

12. What suggestions are often made to reform political parties?

OR

Suggest any five effective measures to reform political parties.

[CBSE (AI) 2016, CBSE 2017 (32/2/2)]

Ans.

26. To reform political parties some steps have been taken such as:-
* To avoid defection, MLAs and MPs will lose their seat if they change party <del>and</del> after winning elections.
* Candidates have to submit their affidavits which tells about their property and criminal records.
* Parties have to hold internal elections regularly and file their income-tax return.
<u>EFFECTIVE MEASURES:-</u>
* Parties should hold free, <sup>internal</sup> elections and <del>to</del> should have a board to look into disputes.
* Women should be given $\frac{1}{3}$ <sup>rd</sup> reserved seats and also should be present in decision making body of the parties.
* Parties should be given compensations according to their performance in last elections in the form of petrol, <sup>for transportation</sup> or cash, etc.
* People should also form pressure/movement groups to influence parties to have reforms.
* People should themselves take part in politics to bring reforms.
[Topper's Answer 2017 (32/2/2)]



13. "Political parties are a necessary condition for a democracy." Analyse the statement with examples. [CBSE (AI) 2016]

OR

"About hundred years ago there were a few countries that had hardly any political party. Now, there are a few countries that do not have political parties." Examine this statement.

OR

Explain the necessity of Political parties in a Democracy.

[CBSE 2019 (32/4/2)(32/2/3) (32/5/1)]

Ans. Necessity or utility of Political Parties:

- (i) Elected representative will be accountable to their constituency for what they do in the locality.
- (ii) The rise of political parties is directly linked to the emergence of representative democracies.
- (iii) In large and complex societies some agency is needed to gather different views on various issues and to present these to the government.
- (iv) They are needed to bring various representatives together so that a responsible government could be formed.
- (v) They needed a mechanism to support or restrain the government.
- (vi) To make policies, justify or oppose them.
- (vii) Parties are a necessary condition for a democracy.

*Any other relevant point*

14. What is the role of an ordinary citizen in reforming the political parties?

OR

Examine critically the role of an ordinary citizen in strengthening and deepening democracy.

- Ans.
- (i) People can put pressure on political parties. This can be done through petitions, publicity and agitations. Ordinary citizens, pressure groups, movements and the media can play an important role.
  - (ii) In a democracy, everybody has been given the right to speak, right to express his ideas and right to agitate.
  - (iii) Political parties can improve if those who are interested, also join the political parties. The quality of democracy depends on the degree of public participation.
  - (iv) If political parties feel that they would lose public support by not taking up reforms, they would become more serious about reforms.

It is difficult to reform politics if ordinary citizens do not take part in it and simply criticise it from outside. The problem of bad politics can be solved by more and better politics.

15. Analyse the role of political parties in shaping public opinion. [CBSE (F) 2017]

Ans. Role of political parties in shaping public opinion:

- (i) They raise and highlight issues of public interest.
- (ii) Parties have lakhs of members and activists spread over the country.
- (iii) Many of the pressure groups are extensions of political parties.
- (iv) Parties sometimes also launch movements for the resolution of problems faced by people.



16. Which three challenges do you feel are being faced by political parties in India? Give your opinion. [CBSE (AI) 2016]

Ans. The three challenges faced by political parties in India are:

(i) Lack of internal democracy.

(a) All over the world, there is a tendency of political parties towards the concentration of power in one or few leaders at the top.

(b) Parties do not keep membership register.

(c) They do not conduct internal elections regularly.

(d) Ordinary members of the party do not have sufficient information as to what happens inside the party.

(ii) No Transparency

(a) Since most political parties do not practice open and transparent procedures for their functioning, there are very few ways for an ordinary worker to rise to the top in a party.

(b) Those who happen to be the leaders are in a position of unfair advantage to famous people close to them or even their family members.

(c) In many parties, the top positions are always controlled by members of one family.

(iii) Money and Muscle Power

(a) Since parties are focussed only on winning elections, they tend to use shortcuts to win elections.

(b) They tend to nominate those candidates who have or can raise a lot of money.

(c) Rich people and companies who give funds to the parties tend to have influence on the policies and decisions of the party.

17. What are the main features of BJP manifesto?

Ans. (i) It was founded in 1980 by reviving Bharatiya Jana Sangh.

(ii) It wants to build a strong and modern India by drawing inspiration from India's ancient culture and values. Cultural nationalism is an important element of its manifesto.

(iii) It also promotes a Uniform Civil Code for all people living in the country, irrespective of religion and ban on religious conversions.

## Self-Assessment

Time allowed: 1 hour

Max. marks: 40

### General Instructions:

- (i) The test is divided into two sections: A and B.
- (ii) All questions are compulsory.
- (iii) Section-A contains Multiple Choice Questions.
- (iv) Section-B contains Subjective Type Questions (2/3/5 marks each) .

### SECTION-A

1. Choose and write the correct answer for each of the following.

(1 × 11 = 11)

- (i) The multi-party system often appears very:
  - (a) messy
  - (b) easy
  - (c) both (a) and (b)
  - (d) none of these
- (ii) The political parties are a result of the:
  - (a) social division
  - (b) regional division
  - (c) history of politics
  - (d) none of these
- (iii) The name of the alliance that formed the government in 1998 in India was:
  - (a) National Democratic Alliance
  - (b) United Progressive Alliance
  - (c) National Progressive Alliance
  - (d) United Democratic Alliance
- (iv) When and under whose leadership was Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) formed?
  - (a) 1982, Mayawati
  - (b) 1984, Kanshi Ram
  - (c) 1985, Mulayam Singh Yadav
  - (d) 1986, Bhajanlal
- (v) Political parties exercise power through which of these functions?
  - (a) Parties contest elections
  - (b) They play a decisive role in making laws for a country
  - (c) They form and run governments
  - (d) All the above
- (vi) What does the term 'Partisan' mean?
  - (a) The affair of the state or the science of the governance.
  - (b) A group of people who come together to promote common beliefs.
  - (c) A person who is strongly committed to the party.
  - (d) The ruling party which runs the government.
- (vii) Select the statement related to the advantages of a multiparty system?
  - (a) Multi-Party system provides limited choice to voters.
  - (b) There is a chance of conflict.
  - (c) Provides choice to the voters.
  - (d) In a Multi-party system regional parties get representation.
- (viii) Political parties are allotted symbols by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (a) The government of India
  - (b) The constitution of India
  - (c) The party leaders
  - (d) The Election Commission



- (ix) What is an ideological one-party system?
- (a) Party based on suppression of other parties.
  - (b) Party based on ideological reasons, coercion and suppression of other parties.
  - (c) Party based on coercion.
  - (d) Party based on communist ideology.
- (x) Which party is only allowed in China?
- (a) Socialist Party
  - (b) Communist Party
  - (c) Liberal Party
  - (d) Maoist Party
- (xi) In the question given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

**Assertion (A) :** The Constitution was amended to prevent elected MLAs and MPs from changing parties.

**Reason (R) :** This was done because many elected representatives were indulging in DEFECTION in order to become ministers or for cash rewards.

Options:

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is correct but R is wrong.
- (d) A is wrong but R is correct.

### SECTION-B

*Answer the following questions.*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 2. What efforts have been made to reform the political parties by the supreme court?  | 2 |
| 3. Differentiate between ruling party and opposition party.   | 3 |
| 4. Political parties are a precondition for democracy. Give reasons.  | 3 |
| 5. Analyse the components of a political party.   | 3 |
| 6. Why do we need political parties?  | 3 |
| 7. Examine the working of Political Parties.  | 5 |
| 8. Why political parties has become so important in the modern democracy?   | 5 |
| 9. "The first challenge faced by political parties is lack of internal democracy within parties." What do you understand by the statement? Explain. | 5 |

